



What's BUZZin'

Gold Hill Elementary School

CCE Learning Center

Carolina Community Enhancements notified York School District Four about their federal 21st Century Learning grant. Some students may qualify for free tutoring services. Parents may call Elizabeth Fisher, Director, at 802-2642 for more information.

November 2007

Gold Hill Elementary

1000 Dave Gibson Blvd.
Fort Mill, SC 29708

Phone: 803-548-8250

FAX: 803-548-8373

Principal

Terry Brewer

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Assistant Principal

Chris Gardner

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Assistant Principal

Jane Hooper

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Fort Mill School District

www.fort-mill.k12.sc.us

GHEs

<http://ghes.fort-mill.k12.sc.us>

School Hours

7:45am - 2:30pm

New Office Procedures in Place

If you have visited the school lately, you will notice that signing yourself or your student in and/or out has become as simple as clicking on a computer. We have enhanced our campus security system through software offered through the National Safe Schools Initiative by IDENT-A-KID Services of America.

Whether you are a visitor, volunteer, chaperone, substitute, or just documenting your child's tardy/late arrival or early dismissal, our entire process for recording your visit is now consolidated within a computer at the front desk.



Custom adhesive labels with your name, destination, and photo print as you conclude your official check-in. Check-out is completed in a similar manner before you leave.

As an added security feature, a link is offered to the U. S. Department of Justice's website to further enhance our security screening options.

Thanks in advance for your patience and flexibility as we attempt to further protect your children and improve our accountability.

Come Celebrate Gold Hill Elementary School's 2007 National Blue Ribbon Award Recognition



Proud to **Bee** a
2007 National
Blue Ribbon School

Thursday, November 15
6:30pm in the school cafeteria

"Blue Plate Special"
Bring the family.... \$4.00 dinners
Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
Slaw, Chips, Cookie and Tea

"Hornets in Harmony" Chorus
2007 National Blue Ribbon Presentation
PTA

GHEs... One of the Best!

Please e-mail RSVP to:
scpatterson@comporium.net

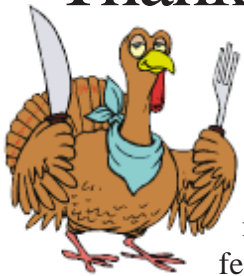
Attention Parents:

We kindly request that you **NOT send any cash for field trips. Please send checks with your child's name in the memo.**
Thanks so much.

Clothes Needed

Pants with elastic are needed in all sizes for both boys and girls for the health room to be used in case of accidents. There is also a need for tennis shoes for children that either step in mud or forget them for P.E. days. If you find that your child has outgrown either of these items and you are willing to donate them, please ask your child to give them to their teacher or bring them by the health room. Thanks!

Thanksgiving Meal



Our current increased enrollment has left very few extra seats and a tight schedule in our cafeteria for lunch on a daily basis. On days when the majority of students eat the school-offered lunch, our lines can become stalled and our servers overwhelmed. For all these reasons, we regret to announce that we will not be able to continue our tradition of opening Thanksgiving lunch to guests and parents this year.

We look forward to offering your children a delicious and traditional Thanksgiving meal on November 16, and trust that the days that follow will offer many opportunities for you to join them in celebrating. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Counselor's Corner

5th Graders to Attend the GHMS Career Fair

Transition from elementary school to middle school is a very important time. In an effort to provide a more seamless transition to middle school and gain more career exposure, GHMS invites the GHES 5th grade class to participate in GHMS's School Wide Career Fair on **Tuesday, November 20th** in the GHMS gym and media center. Students will engage in activities that will allow contact with people in business that represent our four different Curriculum Schools and the numerous job clusters.

Also, if any GHES parent can assist with hospitality that day, we would greatly appreciate it. Please contact Mrs. Hisman at 548-8348 if you have any questions or if you can help out that day. Thank you!

Music Notes

· Our fourth grade students in the following classes are looking forward to the recorder unit this semester with our new music teacher, Miss Cutler! * Mrs. Crosby's class, Mrs. Howell's class, and Mr. Bender's class *

The other fourth grade classes will play recorders during second semester.

· We are very proud of one of our own GHES graduates, Emily Rzepka. Emily plays the violin and is now a member of the South Carolina Youth Philharmonic Orchestra! CONGRATULATIONS! Her first concert with the orchestra is Sunday, Nov. 11th, 3:00 pm, at the Koger Center for the Arts in Columbia, SC. If anyone would like to attend, please see Mrs. Hendley. Emily's sister, Anna Rzepka, is in Mrs. Richardson's third grade class this year, and also plays the violin.

· If possible, make plans to attend Fort

Mill High School's production of "The Sound of Music." Another GHES graduate, Rachel Tripp, now in the 9th grade, has one of the leading roles in the musical! Many of us remember Rachel as Cinderella here in one of our productions. Other former Gold Hill students are also in the show.

· THANKS to the many families that have already donated to our "Buy-a-Key" program for the Music in Education Yamaha system. You may still contribute and help keep music an integral part of our student's education at GHES. If you need a donation form or more information, please contact Janet Hendley. If you would like to visit the music classroom and see the Yamaha keyboards being used by our students, please contact Mrs. Hendley and plan a visit when your child has music!

Thank You!!

Ms. Gardner's Technology classes have a new mascot and a logo thanks to GHES students, our Art teacher Mrs. Spratt, our Tech Assistant Mrs. Ormseth, and Mrs. Martha Manco our GHES parent/artist who also painted the beautiful murals in our cafeteria.



Some of Mrs. Spratt's art students drew pictures of the Technology mascot Digiraffe (Digital Giraffe;). Other art students created logos for iSURFFers—Students Ready For the Future. Mrs. Manco combined ideas from the drawings and painted *Digiraffe* on our wall. Mrs. Ormseth finished off the project ideas with a digital picture for iSURFFers. Thank you to all of our talented students, teachers, staff and parents at GHES!

Technology Talk

Ms Gardner, Technology Specialist <http://ghesblog.blogspot.com/>

Students learn in many different ways and our students continue to learn how technology helps them. We want to learn more about how to control computers so that computers do not seem to control us. The more we learn the more choices we have. In technology class we learn how to use technology in many ways so that students can use them productively in other areas of their lives. We want to be **STUDENTS READY FOR THE FUTURE** or iSURFFers – our name for technology students.

5th graders are learning how to program. MIT has developed a new tool called Scratch for students to learn how to program by linking tiles and manipulating the variables. Students are finding that solving problems can be fun while they are creating animations and games. We have been invited to share our work with students in Kansas and a computer club at an international school in China. Students will share more with you soon when they create their websites about their projects!

Find out more at this link <http://ghesblog.blogspot.com/2007/10/scratch-this-video.html>



How can this be helpful for 5th graders?

Specific fifth grade science skills are being boosted as students learn and practice with independent and dependant (manipulated and responding) variables with the programs they create. These are important 5th grade science concepts as well as essential problem solving skills

that students will use throughout their school years. Reading and writing about the projects enhances fundamental language arts skills too. See and download Scratch at home <http://scratch.mit.edu/>

4th graders are integrating Technology / Social Studies/ Research / Language Arts / and Communication. Students are preparing for communicating with other classes in our school and in the Northeast region of the US. After learning important safety and etiquette guidelines of communicating on the internet, students set up a special website called a wiki to communicate their research. Students are gathering information from video clips, books, and websites about Native Americans. Student teams will share their work with other classes via their wiki website, online interactive maps, and webcam interviews with other students. See the largest wiki in the world: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page

2nd and 3rd graders have been graphing with the software *Graph Club* and integrating Social Studies and Technology with the software *Kidspiration*. Students each had a part in responding to an email from a visitor to our website from Australia. See more at <http://ghesblog.blogspot.com/2007/10/let-us-put-you-on-map.html> and **help with our map skills project**.

1st graders have been coming to the technology lab with their teachers and learning how to use technology in their classrooms too. So far we have been learning with, *Graph Club*, and *Brain Pop, Jr.* and *Kidspiration*. Come on in and see brand new things in technology! Room A 218.

Notes from the Nurse

Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others. It's best to wash your hands with soap and clean running water for 20 seconds. Make hand washing fun for children by teaching them to sing "Happy Birthday" twice while washing their hands and provide them with colorful and fun smelling soaps. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers significantly reduce the number of germs and are fast acting.

Most of you have heard information about Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). It is a form of staph infection that does not respond to routine treatment with commonly used antibiotics, although other antibiotics are effective. The best way to prevent MRSA infection is to practice good hygiene such as washing hands often or using an alcohol based hand sanitizer, covering cuts and scrapes until healed, and avoiding contact with other people's wounds or bandages. If your child participates in sports they should wash their hands after each practice and game. They should not share equipment, uniforms, towels or other personal items. Wash uniforms and towels in hot water and detergent after each use. Non-washable gear such as helmets and pads should be wiped down with alcohol after each use. Athletic equipment such as weight benches should be washed down between each use with an antibacterial solution or bleach solution (1 part bleach to 9 parts water). Clean both sides of the mat before rolling it up for storage. Routine cleaning is all that is required and hand washing is the primary mode of prevention.

The Fall Book Fair is Right Around the Corner!

The GHES Book Fair is scheduled from Monday, November 26 (the first day we return from Thanksgiving vacation) through Tuesday, December 4. Several of you have been contacted via email because you signed up on the P.T.A. Volunteer Form, but we will need many parents and friends to help us with the Fair on those days. If you are interested, you can see Joy Price in the Media Center, call her at 548-8249, or drop an e-mail to pricej@fort-mill.k12.sc.us.

Please mark your calendars for our Family Night at the Book Fair on Thursday, November 29. Look for details in the brochure coming home with your child within the next two weeks.



GHES Important Dates - Mark Your Calendar

November

2 Report Cards, Grades 3-5
6 Election Day
6 - 8 CogAT Testing for Grade 2
11 - 17 American Education Week
12 Veterans Day
14 Chorus performance at the Tega Cay Club Dinner Mtg.
15 PTA and Chorus Program, 6:30pm
21 - 23 Thanksgiving Holidays
26 - Dec. 5 GHES Book Fair
29 Book Fair Family Night

December

TBA Reindeer Lane
7 Interim Reports, Grades 3-5
* 13 Report Cards, Grades K-2 (Change from Nov.)
20-31 Holidays

January

1 - 2 Holidays
18 Teacher Workday, No school for students
21 Martin Luther King Holiday
22 First Day of 2nd Semester
25 Report Cards, Grades 3-5

February

15 Teacher Workday, No school for students
18 Presidents Day Holiday
22 Interim Reports, Grades 3-5

March

3 - 14 STAR Testing for GT (Grades 2-5)
5 - 6 Kindergarten Registration
10 Report Cards, Grades K-2
21 Holiday
28 Report Cards, Grades 3-5
29 PTA Spring Carnival
Chorus program - 10:00 am

April

7-11 Spring Break
23 Office Professionals Day
29 After-School Tutorial ends

May

1 - 2 4-year-old Developmental Screenings
9 Interim Reports, Grades 3-5
12 - 23 PACT Testing
26 Holiday

June

4 5th Grade Promotion Exercises, 9 am
- Half day for students - Dismiss at 11:30 am
5 Last day of school
- Half day for students - Dismiss at 11:30 am
6 Teacher Workday

(Note: Inclement weather or other unexpected emergencies can alter the school calendar.)