



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

OCTOBER 2016

A Note from the Principal



Great Falls Elementary is such an amazing place to learn and grow...both as a student and as a professional. I am thrilled to be a part of such a wonderful school family. While academic success is our priority and is expected of our students, at GFE we believe in the total development of the whole child. Therefore, it is equally important for us to provide extracurricular activities to our students, as well. Participation in student organizations, academic clubs, and other extracurricular clubs allows students to develop leadership, communication, critical thinking skills, and civic responsibilities that are essential to being successful in a 21st Century Learning Environment in this global society. This approach to learning will develop leadership capacity and scholarship in students that will prepare them for our elementary setting and far beyond. I am proud to serve a very diverse and interesting student population who are the young leaders of this wonderful Great Falls community.

In addition to being proud to serve this magnificent host of students, I am equally honored to be the leader of such a talented and committed staff. I have worked in many different settings over the course of my career, and I can honestly say that I have never worked with a more dedicated and competent staff of people. These folks go the extra mile each day and are committed to reaching every child. As a thank you for the tremendous job that these teachers and staff do each day...each month, I will "FEATURE" a group of faculty and staff members to honor because they deserve the recognition, and I want them (and each of you) to know how much I appreciate what they do...and how they care for our kids!

Tammy Smith Taylor
Principal

October Happenings

Oct. 3:	SIC-PTO meetings 5:00 pm
Oct. 7:	PTO Dollar Dress Down Day
Oct. 10:	Teacher Work Day – no school for students
Oct. 18:	Report cards are issued
Oct. 21:	GFE Fall Festival, 6:00-9:00 pm
Oct. 24:	3 rd Grade Literacy Night, 5:30 pm
Oct. 26:	Kindergarten field trip to the Greenway Fall Frolic
Oct. 28:	Principal's Dollar Dress Down Day
Oct. 28:	Student Council to Chester Co. Career Center
Oct. 24-28:	Red Ribbon Week

Character Word of the Month

Dignity- (Noun)

To be worthy of a way of appearing or behaving that suggest seriousness and self-control.

Example: She showed her true **dignity** when under pressure.



Faculty Feature

This month our featured groups will be the Pre-Kindergarten and School Support Staff members including all of our Related Arts personnel who also go the extra mile each day!

The teachers and assistants in our Pre-K classrooms are:

Mrs. Alison Howe and Mrs. Katherine Price
Mrs. Tami Price and Mr. Henry Wilmore
Ms. Stacy Smith and Mrs. Rebecca Cunningham

These six individuals work with our youngest learners in a gentle, skilled, and graceful manner...trying to help them adjust to the newness of school and all the while preparing them for their next adventure – as GFE Kindergartners! Help me celebrate these talented and caring individuals!

Our support staff for teachers include:

Ms. Stephanie Barber – Literacy Coach
Mrs. Donna Rollins – Interventionist
Mrs. Cookie Washington-Kelly – Guidance Counselor
Ms. Tonya Smarr – Success Maker Lab Manager

These four individuals work diligently each day to ensure that teachers (and students) have the support they need to be successful. These folks work tirelessly to be liaisons to the administrative team to ensure that the activities of the school are appropriately planned and executed each day. They spend time in classrooms with teachers and students to ensure that all experience success. Help me to celebrate these talented and caring individuals!

Finally, our Related Arts Team include:

Mrs. Michelle Chase – Media Specialist
Mrs. Elizabeth Dockery – PE
Mr. Eric Greene – Music
Mr. Taylor McSwain – PE – Winthrop Intern
Mrs. Patricia Thomas – Art

These five individuals serve every student in our building each week. They work diligently to provide the students with activities in their respective areas that allow the students to experience success outside of their core content classes. Impressively, these teachers know each student by name within the first few weeks of having them...demonstrating their care and commitment to our students and school. Help me to celebrate these talented and caring individuals!



You Only Live Once: Be Drug Free

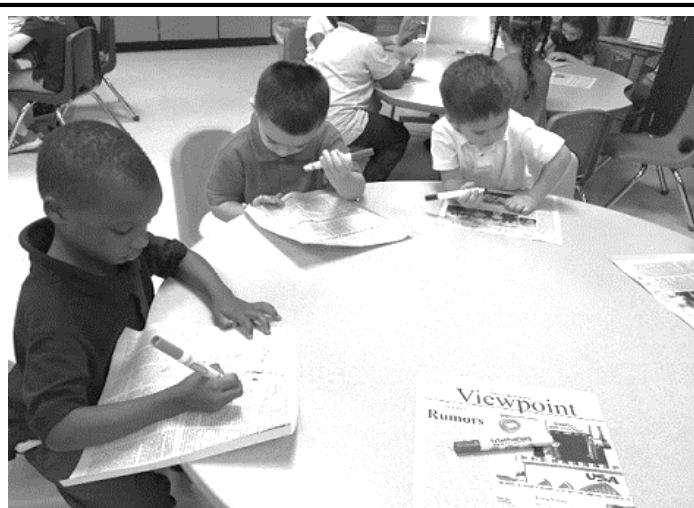
Monday: “Drugs Are Old School” – wear 50’s attire

Tuesday: “Be a Rock Star-Stay Drug Free” – wear Rock and Roll attire

Wednesday: “Arm Up Against Drugs” – wear camouflage/Army attire

Thursday: “Be a Super Hero and Stay Drug Free” – wear super hero attire

Friday: “Show Good Character Against Drugs” – Dress up as your favorite book character



4K Students Ja'Reese, Jordan, and Michael in Mrs. Howe's and Mrs. Price's class search for the letter "Aa" in newspapers.

Nurse Notes

Now that we are back in school, remember to practice GOOD HANDWASHING to prevent the spread of germs!

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**.



Once again, the flu shot will be available for students here at GFE. Parental consent forms will be coming home with your child soon. We encourage you to take advantage of this offer to give your child protection from the flu this year!

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
Elf shaped graham crackers	\$1.00
Pepperidge Farms goldfish crackers	\$1.00
Welch's cherry fruit snacks	\$0.50
Welch's mixed fruit snacks	\$0.50
Tropical fruit trail mix	\$1.50
48 oz. bag of beef jerky	\$2.00

Other items may become available throughout the year.



You can find Box Tops for Education on various items that you may already purchase such as cereal, Ziploc bags, and Hamburger Helper just to name a few. All you need to do is clip them and send them to school. It's that easy!



The PTO is always looking for volunteers! If you would like to serve or simply join the PTO, please contact the school office so they can let the PTO parent volunteer coordinator know!

The PTO invites you to the
Great Falls Elementary
Fall Festival

There will be lots of games, food, a **HAUNTED HALL**, a **SILENT AUCTION** and a **DANCE** in the gym! **Tickets will be sold for \$1.00 each.** Food and events will cost each person between 1 and 5 tickets.

Where: Great Falls Elementary School

When: Friday, October 21, 2016

Time: 6:00-9:00 pm

