

# Gator Gazette



## From the desk of Mr. Harris...

We have some big events coming up that I would like for you to pay attention to. In lieu of Valentine's Day Parties, we will be having the Wheel of Wisdom game show for all students. Students can still bring in Valentine's and teachers will allow time in class for students to pass them out. I am asking all parents to **not purchase** the Valentine's that have a place for candy to be attached. All candy that is sent to school, will be sent back home with the student who brought it in. Thank you for your cooperation.

Full Day Kindergarten Lottery application will be open January 29-February 9. You must log on and submit your child's name and date of birth and contact info to be eligible to be entered into the lottery program. The link will be on any and all district websites. Parents will be notified via email on February 16<sup>th</sup> if they were selected for full day or not. Once parents have been notified, they will have a month to register the student. If after a month and the student has not registered, the next student on the waiting list will be given the opportunity to register and they will have 10 school days to complete the registration process. All students that are accepted into the full day program do need to come to the school office and pay their \$100 non-refundable fee for the process to be complete as well as show proof of the original birth certificate. **Please note: the district is moving to online registration this year. The information on how to do that will be included in the email that parents receive with the link to register.** If there are any questions, we encourage parents to call the school office at 815-577-3606.

I also would like for you to mark your calendars and help spread the word to neighbors that Kindergarten Registration for half day will take place April 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:00pm-7:00pm. Again, registration will be online, but we wanted to open the school up for parents to come in and register here and see our school, we know this is an exciting time for many and we look forward to seeing you all. We will have laptops available and secretaries here to help answer any questions. If you are not able to make that night, that is ok, you can still register online from home. Please make sure that you take a look at the link if you are coming in to register that night to ensure that you have the proper proofs for residency that will need to be uploaded. We will have a scanner available to assist you with that as well. Make sure you also have your child's original birth certificate, as we will need to see it and make a copy for the student file.

Thank You,

Mr. Harris

## February

**5th**  
Early Dismissal 12:45pm  
**7th**  
Spring Pictures  
**9th**  
Sweetheart Dance  
6-8pm  
**19th**  
No School President's  
Day

## March

**1st**  
Breakfast with Books  
Potbelly's Day  
**2nd**  
No school Teacher  
Institute  
**6th**  
PTA Meeting 6:00pm  
**12th**  
Early Dismissal 12:45  
**14th**  
Sky Zone Fundraiser  
4-8pm  
**19th-April**  
PARCC Testing  
**26th-April 2**  
No school Spring Break

**Upcoming PTA Events**

Join us for our 2018 Sweetheart Dance!

Friday February 9th 6-8pm



**Sky Zone in Aurora**

March 14th 4-8PM

Come out and spend time with friends and family!



**February Character Trait:**

*"Fairness"*

Your children will be learning about the about the fairness character trait during February. They will be rewarded a Fairness Award if they demonstrate that characteristic throughout the month. We always encourage families to reinforce our monthly character trait at home as well and thank you for all of your support.



**Spirit Sticks**

Students earn these during our character trait months – but we also have fun ones available for purchase! All spirit sticks are \$1.00 each. Students (or parents) can come to the office if they would like to purchase one for their student keychain.



**Birthday Treats:**

Birthdays are an exciting time and we want to celebrate your child's birthday. **In lieu of a treat, we strongly encourage you to send in a non-edible treat such as a pencil, stickers, or a book donation to the Media Center or classroom.** We have many students with food allergies and this will make everyone more comfortable and safe. If a treat is sent in, it needs to be in a sealed package and must be store bought and have the nutritional information on the package. Any additional treats will be sent home at the end of the day. Thank you for your cooperation as we adhere to the to the District Wellness Policy.

**BOXTOPS**

Please don't forget to continue sending in your box tops! This is free money for our school. When sending them in, please indicate your child's name and teacher on the bag or envelope so they can get credit for the winning classroom at the end of the year. The next submission is at the end of March. Please watch your Thursday folders for an upcoming collection sheet.

Thank you so much for your participation!



## A few more notes from Mr. Harris...

### **STATE TESTS ON THE HORIZON**

Students that are in grades 3-8 will be taking part in The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers, "PARCC," testing March 19<sup>th</sup>- April 20<sup>th</sup>. This testing is required by the state of Illinois and measures student achievement on the Common Core State Standards. Students will be assessed in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics. Testing schedules for individual classrooms will be sent home by your child's teacher closer to the testing start date. Once you receive your child's schedule, here are a few tips to help your child prepare for the testing:

1. Make sure your child is in bed early on the night before any standardized tests. Study after study has shown that well-rested kids make for successful test-takers.
2. On the morning of the big test day, have a healthy breakfast ready to go. Protein at breakfast time-think peanut butter toast, scrambled eggs, yogurt with a protein-rich cereal-will help your child sustain her mental energy. Avoid sugar at breakfast, which produces a frenzied high, followed by a deep dip in energy levels.
3. Remind your child to Read, Skip, Spend. Read the directions and each question to the very end. Skip any questions that stump you and come back to them when you have time at the end. Spend any extra time checking over your work when you're done.
4. Help your child battle sudden anxiety by teaching simple, on-the-spot relaxation techniques. Discover together what method works best: for some kids, it means closing your eyes for a moment and visualizing a happy, peaceful place, like the beach or a favorite park. For other kids, it helps to take five deep breaths. These techniques will come in handy during other stressful moments in life, so work together to find out what works and practice stress-reducing techniques with your kids.
5. Finally, let your child know that you're proud of him/her no matter what his/her score is on a standardized test. Remind him/her that he/she is smart and has the power to focus and succeed.

Practice tests: <https://parcc.pearson.com/practice-tests/>

Parent resources and information: <http://www.parconline.org/resources/parent-resources>,  
the hot topics link included below is no longer active.

The timeline for scores has not been determined at this time, but once the scores have arrived, you will receive a copy for your child. Thank you for your support in making this year's testing a smooth process!

