



Parent Newsletter

1435 Logan Street. Los Angeles, CA 90026 (213) 413-5741

January, 2010
SCHOOL RESUMES
1/11/10



January Holiday *
Martin Luther King Jr.
Day is January 18th

January 13th, 2010
*2nd & 3rd Grade Meetings
5:00 pm

1/20 - 1/22
5th Grade Trip
Temescal Canyon

January 20th, 2010
1st Grade Meetings
5:00 pm
& General Parent Meeting
8:00 am

January 23rd, 2010
Parent Saturday Workday
9-1 pm
Registration began 12/14

January 27th, 2010
Kinder Meetings
5:00 pm

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

The new year is upon us! As we look forward to the holidays and the upcoming vacation, I encourage you to think about the different ways you can continue to support your child's reading development at home. Improving reading comprehension is our big focus for the year, and we need your help. Children become better readers by... you guessed it, reading more! So, in addition to making sure your child is reading every night (and yes, this includes over vacation), there are some very small, though very powerful things you can do to promote literacy in your family.

- 1) Teach by example - Make reading a part of your daily routine. Whether it is reading books, magazines, the newspaper, or even recipes, you are your child's best teacher. Do not underestimate the power of modeling good behaviors.
- 2) Talk about it - Discuss what you are reading and ask children to share about what they are reading. Talking about what you read demonstrates to children that reading can be informative, educational, and entertaining.
- 3) Read together - All children benefit by being read to, and older children can benefit from reading aloud to you or siblings. It's fun to hear someone read with expression, whether it be a story or poetry. Try it!
- 4) Limit TV / video game time - The American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines recommend that parents limit their children's viewing of TV to one hour a day at most. Turn the TV off during meal times and do not allow kids to have TVs and video games in the bedroom. Substitute reading time for TV time.
- 5) Regularly visit the library - Research shows that the availability of reading material in the home, whether owned or borrowed from the library, is directly associated with children's achievement in reading comprehension. Visiting the libraries, buying books for gifts during the holidays, or exchanging books with neighbors or friends is a great way to build a collection.
- 6) Encourage literacy through writing - The winter holidays provide a perfect opportunity for kids to write thank you notes and letters to friends and family.

Thank you, as always, for making your child's education a top priority. I wish you a very happy new year, and look forward to seeing what 2010 will bring!

Our First MAP™ Season

Dear Parents,

Over the last several weeks the 5th and 6th grades have taken tests called Measures of Academic Progress™ (MAP). We give students MAP tests to determine your child's instructional level and to measure academic growth throughout the school year, and from year to year in the areas of reading, language usage, math, and science. The students take the tests on a computer. MAP tests are unique in that they adapt to be appropriate for the child's level of learning. As a result, each student has the same opportunity to succeed and maintain a positive attitude toward testing. And with MAP tests, we can administer shorter tests and use less class time while still receiving detailed, accurate information about your child's growth. Over the last few weeks, the 5th and 6th grade students spent a total of about 4 hours completing these tests.

Each school year, students in grades 5 and 6 (and in the 7th and 8th grades as we grow) will take the tests in the fall and spring. Following each testing period, you will receive a report showing your child's growth.

Since this year is a pilot year, you will be invited to attend informational meetings that fully explain the purposes of the tests and how we will use the information obtained to promote your child's learning. More information on these informational meetings will come in January.

We are truly excited to begin a new era that focuses on every child's individual growth and achievement. Partnering to help all kids learn, parents and teachers can have a profound positive effect on the lives of our children.

For more information on resources for parents, download the *Parent Toolkit* at www.nwea.org >> Member Support >> Downloads >> Manuals.

Sincerely,

Sara Erickson



Reading Party Snacks

Thanks so much for donating snacks every month for your child's reading party. Students get so excited when they get the opportunity to read with their friends while munching on some yummy snacks. **Please remember to send only healthy snacks that do not involve any preparation or refrigeration.** I have listed some examples below:

- Pre-packaged cheese & crackers
- Pre-packaged healthy snack packs (pretzels, goldfish, fruit snacks)

Dance News

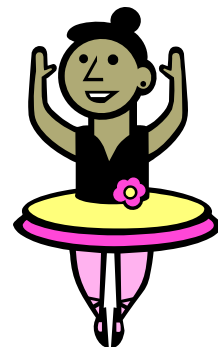
The 2nd Graders, 4th Grade A & B will be holding Dance Publishing parties on Friday, December 18th.

2nd Grade: 10:15 – 10:45 (Rm. 47) & 12:25 – 12:45 pm (Rm. 47)

4th Grade A: 10:15-10:45 (Rm. 47)

4th Grade B: 1:45-2:00 pm (Rm. 47)

All are welcomed. Please make sure all visitors check in w/the office before attending dance publishing parties



Parent Volunteer Policy

Here at GCS, we depend a great deal on our parents. We count on you to help us get kids onto campus safely in the mornings and to serve them a nutritious meal twice a day. We depend on your help so much that when one parent is late or does not show up, it affects everyone, including our students. That is why we ask that you arrive on time when you are signed up to volunteer. If you are running late, please take a moment to give the office a call. This is especially important if you are serving a meal. If you are more than 10 minutes late to serve breakfast or lunch, we will try to find someone to cover your shift. That means that once you arrive, there may not be anything else for you to help with. If you realize you won't be able to make it, please give us at least two days' notice so we may try to find a replacement. We know that things sometimes come up, but please understand that we depend on your help and your absence affects many people. Thanks!



If you ever miss a parent meeting, please visit the parent bulletin board located by the school's main entrance. We post our minutes there a week after our meeting.

Parent Association Update

Our Parent Association is geared up for a new year full of social gatherings and fundraising opportunities. We kicked off the month of December with a holiday gram sale and ended it with our holiday potluck. Look what we're working on for this month!

- This month we are planning a **Pajama Day** where students will be allowed to come to school in their pajamas by offering a suggested donation of \$1. More information will follow.
- We plan to raise funds for our End of Year Recital by holding periodical raffles. If you know a business owner who would be willing to donate an item such as a gift basket, a gift certificate, or an electronic item, please see Mrs. Erazo.
- Many parents expressed interest in having after school enrichment activities. We are looking for parents with a talent who would be willing donate their time to offer a class for our students. Maybe you are a great chess player, or love to knit. Sharing your talent is a wonderful way to give back to the school community. See Mrs. Erazo if you are interested.

Our next parent meeting is scheduled for January 20th at

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*"A Community of
Learning"*

**February
Volunteer
Schedule**

**Available in the
office**

On January 11th

8:00 am

We're on the Web!

See us at:
gabriellacharterschool.org

Volunteers of the Month

Tesen Lambely & Erik Jamison 17.5 hrs - Erik Jamison 2nd Grade
Carolina Virgen 16.5 hrs - Freddy Virgen 6th Grade



Families Meeting Service Hours Expectations

GCS will like to thank the families of the students who are on their way to meet the family service hours expectation and have complete at least 4 hrs of service time. We are extremely grateful that you are aware of how important your participation is in your child's academic life.

Our list of families having at least four hours is extremely long and therefore we can no longer publish it in this short newsletter.

If you would like to find out the exact number of hours accumulated by your family, please check our information bulletin posted at the entrance of our school.

Please remember that all families have agreed to complete their service hours by June 1. Families who do not complete their hours by June 1 will lose the following privileges:

- Parents will not be able to purchase tickets for the End of Year Recital.
- 5th grade students whose families have not completed their hours will not be able to participate in the culminating ceremony

**We know we can get 100% participation!
Thank you for all the ways that you
contribute!**