

Gator Bites

The Official Newsletter of Greene Central School - March Edition

Spring is finally here, at least according to the calendar! Let's hope that snow days are a thing of the past, and we can power through to April vacation!

- Principal McDonough



Snow Days & the Last Day of School

The last day of school is currently set for **June 22nd**. This year, nine snow days were built into the calendar; we have used eight. We still have one more day to use before we make any adjustments to schedules. Some districts are adding an hour to the school day to make up missed days. At this point, there is no plan to lengthen days. If we exceed the nine built-in days, that may change!

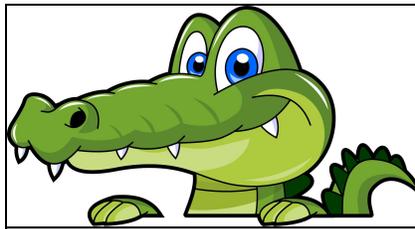
eMPowerME (MEA)

Testing: Grades 3-6



Starting Monday, April 3, students in Grades 3-6 will begin taking the eMPowerME assessments, formerly known as the MEA. Students will take reading, writing, and mathematics tests over the course of a about month's time (schedule on back). Additionally, fifth graders will take a science test during the latter part of the week beginning April 24. Each of these tests takes approximately

one hour to complete. The best preparation for these tests is a good night's sleep, and a healthy breakfast! We will be providing healthy snacks at school during this period, to ensure all students do their best, and represent GCS and MSAD #52 well.



IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	EVENT
3/28	Friends of GCS 6p
3/30	Board/Budget Mtg. 6p @ GCS
4/3	Wk. 1 eMPowerME Testing begins
4/7	Assembly 2:30p
4/10	Wk. 2 eMPowerME Testing begins
4/17 -21	Spring Break!
4/25	Friends of GCS 6p
4/27	Board/Budget Mtg. 6p @ TPS

A Good (and important) Read

If you have a few, spare moments, I recommend you read *Why Parents Are More Important Than Schools* by Annie Murphy Paul. Paul's article first appeared in *Time* online in 2012. In it, she states,

"...parental involvement - checking homework, attending school meetings and events, discussing school activities at home - has a more powerful influence on students' academic performance than anything about the school the students attend...". That's an extremely powerful statement on the role parenting plays in a child's education. Read the full article at: <http://ideas.time.com/2012/10/24/the-single-largest-advantage-parents-can-give-their-kids/>



Spring Story Time

Morse Library in Greene will present Spring Story Times at 10:30 on Saturday mornings from April 15 through May 20. Come join story time volunteers Sandra Fowler, occasionally accompanied by singer-songwriter Stan Davis, and Pam Osborn, who will present an occasional craft or natural history activity to go along with the story. Free and open to all, the event is best-suited for kids ages 2 to 6 and their adult caregivers, but older and younger siblings are welcome, too. Morse Library is located at 105 Main Street in Greene Village, a quarter mile from Greene Central School. For more information, call 946-5544.

See reverse for eMPowerME testing schedule for Grades 3-6

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My School Color Run!

On Sunday, May 7, GCS will be hosting its first color run to benefit the school and its programs. It is a 5K run/walk, and it begins right at GCS at 7:30 AM! What a fun and healthy way to support your school! To register, visit: ColorMeGreene.eventbrite.com

Health Office Happenings



Mrs. Aldrich

GCS has continued to experience a variety of illnesses over the past month. Students have been diagnosed with Pertussis, Influenza, Pneumonia, and Strep throat. A few students have been treated for strep throat a second time. I am attaching two CDC links regarding strep throat and the flu that I encourage you to review. Some alternative sources suggest discarding the toothbrush and get a new one when diagnosed with strep throat. I urge you to continue to notify the school nurse when your children are ill and to keep them home at least 24 hours after fever, vomiting and diarrhea have subsided.

Links:

<https://www.cdc.gov/features/strepthroat/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/stopgerms.htm>



GCS Musicians Rock!

Mrs. Chick led students in Grades K-2, and Grade 5 in two awesome choral performances earlier this month. The kids looked sharp and sounded great! Thank you Mrs. Chick and the GCS teaching staff for their expert conducting (and kid wrangling)! On another note (no pun intended), the following students will represent GCS & MSAD #52 in the District II Elementary Honors Music Festival on March 30:

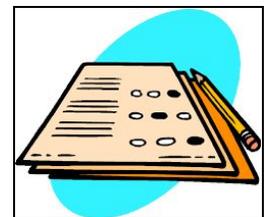
- Jamison Ellis
- Nora Knowlton
- Logan Berube
- Ella Fenderson
- Spencer Bubier
- Lily Chabot
- Amaya Cooper

Congratulations musicians!



eMPowerME Testing Schedule:

Week 1	
4/3	Grades 3-6 ELA 1 & 2
4/4	Grade 4 - Math 1 & 2 Grade 6 - Math 1
4/5	Grades 3 & 5 Math 1
4/6	Grades 3, 5 & 6 Math 2
4/7	Makeup Day
Week 2	
4/10	Grade 4 Reading 1
4/11	Grade 4 - Rdg. 2 Grade 6 - Rdg. 1
4/12	Grades 3 & 5 Rdg. 1
4/13	Grades 3, 5 & 6 Rdg. 2
4/14	Makeup Day



**Grade 5 Science
MEA & Grades 3-6
eMPowerME Essay
testing dates coming
in the next edition of
Gator Bites!**