



GROWth Report

Galewood Early Elementary School

"Our Roots Start Here!"

Volume 1, Issue 6

Principal's Corner: A Note from Steve Chartier, Principal

We are half way through the school year, and Galewood School has exciting plans and continued high expectations for your child's learning. I know that you also have many hopes and dreams for your child's success in school and beyond.

To make sure those hopes and dreams are realized, I want to ask for your renewed commitment to making sure that your child attends school each and every day. The evidence is clear: **children with good attendance are more likely to be successful in school.** High attendance rates are linked to high student achievement. This is true for every grade—elementary, middle and high school. Regular school attendance from Kindergarten on is essential to successful learning. Here are some interesting facts:

- ***Every day does matter!*** Missing school even 10% of the time has significant impacts on reading and math achievement as children progress through school.
- ***Students with good attendance perform better in math and reading.*** Research shows that children who have good attendance in Kindergarten through Grade 2 are more than twice as likely to score proficient on state math tests by the time they reach Grade 8 as their peers who missed more school. In reading, the results are similar.
- ***Good attendance starts early.*** Research has also shown that the attendance habits established Kindergarten through Grade 2 have lasting effects on students throughout their education. Those with high attendance in the early grades continue such attendance later on; and students with low attendance in the early grades are more likely to have low attendance—and lower academic performance—throughout their elementary and middle school years.

As your child's most influential teacher, I am asking for your support in helping your child get to school on time every day for the remainder of the year—and in years to come. Your child needs to be in school and engaged in learning in order to reach his/her full potential. **Doors open daily at 8:35 AM, with classes commencing at 8:45 AM.** Your child will be marked Tardy after 8:56 AM.

I realize that every family faces challenges—illness, transportation, scheduling demands. Please let us know if you need assistance in handling the challenges pertaining to your child's good school attendance. We will do our best to help your family ensure that your child's attendance remains on track. More information on what families and schools can do together in order to promote positive student attendance can be found at <http://www.attendanceworks.org/about/what-can-i-do/parents/>.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's school success and well-being. I look forward to continuing to work together, as well as seeing your child learn and grow, while at Galewood Early Elementary School!



Important Dates to Note

Included here are key dates to note within your calendar. **Check our school website often** as dates will be added there as events are scheduled within the building.

February

- 2/4: Principal's Coffee/Gym from 5:15-6:00 PM;
PTSO Meeting/Gym at 6:00 PM
- 2/6: Mobile Dentist Visits Galewood Today
- 2/11: Board of Education Meeting/Central Office:
6:30 PM
- 2/13: Student Count Day; Madeline Field Trip/
CPAC: 9:10 AM
- 2/14: Valentine's Day Festivities
- 2/15 - 2/18: Mid-Winter Break: NO SCHOOL
- 2/19: School Resumes Today
- 2/25: PTSO Meeting/Gym at 6:00 PM

March

- 3/5: Hearing Screenings Begin Today for ECSE,
DK, and KDG
- 3/6: Kindergarten Orientation (for 2019-2020
School Year)/CPAC: 6:00-7:00 PM
- 3/7: Hearing Screenings Continued
Galewood Literacy Night: 6:00-7:30 PM
- 3/8: Hearing Screenings End Today
- 3/11: Board of Education Meeting/Central Office:
6:30 PM
- 3/13: Tornado/Inclement Weather Drill #1: 2:30
PM
- 3/19: Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences: 5:00-
8:00 PM; Spring Book Fair Evening Hours/
Room 302: 4:30-8:30 PM
- 3/25: Principal's Coffee/Gym from 5:15-6:00 PM;
PTSO Meeting/Gym at 6:00 PM
- 3/27: Spring Parent/Teacher Conferences: 5:00-
8:00 PM
- 3/28: Hearing Screening Rechecks Today for ECSE,
DK, and KDG
- 3/29: NO SCHOOL Today (Nor April 1-5)



Kindergarten Orientation

It is with great excitement that we share an upcoming event that will be hosted by Galewood Early Elementary School and Charlotte Public Schools on **March 6, 2019**. All parents of "soon to be" Kindergarten students are invited to join us for Kindergarten Orientation. The information that will be discussed that evening includes: Charlotte Public Schools' Registration Process and Timeline, State Requirements for School Age Children, and Readiness Activities for beginning Kindergartners.

The event will be held at **Charlotte Performing Arts Center** (CPAC) located at 378 State Street, Charlotte, MI 48813 on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 from **6:00-7:00 PM**. Parents are encouraged to bring their child with them to the event.



We are asking for your assistance and hoping you will share this information with family members, friends, work colleagues, and other community members who have a student beginning Kindergarten during the 2019-2020 school year.

We thank you, in advance, for your support and help in promoting the event. Should you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Emily Nenortas (Registrar) at nenorte@charlottenet.org or 517-541-5742.

Galewood's Vision Statement

The vision of Galewood Early Elementary School is to be the premier early childhood education destination fulfilling our promise that "Roots Start Here."



Promoting Reading at Home

As a parent, you are your child's first and most important teacher. In anticipation of "March is Reading Month," we are sharing eight ways you can help your child become a better reader:

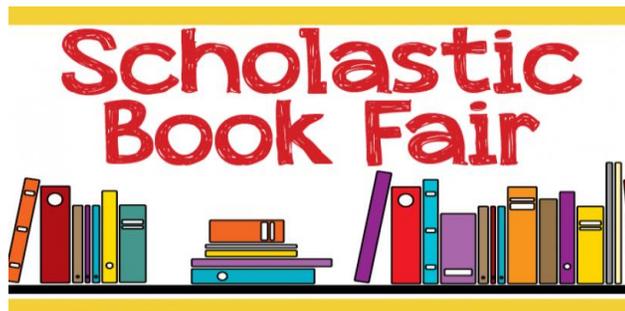
1. Read yourself. Your actions really do speak louder than your words. When your kids see you reading the newspaper or curling up with a book, they will want to follow your example.
2. Make sure your children read every day. Reading, like shooting baskets and playing the piano, is a skill. Like other skills, it gets better with practice. Researchers have found that children who spend at least 30 minutes a day reading for fun, whether they read books, articles on their tablets, or magazines, develop the skills to be better readers at school.
3. Make the library a habit. Make sure everyone in your family has a library card. Schedule regular trips to the library. While you are there, check out a book yourself!
4. Read aloud to your children. Research shows that this is the most important thing parents can do to help their children become better readers. Here are some tips:
 - Start reading to your children when they are young. It is never too early to begin!
 - Don't stop reading to your children as they grow older. You will both enjoy the chance to do something together.
 - Set aside some time each day for reading aloud. Even 10 minutes a day can have a big impact. Bedtime is a natural reading aloud time. Other busy families read aloud at breakfast or just after dinner. Read books you enjoy.
5. Here is a way to use your newspaper to encourage reading: a scavenger hunt. Give your child a list of things to find in today's newspaper. Here are some ideas:
 - A map of the United States.
 - A picture of your child's favorite athlete.
 - The temperature in the city where a family member lives.
 - Three words that begin with "w".
 - A movie that is playing at a nearby theater.
6. Ask for books as gifts. Then find a special place for your children to keep their own library.
7. Make reading a privilege. Say, "You can stay up 15 minutes later tonight if you read in bed." Or you might say, "Because you helped with the dishes, I have time to read you an extra story."
8. If you are not a good reader, you can still encourage your children. As your children learn to read, ask them to read to you. Talk about the books your children have read. Ask a friend or relative to read aloud to your children.
9. Limit screen time. The American Heart Association warns that young children are spending far too much time in front of screens (technology) leading to high levels of sedentary behavior. For children ages 2-6, the recommended limit is no more than one hour per day!



Spring Book Fair is Around the Corner!

Book Fair time is almost here! The Galewood PTSO is hosting a Scholastic Book Fair Tuesday, March 19th through Friday, March 22nd, 2019.

Toward the end of February (or into early March), your child will bring home a Scholastic Book Fair Flier that will provide you with a sample of the books that will be available at this year's spring Scholastic Book Fair. Many additional titles will be available, particularly via our online store.



Students will be visiting the Book Fair with their classes beginning on Tuesday, March 19th. Teachers will self-select times so as to not interfere with core instruction and will communicate the timings to families during the weeks leading up to the Book Fair. If students wish to purchase items outside of their times, they can do so any time of the week with a "last call" being held the morning of March 22nd.

When received, we encourage you to rereview the Scholastic Book Fair Flier with your child and help him/her make suitable selections. We also encourage you to physically visit the Fair anytime during the week, but particularly during evening Parent/Teacher Conferences on March 19th from 4:30-8:30 PM. As in the fall, the Fair will be held in Room 302.

This is a great opportunity to stock up on books for your children and for gifts, while helping your PTSO raise money to support our school!!

S'more Fun with Books

We are pleased to extend an invitation to all Galewood families and Charlotte community members to our Literacy Night on Thursday, March 7th from 6:00-7:30 PM. The evening will follow a camping theme, and we're certain the events we are planning will ignite a love of reading in all who partake.



You'll be a "happy camper" as you join in a scavenger hunt, read under the stars, sing campfire songs, go fishin', and gather ideas and resources from our expert "guides" on how to work with your child while at home.

Camping is in-tents, and our Literacy Night will be as well. See you and your family there!



Be sure to be kept informed by updating your personal information each time it changes. Contact Sharon Vannest within the Main Office at 517-541-5150 or email her at vannest@charlottenet.org.