



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

SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome Back and Thank You Very Much from the New Principal!

I would like to take this brief moment to say Welcome Back to a brand new school year. It's pretty hard to believe that summer is almost behind us. There are so many new and exciting things to look forward to this year. I am so excited to be the new principal at Great Falls Elementary School this year, and I want to thank you all for such a warm and hospitable Great Falls welcome. I feel extremely privileged to be here...and I look forward to a wonderful partnership.

Good News to Share:

Once again, Great Falls Elementary has been named as a Title I Reward School for Progress (from the previous school year), a Microsoft Showcase School, and a Winthrop University NetScope Professional Development School. Along with Winthrop faculty, we host field and internship experiences, support action research, and engage in intense school-university alliance to boost student achievement and develop high quality teachers.

As you well know, Great Falls Elementary School is a wonderful place...and as the new administrator of the school, I only plan to see our school get even better. As such, we are going to need your help with ensuring that our students are aware of the strong partnership that exists between the school and home. I invite you to be actively involved in all aspects of our school. We hope that you are willing to be class and school level volunteers, PTO members, as well as participants in all school activities involving your child. Below you will find the principles that I follow to ensure that our school culture is built upon mutual respect.



Please plan to attend our Parent Conference/Open House/Title I Information meetings on September 27, 2016 from 4 pm to 7 pm. You will receive details from your child's classroom teacher closer to the event.

Once again, thank you very much for your hearty welcome to a wonderful place! I am looking forward to our work together this year.
Tammy Smith Taylor



- Aug. 29-Sept. 6: MAP Testing
- Sept. 2: PTO Dollar Dress Down Day
- Sept. 2: Student Council approved candidates notified
- Sept. 5: Labor Day – no school for students or teachers
- Sept. 7: Student Council workshop
- Sept. 9: Grits for Grandparents
- Sept. 12-16: Student Council Campaign Week
- Sept. 12: SIC-PTO meetings 5:00 pm
- Sept. 12: Family Literacy Night, 6:00 pm
- Sept. 13: Interim reports are issued
- Sept. 16: Candidates Speeches on morning show (tentative)
- Sept. 16: Student Council election
- Sept. 23: Principal's Dollar Dress Down Day
- Sept. 29: Student Council installation practice
- Sept. 30: Early release A day, 12:30 pm
- Sept. 30: Student Council installation, 9:00 am

>>>Character Word of the Month<<<

Self-Discipline-(Noun) The ability to make yourself do things that should be done for achievement.

Example: I practiced self-discipline by studying every night this week for my spelling test. I made an "A".



First Grade Literacy Night

Featuring 1st Grade Students

September 12 at 6:00pm

Grits for Grandparents



Come join us as we celebrate National Grandparents' Day by eating breakfast with your student.

The GFES Stars of Excellence Cafeteria will be serving fresh hot grits, delicious sausage, juice and milk from 7:15-8:00 on Friday, September 9, 2016, in your honor.

Each adult breakfast is \$2.20 and breakfast for extra children who attend will be \$1.10. If you plan on eating with your grandchild(ren), have their parent or guardian **complete and return the form to the school by Tuesday, September 6 at 8:00 am.** Advance tickets are for sale in the cafeteria or may be purchased the morning of. The cafeteria asks that you not bring anything greater than a \$5 bill. If writing a check, please make it payable to Great Falls Elementary School.

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.**



- Students are to wear athletic shoes everyday including dress down days. At no time should students wear flip flops, sandals, slip on shoes, boots of any kind or Sperry type boat shoes. Students are participating in some type of physical activity each day, and these types of shoes are neither appropriate nor safe.
- GFE is a CATCH school, and it is District Policy that students are not allowed to bring cupcakes or other sweet treats, homemade or store bought, for any reason including birthdays and holidays.
- Students are not to be picked up through the office after 2:00 pm unless it is a life threatening emergency.

School Lunch



The price of a child's breakfast is \$1.10. A child's lunch costs \$1.85, and milk is \$.50.

In an effort to make it easier for you to manage your student(s) lunch accounts, you may now pay their account(s) online. All you need to do is go to www.k12paymentcenter.com. If you would rather send the money to school, please send it in an envelope marked with the child's name. Please be advised that students who have an account balance will not be allowed to receive the lunch that is on the menu. They will receive a peanut butter sandwich. Students receiving the sandwich will still be charged for the meal. If you have a balance, you may contact Mary Case in the cafeteria to set up a payment plan.



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!

GREAT FALLS MEDIA CENTER 100 BOOK CLUB INSTRUCTIONS



- **Students in Kindergarten – 2nd grade:**
 - Can read books independently or have books read to them, individually or in groups.
 - Teachers will keep the student's book logs, and they will be turned in to the library by the teacher.
 - Logs will need to include all column items (book title, the author, the date read, and a parent or guardian signature)
- There are book logs and review templates available on the school website and in the library.
- **Students in 3rd-5th grade:**
 - Must read a book independently for it to count towards their total. Books read as a group will not count.
 - Students will receive a Fiction / Non Fiction Book Log from their teacher. We expect students to read 5 books per week, but we will only require them to write a log entry for 1 book a week. The log asks for the book's title, author, page count, characters and their role, the main problem and how it is solved, and the reader's favorite part.
 - The student should turn in one log each week for the next 25 weeks.
 - After 25 reading logs are turned in, the student will be invited to the 100 Book Club Celebration.
 - Keep on reading!
- There are book logs and review templates available from your teacher and in the library.

Hello, it's nice to meet you!

My name is Takima Nelson and I serve as the School Based Therapist for the Great Falls Schools through South Carolina Department of Mental Health. I have served in this role for the last three school terms. I am so excited about my role and meeting new faces each day. As your school based therapist, I am here to help students be successful emotionally, behaviorally and socially so that they may strive and grow as children without barriers.

Here is what I do at your school:

- Individual Counseling- I meet with students both short term and long term to work out problems at home and school
- Small Group Counseling: I facilitate small group counseling for students who need a little extra support in a particular area
- Consultation with staff/parents- I am available to meet with staff/parents to help support students and provide resources /education about issues affecting children
- Family Counseling- I meet with parents to provide them with strategies to manage their children's moods and behaviors in the home setting
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I am available at Great Falls Elementary on: Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays

Services also include a Psychiatric Assessment with the doctor, Nursing Assessment and Medication Monitoring.

Contact Me!!
Takima Nelson, MSW



**School Based
Mental Health**