



GRIZZLY GROWLER

December 12, 2008

Mrs. Crystal Bailey, Principal: 09641-83-7133 CIV, 475-7133 DSN
Mr. David Eldredge, Assistant Principal: 09641-83-7133 CIV, 475-7133 DSN
Mr. Mike Thompson, Superintendent: 0981-18-3429 CIV, 468-7429 DSN
Ms. Ann Bruening, School Liaison Officer: 09641-83-1770 CIV, 475-1770 DSN
School Bus Office: 01622-71-7582 CIV

OUR MISSION

The mission of Grafenwoehr Elementary School is to maintain a meaningful partnership with the community through which physical well being, academic growth, and emotional support are provided to all learners.

OUR GOALS

1. All students will improve their written expression across the curriculum.
2. All students will improve their vocabulary across the curriculum.

From our Principal Mrs. Bailey

Dear Parents,

Winter weather has come again. Please dress your children for the cold and snow as we go outside as much as possible. I also ask that you check AFN every morning to see if there is a change in school for the day. You can also check

<http://g3operations.hqusareur.army.mil/Divisions/OPS/ASGConditions/default.asp>

This site will give you weather updates and the status of school. You can call 475-ROAD to find out the road conditions. Please be safe as winter begins to set in.

Our customer satisfaction survey continues. Currently all of our 4th and 5th grade students have participated in the survey. We now need more parents to give us their input. The survey can be found at www.eu.dodea.edu. It is on the front page of the DoDEA web site. As of this writing we have heard from 75 sponsors (33%). Please help us increase this number. We would like to hear what we are doing well and how we can improve.

Thanks for helping to make Grafenwoehr ES a great place!

We have several events coming up that you are more than welcome to attend. Our STAR assembly will be on the 18th of December at 1:45. After the break we will have our bedtime stories from 6:00-7:00 on the evening of the 22nd of January. If you would like to be a guest reader, please contact the office and we will put you in touch with the folks in charge of that night.

We will not have school on the following dates: 22 Dec 08-4 Jan 09, 19 January-MLK Jr. Day, 23 Jan-teacher record keeping day. Kindergarten conferences will be on 29 Jan with conferences for all grades K-5 on the 30th.

We look forward to seeing you at our events and meeting with you for conferences.

Have a safe weekend!

Dates to Remember

18 December
STAR Assembly

22 December - 4 January
Winter Break

5 January
School Resumes

15 January
PTSA Meeting



Special points of interest:

- *PCSing? We need 5 days notice to process paper-work.*
- *Fridays are Spirit Days - Wear your Grizzly shirt or blue and gold colors.*



What's Happening in Germany



Christmas is coming close. The German children only have to wait 12 more days before the big day. Yes, the number is 12 ! Why? People in Germany celebrate Christmas on **24 December** in the evening. Actually, they start around 17.00 or 18.00 hrs when it is dark. Shops on that day will be open until noon or 13.00 - then they all close.

Christmas in Germany is a **big family 'Fest'** - not a time for meeting with friends and having a Christmas party. In Germany, it is more the quiet time that people prefer. 'Christkind' is believed to be the Santa in Germany and Christkind does not only bring presents but also puts up the tree the day before or on Christmas Eve.

25 and 26 December are 2 Christmas holidays - shops will be closed then. Everything will be back to normal on 27 December.

Traditionally, people in Germany shoot fireworks at midnight on **31 December**. Fireworks will be available in the German stores a few days before New Year's Eve. Please do NOT buy any firecrackers in the Czech Republic- they are very cheap but extremely dangerous. There was a report about them on TV and they really discouraged people from driving across the border and purchasing them. They are made cheaply and have not been tested properly. Too many accidents are bound to happen with them, e.g. facial and eye burns !

6 January will end the Christmas celebrations in Germany. This is **3 Kings Day** - the last German holiday for a while. Teenagers from the church will be coming to people's houses, dressed up as kings ('Sternsinger') singing carols and saying poems. They are collecting money for the neediest children in the world. Every cent will help.

Vielen Dank!

Frohe Weihnachten und alles Gute im neuen Jahr!

From our Nurse

"Eat your fruits and veggies." We have been told this since we can remember, but only if it could be that easy. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommend that we get 5 servings of fruit and veggies a day. Most of us think that 2-3 servings a day is just fine, but this is only enough for our bodies to survive not thrive. Here are a few quick tips to help meet the 5 servings a day.

1. add fruit to cereal, oatmeal, and waffles.
2. when making pasta add a few veggies.
3. snack on raw fruit and veggies instead of sweets and chips.
4. keep fruit in a bowl at eye level, if you see it you will eat it.
5. add frozen fruit or veggies to your dinner, they are full of vitamins.
6. Drink 100% juice drinks and lay off the soda.



These are just a few tips to help everyone load up on the fruits and veggies that our bodies need and crave so much . Don't let your body down, pick up the healthy stuff.

Bedtime Stories on Jan. 22 from 6 – 7



Math Matters - During the Holiday Season students can keep their skills sharp using the following website:

www.mathplayground.com

This site provides great learning for all grades.



From our Assistant Principal Mr. Eldredge

Dear Parents,

We have a problem with which we need your assistance. This problem concerns animals, mainly dogs, being brought to school, primarily before and after school. We ask that you please not bring any of your pets to school. Animals can be highly unpredictable. They can, at the most innocent times, turn and bite a child or another person who innocently gets too close to, or startles them. Children are, for the most part, naturally attracted to animals. They want to go up and pet them or be by them. Dogs have been known to turn on a child and cause serious injuries. In addition to this concern, we have had to pick up dog droppings from around our playground equipment recently. This is not something that we care to be doing. It takes time and it may be that children would innocently step in the pet droppings. That causes other problems.

If you have been bringing your pet to school, either in the morning or after school, we ask that you please make arrangements to discontinue that practice. We also ask that you please not bring your pet onto the school grounds at any time. We all know that they can stop at any point and leave their mark. We don't need our playground, or the areas around the school, being used as a pet walking area. We are asking that the school be a pet free area. Some children may be allergic to animals and when they are brought to school, that pet becomes an "attractive nuisance" and a possible health risk for these children.

We thank you for your support and assistance as we put this policy into effect.

A Sleepy Surprise

By:
2nd Grade Student



In this picture, there are bears sleeping. They are sleeping because it is winter. They will wake up when it is summer. I imagine that they are dreaming about playing in the summer. And I think they like it, because they like to play.

