



Great
Falls
Elementary...
News You
Can Use!
November
2016

NOVEMBER 2016

A Note from the Principal



We have completed our very first nine weeks of school together – and what an amazing nine weeks we've had. It has been such a special treat to become a part of the Great Falls Elementary School Family – and as such – a very proud de facto member of the Great Falls Community. Thank you for your warm and truly heartfelt welcome.

I would also like to thank you all for your overwhelming support of our school's Fall Festival. The event was a hit with the kids...a huge success...and we appreciate your support of our first major fundraising effort. I would like to especially thank Mrs. Dorothy Dae, Assistant Principal, for leading the fundraising effort in partnership with our PTO...which just happens to be one of the hardest working Parent Organizations I have ever had the fortune of working with.

As you know, with the end of a nine weeks comes the issuance of Report Cards...and I am encouraging you to challenge your child to stretch to do even better during this next grading period. I have discovered that we have some extremely bright students at GFE...and we want to let the world KNOW...exactly how capable they all are. If we expect their BEST...each time...they will rise to our expectations.

As I continue my new journey here at Great Falls Elementary – each day I remind myself to stay focused – only on what is truly important...my students and the teachers. This motivates me to remain thankful each day for this very special opportunity...and to find the teaching point in every experience and new challenge that comes my way! During this very special month of Thanksgiving and always...I am truly grateful and humbled by your support!

Warmest Regards,
Tammy Smith Taylor

November

Nov. 4:	PTO Dollar Dress Down Day
Nov. 4-14:	Scholastic Book Fair
Nov. 8:	Election Day – No school- Don't forget to vote!
Nov. 11:	Read with the Gamecocks Part 1 ends
Nov. 11:	Veterans' Day – early dismissal - 12.30
Nov. 14:	SIC-PTO meetings 5:00 pm
Nov. 15:	Interim reports issued
Nov. 16:	Dress Down for a Cause – bring in a canned good
Nov. 18:	Columbia Marionette theater visits 1 st Grade
Nov. 21:	5 th Grade Literacy Night, 5:30 pm
Nov. 22:	Principal's Dollar Dress Down Day (Clemson/USC)
Nov. 22:	5 th Grade to Nascar Hall of Fame
Nov. 23-25:	Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 29:	1 st 9 weeks Awards Assembly
Nov. 30:	Star Student Celebration

Character Word of the Month

Citizenship-(Noun)

The qualities that a person is expected to have as a responsible member of a community.

Example: The students are learning the values of good *citizenship*.



Faculty Feature

This month our featured groups will be the Kindergarten Team and our Exceptional Children's Team who each go the extra mile every day!

The teachers and assistants in our Kindergarten classrooms are:

Mrs. Chanel Lynn and Mrs. Sonja Wilson
Mrs. Elizabeth Howie and Mrs. Maxine Tate
Mrs. Sara Turner, Mrs. Catrina Caldwell, and Ms. Shy-da Bradley (Winthrop Intern)

These seven individuals are working tirelessly each day with our kindergartners. They are helping these little ones to continue to adjust to being in school – all the while learning those foundational concepts to prepare them to become readers, writers, scientists, and mathematicians – while learning to share and get along with others...as their time to enter the Wondrous World of 1st grade approaches! Help me celebrate the talents and efforts of these caring individuals!

Our Exceptional Children's Team includes:

Mrs. Ashley Latimer – Speech Pathologist
Mrs. Stacy Smith – Primary Resource Teacher
Mrs. Susan Lalli – Gifted and Talented – ACCENT Teacher
Mrs. Tracy Dorsey – Grades 3 – 5 Resource Teacher

These four individuals support and extend classroom learning for our students with exceptionalities. Their caring nature, skills and commitment to our students and teachers makes them an invaluable part of the Great Falls Elementary School's team. Help me celebrate the talents and efforts of these caring individuals!



For more information, please contact:
Ms. Thomas at pthomas@chester.k12.sc.us,
Mrs. Washington-Kelly at bwashington@chester.k12.sc.us, or
Mrs. Smarr at tsmarr@chester.k12.sc.us

Dress Down Days for November



Nov. 4: PTO Dollar Dress Down Day - \$1

Nov. 16: Dress Down for a Cause – Students must bring at least one canned good to participate.

Nov. 22: Principal's Dollar Dress Down Day - \$1 (Clemson/Carolina Day – show your team pride!)

Nurse Notes

All prescription medication needs a doctor's order. The form can be picked up from the nurse or the front office secretary. Prescription medicines **CANNOT** be given **WITHOUT** a doctor's order form!! All over-the-counter medications have a form which the parent must sign in my clinic, and they must be brought in the original bottle.

Remember that if your child has a fever of 100 degrees or more, it is the school district's policy that your child may not return to school until he or she is fever free for 24 hours **without the use of any fever reducing medications!**

If your child throws up at school, they **may not** return to school for **24 hours**.

If your child is going on a field trip and needs medication, the parent must bring medicine from home and give it to the teacher. Medicine may be signed out of the clinic by the parent if needed, then given to the teacher.



Parental consent forms were sent home Monday, October 31. If you want your child to receive their flu shot at school, this form **MUST** be returned to school no later than Monday, November 7. All shots will be administered by a nurse from the Health Department.

Students' Code of Dress and Dress Down Days

Soon you will be receiving a survey which deals with the future of students' standard code of dress. Until then students are reminded that they are to wear the approved standard code of dress **ONLY** unless otherwise announced by the school. The **ONLY** colors that are approved for shirts are white, red (not burgundy), black, dark and light blue (not royal or aqua). Approved colors for bottoms are navy, khaki, and black, but no denim. Girls may wear leggings under skirts, but not on their own. Students must also wear tennis shoes every day. As colder weather approaches, please be reminded that students may NOT wear boots, even on dress down days.



The school store has re-opened and offers pencils, erasers, and healthy snacks for students.

Pre-sharpened peel pencils	\$0.50
Designer pencils	\$0.50
Rainbow bubble pencils	\$0.50
Mechanical pencils	\$1.25
Scented pencils	\$0.50
Specialty pencils	\$0.75
Erasers	\$0.10
Jumbo erasers	\$1.25
Fruit Roll Ups (new item, available 11-7)	\$0.50
Sun Chips (new item, available 11-7)	\$1.00
Fantastix – Cheetos (new item, available 11-7)	\$1.00
Welch's cherry fruit snacks	\$0.50
Welch's mixed fruit snacks	\$0.50
48 oz. bag of beef jerky	\$2.00

Other items may become available throughout the year.

Read with the Gamecocks



Part One of Read with the Gamecocks begins October 31 and ends November 11. Each student will record the number of pages read during the contest on the Reading Log sheets provided (parents or guardians should initial the student's reading sheet). Please total the number of pages read on the Reading Log and help maintain the integrity of the program by ensuring the child is reading age appropriate material. Turn all reading logs in to Ms. Barber.

Part 1 Games

Men's Basketball vs. Vermont - Thursday, Dec. 1 @ TBA
 Women's Basketball vs. Minnesota - Sunday, Dec.11 @ 3PM

September Stars of Excellence



These students were chosen by their teachers because of their levels of respect and leadership skills.

October Stars of Excellence



These students were chosen by their teachers because of their ability to demonstrate dignity.



Congratulations to Hailee Rape for being chosen to represent Girls on the Run in the "Inside Out Runway Show" at Carolina Place Mall. We know she'll represent our truly beautiful Great Falls Elementary Girls on the Run.

