

March Newsletter

Guilderland Elementary School

Smarter – Kinder - Stronger

Dear families,

So far, March has been a difficult month. While we were teased a bit with some early beautiful weather, the lion returned with a vengeance and now we are dealing with the clean-up from the most significant storm of the year. As tough as March has been it is still an exciting and dynamic time of year both inside and outside of the school.

Over the course of the next month, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade teachers will be asking students to prepare for the upcoming state assessments in English Language Arts and Mathematics. Students have been learning the content that they will be assessed on since the beginning of the school year through their regular instruction. This month, they will begin to see what the structure and formats of the assessments will look like. This is always a bit of a balancing act as we want to make sure that our students are prepared for what is coming while not over-emphasizing the importance of these assessments and causing undue stress. The ELA assessments will take place on the 28, 29 and 30th of this month before the math assessments a little over a month later on May 2, 3 and 4. If you have any questions about these assessments please feel free to reach out to your child's teacher or to me.

March is also an important time in the development of our school budget for the coming year. Last week Dr. Wiles released her proposed budget to the board which once again had to include significant reductions. The Board of Education will now take the next few weeks to go through the budget, listen to feedback from the community and make adjustments to the budget as they see fit. On April 11th, they will formally adopt a budget that will then get sent to the voters on May 16. Between now and April 11th there are many opportunities for your voice to be heard. I encourage you to stay informed and you can do so by reading the [budget materials](#) on our district website.

Stay warm and think spring!

Sincerely,
Allan



March 8

- Bus Evacuation Drill

March 10

- PTA Movie Night – 6:30pm

March 17

- No School Superintendent's Conference Day

March 21

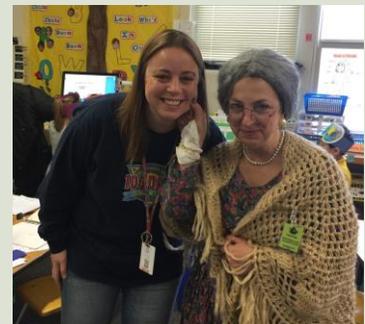
- Spring Pictures

March 27

- Building Cabinet 2:15pm

March 28-30

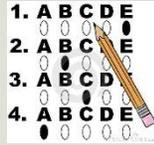
- Grade 3-5 ELA



Building Information

State assessment dates

The dates below have been selected by the State Education Department as the days when elementary public schools across the state are required to administer the Math and ELA assessments in grades 3-5. Please make every effort to have your student in school and on time for these dates.



ELA – March 28, 29, 30

Math – May 2, 3, 4

Science (4th Grade only)

Performance – Week of May 30

Written – June 5

Glass Containers



Please do NOT send your child to school with a glass container. Recently, we have had more students bringing glass containers to school as water bottles or as part of the student's lunch. Several have broken causing a danger to students and staff members. Metal or plastic containers are much safer in an elementary school.

Placement for next year begins!

Believe it or not, during the month of March, we begin to plan for next year including starting to think about grouping students into their new classes. Soon you will be receiving a letter requesting any input you may have for the placement process. Specifically, we ask you for any pertinent information regarding social relationships or peers who may or may not be a good fit with your child. Your input is not required but may be helpful.

GES Gives

Led by our active student council, this year GES once again made a major contribution to the local food bank. On Friday, February 17, GES held its annual "giving assembly." Our families donated

over 7 shopping carts full of food and Mrs.

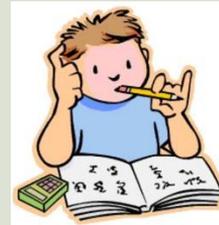


Mirabile's former students also donated over \$200 of their "tip" money from their dinner event last year. The annual GES food drive is the single biggest donation that the Guilderland Food Bank receives each year and this year we topped all previous years. What a great show of caring from our school community!

Should you make your child redo a homework assignment?

You are looking over your child's homework and you notice that a few of his answers are incorrect. Should you make him redo it?

According to experts, you should not ask your child to redo his homework if just some of his work is wrong. Instead, point out the items that are incorrect, and let your child choose whether or not to correct them.



This policy makes it clear that homework is your child's responsibility and it also helps avoid power struggles over homework. Leaving incorrect work also enables the teacher to see where your child needs help.

There are, however, two reasons you should ask your child to redo his homework:

1. The assignment was done in a hurry and is sloppy.
2. The entire assignment is totally wrong.

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This four-step process can end procrastination

At one time or another, most kids put off doing their homework. But when procrastination becomes a habit, it can affect school performance.

To help your child break the procrastination habit, have him:

1. Select just one thing to do. Sometimes kids put things off when they feel overwhelmed. Tell your child to focus on one assignment at a time.
2. Set a timer for 30 minutes and begin working on the assignment. While the timer is ticking, he should focus only on that assignment.
3. Avoid breaks. Your child should get water or a snack before he starts the timer so he doesn't interrupt his work flow.
4. Reward himself. Once the timer goes off, encourage your child to do something he likes, such as playing an online game for a few minutes.

Have your child repeat this process until his assignment is complete!

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Four ways to reduce your child's anxiety before a test



It's normal to get a little nervous before a big test, but many children suffer from excessive test anxiety. They worry so much about taking the test that their performance suffers.

To help your child diffuse those pre-test jitters:

1. Focus on preparation. Make sure he spreads studying out over time. True learning requires time to review and think about the content. And knowing the material is the best way to reduce anxiety and stress.
2. Discourage cramming. Cramming the night before a test often increases anxiety, which can interfere with clear thinking. The most

important things your child can do the day before a test are to review and then get a good night's sleep.

3. Encourage a positive outlook. Build your child's confidence by reminding him of his strengths. Have him envision himself doing well on the test.
4. Maintain perspective. Remind him that test scores aren't everything. Make sure your child knows that, while you want him to do his best, he doesn't have to be the best.

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News from the PTA



Upcoming PTA Events

March 6 - Opera Saratoga
Ask your children about the performance of The Bremen Town Musicians on March 6, sponsored by the PTA.



March 10 - 6:30pm Movie Night - Trolls
Come join the GES Community in our free movie night. Concessions are available. Bring sleeping bags and pillows!

Spring Enrichment

Spring enrichment session will run in May. Look for information coming soon!

Open PTA Positions

There will be open positions on the executive board this year. Voting occurs in June. Email guilderlandelementarypta@gmail.com with any questions.

