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Important Dates

All School Fundraiser
November 7-27th

NO SCHOOL—
Teacher In-Service
November 10th

Boys Basketball Games
Oct 9th-November 18th

NO SCHOOL—
Thanksgiving Break
November 20-24th

Girls Basketball
Nov. 27-Jan. 27th

Important Updates from the Principal

New School-wide Tardy Policy

We would like to make parents aware of a new school-wide tardy policy, which goes into effect Monday, November 6, 2017. The school has been struggling with a large number of students arriving late to classes throughout the school day. Because of this, MGMS feels a need to implement a general policy to support students arriving to class on time. The policy is as follows:

For each classroom:

1st Tardy – Teacher Warning

2nd Tardy – Teacher Warning

3rd Tardy – Teacher Assigns Detention (contact parents via email or phone call)

4th Tardy – Teacher Assigns Detention (contact parents via email or phone call)

5th Tardy - Office Referral (Administration contacts parents)

Students assigned lunch detention on the 3rd and 4th tardy will be offered a “Grab & Go” lunch from the cafeteria. Options for lunch include pizza or PB & J sandwich, fruit, and milk. Students can also bring lunch from home if they prefer. Thank you for supporting us with the education of your student.

Panorama Student Perception Study

During the month of November middle school students in 7th grade across the district will participate in a social and emotional self-assessment survey provided by Panorama Education. The Panorama Education survey tool is aligned to the D51 Social and Emotional Learning Framework and it captures students' self-perceptions in the four areas listed below:

Self-Awareness: “I am aware of what I’m feeling and thinking.”

Self-Management: “I can manage what I’m doing with my feelings and thoughts.”

Social Awareness: “I care about what others are feeling and thinking.”

Social-Management: “I will establish and maintain healthy and rewarding relationships.”

This short, 15-minute survey provides valuable information about how the adults in our learning system can best support student learning and encourage social and emotional growth. The survey results will be used to understand school-wide trends in social and emotional learning, in order to strengthen school culture and student supports. Results will not be used at the individual student or classroom level, and individual student reports will not be distributed. Please reach out to us if you have questions about the Panorama Education survey.

Important Updates from the Principal (continued)

Student Drop Off

Please be advised that student drop off in the morning is located at the far east side of the school adjacent to the parking lot. Please do not stop in front of the school to drop off students as there is a lot of traffic coming in to the school and buses coming in to drop off students. Cones are set out to help guide traffic and to create separation between flowing traffic and the bus drop off lane. Thank you for your cooperation.

Annual All-School Fundraiser

November 7th is the kickoff to our annual school fundraiser, which will run November 7 -27, 2017. All fundraiser packets and money is due back to the school on November 28. This fundraiser is important to Mt. Garfield Middle School because it supports many areas of our school – instructional, and social. One thing we ask is that students not go door to door selling. We encourage students to sell to people they know, such as family and friends.

Students got to give input on how they would like to see earnings from the fundraiser utilized and here is what they said:

- ⇒ A new water fountain to fill water bottles,
- ⇒ New playground equipment,
- ⇒ Basketball hoops,
- ⇒ Soccer nets,
- ⇒ Trees to plant for more shade,
- ⇒ Tables and benches,
- ⇒ A second microwave in the cafeteria,
- ⇒ Flexible seating for classrooms,
- ⇒ After school clubs,
- ⇒ Library books, and
- ⇒ Technology – laptops, Chromebooks, etc. and more.

Thank you for supporting our school and your student's education.

October Students of the Month

Congratulations to the Student of the Month recipients for October. Core teachers recognized these students at the Student of the Month Breakfast on October 19, 2017 .

We are so proud to call you a Gator!

Core 6-1: Adisyn Pinnt

Tech Ed. Tylor Christensen

Core 6-2: Alivia Sanchez

G/T: Yesenia DeLara-Lopez

Core 7-1: Isabel Baez

Teacher, Rachel M. Smith: Jovani Valencia

Core 7-2: Phallen Salvati

Teacher, Rachel K. Smith: Abigail Leonard

Core 8-1: Kalaya Stutesman

Core 8-2: Shawntel Martin



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Boxtop Alert!



Remember to collect those box tops and turn them into the main office. Thank you for supporting our students and MGMS .

Band News

MGMS Bands are busy preparing for our Winter Concert, which will take place on Monday, December 11th at the Palisade High School Auditorium at 7:00 pm. We are excited to celebrate the season with you and have a wide range of music to play. Also, huge congratulations to the following students chosen to represent Mt. Garfield Middle School at the CBA Western Slope Select Band on November 17th and 18th: Reece Bollinger, Tyler Christensen, Adam Cole, Conner Diedrich, Bryan Hillman, Lily Mina, and Eliza Smith. The Select Band is made up of middle school band students from across the entire western slope! Congratulations to those outstanding musicians.

Office Information

Please call the office at (970) 254-4720 **X37111** if your child will be absent for any reason so that we may note the absence correctly.

We ask that you make every effort to schedule Doctor visits and appointments after the school day ends so that we do not continually interrupt valuable teaching time. We understand this is not always possible, but certainly appreciate your efforts to limit these interruptions.

In addition, **if you have an address or phone number change, please let us know right away. This information is vitally important in case of an emergency.** We must be able to reach you.

Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters.

Helping Students Power Up to be a Positive Change

By Katelyn Collins

Here at Mount Garfield Middle School, we want our kids to power up and take action—in school, at home, and in life—to spark positive growth and change. A key objective of our school is to teach children that they have the power to bring about positive changes, both for themselves as individuals and for their communities as members of classrooms, peer groups, families, teams, and clubs.

Powering up to be a positive charge can take many forms. It can mean taking action to speak up when bullying occurs, engaging in learning, trying a new activity or skill, cleaning up trash on the playground, doing something kind for a classmate or neighbor, or making new friends. These actions empower children, create compassion, strengthen connections, and build resiliency—all traits that are critical for academic and social-emotional success. Being a positive charge to grow as an individual and to make the world even a little bit better can have a long lasting impact.

Power Up at Home

There are many ways families can help children take action to make positive changes. As parents and caregivers, you can:

1. Talk to your kids about sparks—actions that can help them be a positive charge. Spark ideas include: dream, laugh, connect, imagine, create, encourage, share, listen, help, explore, try, speak up.
2. Help your children develop positive relationships with peers and adults, and model respectful, caring behaviors with others.
3. Help your children identify their strengths and interests, learn new skills. Emphasize that learning and growing require trying new things and that success comes from small steps to a long-term goal.
4. Encourage goal setting and mapping out a plan for achieving the goals. Talk with your children about steps they have taken, what worked and what didn't, and what they might do next.
5. Praise attempts, as well as success, and make sure that you focus on the effort or hard work put into the success. Emphasize the importance of deliberate practice that talent is developed over time through skillful practice.

Let's Work Together

As the school psychologist at Mount Garfield, I look forward to working with you and other families in our community to encourage all of our children, whether at home or at school, to power up and take positive action to make our community a better place. Please feel free to contact me with questions, concerns, or suggestions related to your children's interests, strengths, skills, and struggles so that we can partner to help them continue along a path of positive changes to reach their potential in school, in life, and as a member of the community. I can best be reached by calling 970-254-4720 ext. 37118.

About School Psychologists

School psychologists are members of school staff who support students' ability to learn and teachers' ability to teach. School psychologists apply expertise in mental health, learning, and behavior to help children and youth succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally by providing direct support to students, such as individualized learning and behavioral assessments to identify students' strengths and needs, academic and behavioral interventions, counseling, and social skills training. We also consult with teachers, families, and other educators to improve support strategies and school-wide practices and policies. We are in a unique position to ensure students' success every day, including both small and big accomplishments. More information is available at www.nasponline.org

Certificate of Biliteracy

Can your student speak, read and write proficiently in more than one language? Mt. Garfield Middle School offers our students a unique opportunity to earn a Certificate of Biliteracy by the end of their 8th Grade school year! The Certificate of Biliteracy can open up new opportunities in your child's school and job career. This is a great accomplishment for your 8th Grade student before he or she heads out to high school! Please contact Mrs. Adams for more information.

Irina.Adams@d51schools.org (970) 254 4720

Ready, Set, Smile!

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to **guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid** and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash, check, or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS Main Office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at jostensyearbooks.com. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page. The cost is currently \$25.00. Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more.

If students or parents save \$3.00 per month (beginning on the first day of each month) you will have enough saved to pay for a yearbook at the end of the year. If you have been working on this, you would have already saved for September, October, and November for a total of \$9.00. If you save \$6.33 per month you may pay for the yearbook in December, before the price goes up in January!

Parents, your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book! Don't wait any longer. Order today by calling or stopping by the MGMS Budget Office, or on-line with Jostens!

GET YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!