



Great Expectations School News

Greetings GES Families!

This week is School Board Recognition Week! Our current fabulous school board members are:

Andrea Orest, Board Chairperson
Joe Drotos, Vice Chairperson
Sara McManus, Treasurer
Erica Kirsch, Secretary
Mike Carlson, Community Representative
Nikki Rice, Teacher Representative

This year's school board faces some exciting challenges with the building expansion in the works, as well as many other current issues. Some may not be aware of all the "background" work they do to give GES a solid base. We wish to offer a sincere thanks for their service to the Great Expectations community.

A Note from Director Rachael

GES Students are not Just Readers, they are Thinkers!

Have you ever wondered what GES's reading program looks like?

Great Expectations School's robust reading program achieves results by teaching reading fundamentals like phonics and high frequency words, allowing students to read for meaning and enjoyment, creating opportunities for students to apply what they read to real life, and most importantly fostering a love of reading in students of all ages.

As a charter school, Great Expectations School is held to a high standard in its reading program as well as other areas of academics and specific school goals. Our authorizer, Osprey Wilds, provides guidance and oversight to ensure we are providing rigorous and effective instruction in all areas including reading.

Here is an outline of what the GES reading program offers.

- GES students receive a rigorous foundation in phonemic awareness, phonics, and high frequency words using the Orton Gillingham program and training through the Institute for Multi Sensory Education. All teachers in grades K-4 including our Title I teacher are trained in this program and use its components in their daily instruction.
- GES students learn and apply reading comprehension skills through project based and hands-on activities.
- GES students benefit from school traditions that emphasize the importance of literacy and provide opportunities for older students to model reading and writing behaviors for younger students. This includes weekly all school gatherings, reading buddies, all school celebrations and the sharing of projects and products across grade levels.
- GES students who need additional reading support receive reading interventions in several ways including Title I support, paraprofessional support, and differentiation by classroom teachers.
- GES students who qualify for special education services have access to individualized reading support.
- GES students are proficient readers as shown through standardized testing data. GES standardized test scores are consistently higher than state and local averages.
- GES students receive an education that treats them as a whole person and works to create programs and curriculums that meet the needs of each individual child.
- GES students learn in a setting that focuses on social and emotional learning, outdoor learning and community involvement. We believe that time outdoors and meaningful connections within the classroom, school and community are essential to students gaining academic skills and knowledge.

Important Dates, Information & Events

[jmc family login link](#) (for lunch, fees and back to school forms)

March:

3: Last Day of 2nd Trimester

12: Daylight Savings Time Starts: Clocks ahead 1 hour

14: Evening Conferences

15-16: Compass Music Workshop: Nanilo

16: Evening Conferences

22: Evening Conferences

23: School Spirit Day: PJ Day

23: Gr. 5-8 to Anne Frank play at Wm Kelly High School & Tettegouche Park Naturalist program

24: **No School:** Independent Workday

27 thru 31: **No School Spring Break**

Thank you to Lori Rothstein for sharing this picture of GES swimmers. Eleven Cook County kids swam the MN YMCA State Championship last weekend. Of those, nine currently go to GES and one is a GES grad. Six are included in the photo: Congratulations to them all!



Community Opportunities

- Grand Portage LGBTQ+ Community [Dinner](#) March 3rd
- Cook County [Pride Celebration](#) March 4th
- Father/Daughter [Dance](#) March 17

Volunteer Opportunities

No time to volunteer? You can still help GES raise funds by saving your aluminum cans and dropping them in the trailer in the side parking lot. Your help is appreciated!

In the Classrooms

Today the Fawns led our All School Gathering in a celebration of the 100th Day of School, and presented later for parents! They did a tremendous job of speaking clearly and loudly so they could be heard by their audience. The audience, in turn, was enthusiastic at the 100 items each Fawn brought (including refrigerators, elephants and SKUNKS)! Watch a 4 minute video: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ePzaTmmlGI7AaC1GYTL1vkisouO1_527/view?usp=sharing



100th Day of School celebrations: Fawns, above; Bear Cubs, below



- Check out the Bear Cubs interview on WTIP about sky color:

<https://wtip.org/ges-kindergarten-class-paint-the-sky-in-january/>

Community Health

We have noticed an uptick in Covid cases in the community, including GES. Please consider testing if your child is home ill for a few days. We have at-home tests available in the front entry for families, as needed. Other testing opportunities:

Covid Testing – Wednesday afternoons at the Community Center

Please register in advance [online](#)



Are you up to date with your child's lunch account? Not sure? Check it out and add funds here:

[jmc family login link](#)

- Call school if you need a reminder of your login password (218-387-9322).
- Use a desktop/laptop computer vs. phone or iPad.
- Click on “Lunch” from the menu on the left. You will see all the dates your child ate school lunch.
- Click on the “Family Online Payments” link at the top of the page to add funds.

As always, please call the office if you have any questions on school-related items. We are happy to assist!

Lesla

Lesla Hofer

Office Administrator

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