



Grizzly Growler

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 Bruennig, School Liaison Officer: 09641-83-1770 CIV, 475-1770 DSN
School Bus Office: 01622-71-7582 CIV

October 7, 2008

OUR MISSION

Grafenwoehr Elementary School is to maintain a partnership with the community through which physical well being, cognitive 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.

Dates to Remember

11-November
Veterans Day-No School
27-28 November
Thanksgiving Holiday



Special points of interest:

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

From our Principal Mrs. Bailey

Dear Parents,

I have looked around the building lately and I have seen many parents back from Iraq. It is so nice to see you at school. Welcome back! However, we know that when parents return from long deployments that can mean a PCS move or block leave. This will have a great impact on your children. If you are going to PCS or take block leave please let the office know in writing of the dates you will be gone and if you need to request acceleration for your child/ren. Acceleration is granted for PCS or block leave (with documentation) and allows your child to complete work for the semester to receive grades. Please let us know as soon as possible so students will have time complete all necessary assignments. The acceleration for date for 1st semester is 10 December. Your child must be in school all day on the 9th of December to be able to accelerate. If you are leaving after the 10th but before the semester ends you still must apply for acceleration. Please contact the office if you have questions or need additional information (09641-83-7133).

Parent conferences are going on as I write this letter. We so appreciate parents coming to school to meet with teachers. This communication is critical to the success of your child. While you were here you were asked to participate in the customer satisfaction survey. This is done by DoDEA every other year. DoDEA uses this information about the quality of education and to see how we can improve. If you were not able to participate in this survey while at conferences you will be able to do so until February 28th, 2009 on the DoDEA web page at www.dodea.edu. If you need access to a computer you may come to school and use one in the library. We hope you will take the time to tell us what we do well and how we can better serve our most important customers, parents and students. Please let us know if you have questions about the survey. We will be glad to assist you.

There are several events happening in November of which you need to be aware. There will be no school on Tuesday. This is Veterans Day. Our students saluted our veterans last week at our STAR assembly. We will also be out of school on the 27th and 28th of November to celebrate Thanksgiving. Our 4th and 5th grade honor roll assembly will be on 12 Nov 08 at 1345. Parents are welcome to attend. November 20th will be a PTSA meeting. Several of our classes will be performing; we look forward to seeing you at the PTSA meeting. Our next STAR assembly is 24 Nov 08. November is a busy month at Grafenwoehr ES. Thanks for supporting us as we celebrate with our students.

Have a great weekend!

From our Counselor

Dear Parents,

I am going to deviate from the norm and outline a few activities to take the place of TV and video games. Our technology seems to be overtaking interpersonal activities between children and parents and impacting on the school experience. Of course in moderation it adds a new and enlightening experience but an overdose seems to impact at times negatively.

Outdoor Activities: Hiking together and observing nature. We have wonderful trails at Dick Hauter Lake on post here at Graf, and, at Big and Little Mike Lakes on Vilseck. It is possible to bike at these sites as well. These are terrific trails right in our own backyard. Take your children out and don't forget to give them a whistle so they can call you if they meander off the path. There are birds and deer at both.

Bird and Critter watching: Hike the on post lakes, bring your binoculars and a European bird book and see how many you can identify. Watching wildlife increases a child's awareness of the world around him or her. Consider backyard birding. Birds that do not migrate are always looking for food, water and shelter. You can use the computer to find out what birds are attracted to which seeds offered locally. For instance, sunflower seeds bring big beaked birds who can crack them and peanut butter/seed balls attract another type. Keep a notebook of how many types visit your yard



Indoor Activities: The PX has a super selection of games. Scrabble, Boggle, Wheel of Fortune and others are favorites.

Card games: Rummy, Hearts, Spades, and so on. Rules for these card games and more can be found at www.pagat.com.

Other than the above lets not forget the Art of Sparkling Conversation. Chatting with our children is very underrated these days. Ask their opinions as you might with an adult and be amazed.

From our Nurse

As a student at Grafenwoehr Elementary School and in DoDDS you are required to have all immunizations up to date at the beginning of the school year. If you, as a parent, know that your child is not up to date please make arrangements for the immunization at the clinic. If you have any questions about your child's immunization or any health concerns please call the Grafenwoehr School Nurse Office at 09641-83-7645 or 475-7645 between the hours of 0730 and 1510. Thank you for making sure all students are up to date on immunizations.

Students at Grafenwoehr ES participated in a mock election on November 4, 2008. 329 students and teachers voted electronically. Barack Obama won our election with 62% of the vote.



Announcement

Social Work Services is having a class in January entitled "Becoming a Love and Logic Parent". It is to help parents add more skills to their parenting tool kit. Parents can call 476-2100 and ask to be on the list for the January class.

Veteran's Hall of Fame

If you would like to enter a name into the Hall of Fame, please fill out the form below and return it to your child's teacher.

Name (print clearly) _____

War(s) _____

Place _____

Year(s) _____ to _____

P. T. S. A. is working hard to make a difference in the lives of students at Grafenwoehr Elementary School. We would like for students to bring in box tops so our school can turn them in for cash. The money goes into supporting educational needs at our school. If you have parents in the US that can send their box tops, please encourage them to do so.



Students in Class 4A are investigating air pressure and weather. This was a team about the relationship between air pressure and weather conditions. The process skills include: estimating and measuring, collecting and interpreting data, and observing.



PET FOOD DRIVE

NOVEMBER 3rd – 26th



The student council at GES is sponsoring a Pet Food Drive during the month of November. We would like for each class to collect pet supplies and food to give to the Tierheim animal shelter in Weiden. Please donate any pet supplies. It could be pet food, or pet collars, pet homes such as bird houses or dog dens, and any other pet stuff. This is not only for cats and dogs it is also for fish, birds and any other animals that make good pets. The class who collects the most items for pets will win a board game! Let's get some competition going!!!

Written by JF STUCO Public Relations Officer

From our Registrar

Please find attached a student update form. Please take the time to fill this form out with any corrections for home phone, work phones, cell phones and **especially** the emergency contact information. The information I put into the database is the information the teachers, counselors and nurse use. This information is very important to have current in the case of an actual emergency with your child / children. Please take the time to fill this form out and return it via email to or bring it to the main office. There have been a lot of changes over the summer and some of your emergency contact information may have changed or you may have received a new cell phone. Please let us know.



OCTOBER STAR AWARDS

November 3rd was our STAR awards assembly for October's STAR behavior. We were entertained by Class 4A who sang a song in honor of our Veterans, Class 1C danced and sang to a Halloween song, and Class 5A performed a German dance and dedicated it to our host nation teacher.

We would like to thank the members of



Sojourner Truth Chapter #115
Order of the Eastern Star
Oklahoma Jurisdiction, PHA

for donating games for STAR CARD prizes.

There were SIX WINNERS of STAR CARD prizes. We drew SIX STAR CARDS from THREE buckets this month....two from Kinder/First, two from Second/Third and two from Fourth/Fifth. Congratulations to these winners!!!

Specialist Awards for October were:

ART: Class 5A

MUSIC: Class KA

HOST NATION: Class 3B

PE: Class 3B

LUNCHROOM: Class KB

The 3rd grades traveled to the Garrison's Training Area on Tuesday of this week. They studied a cemetery which dated back to 1614; bat caves; biotope areas; the village, Haag, which was later moved from the Garrison area in the 1960s; and the remains of the church from that village which was destroyed during World War II. Many thanks to our tour guide, along with our local environmentalists. A special thank you goes to Mrs. A. from the Grafenwoehr Garrison Library for arranging the trip.



School Advisory Committee

The Grafenwoehr Elementary School seeks to create a culture of feedback between teachers, parents and students by providing several options for parents to provide feedback and express concerns.

First and foremost, the key point of contact for most matters at the school is your child's classroom teacher. Secondly, the school administrators have an open door policy and will work with you to resolve any concerns. Another avenue for parental concerns is your School Advisory Committee (SAC).

The GES SAC is comprised of two teacher representatives, and two parent representatives. The SAC can act as a hearing board for any individual or group who may want to propose changes in the school policy or express concerns about school-related matters. The SAC does not deal with personnel issues. Those concerns should be discussed with the school principal.

Issues or concerns can be directed to the SAC by talking with one of the SAC members or emailing us at schooladvisoryGES@yahoo.com. Any issues or concerns that you communicate will be placed on the agenda of the next SAC meeting. The agenda is developed two weeks ahead of the next SAC meeting. This allows us to have pertinent school or community members at the meeting to address the issue, if needed. The SAC agenda is published one week prior to the meeting.

However, you may also show up at a meeting to voice a concern. Each speaker not on the agenda is provided three minutes to state a concern. If we can resolve the issue during the meeting, we will. However, we may need time to talk with other people involved. The SAC may also raise an issue or concern to the Garrison Commander through the Installation Advisory Committee.

Your Grafenwoehr Elementary School Advisory Committee (SAC) is here to work for you. Please feel free to talk with us at anytime. Our desire is that we all work together so your child has an optimal educational experience.

Sincerely,

GES SAC Chairman



Agenda Input Form for SAC Committee

Remember that building better schools requires using the right tools.

The SAC: One of the best tools in your toolbox.

Topic or ideas for the SAC meeting.

You may print this form and send it to school with your child, mail or fax to:

* Grafenwoehr Elementary School * Unit 28127 * APO AE * 09114-8127 * FAX 09641-3254 *

Name of person submitting _____

Work Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

Email _____

Input for: _____ Information _____ Discussion _____ Action (Please select one)

Topic: _____

Desired Outcome: _____

Do you wish to speak during an open session? _____ Yes _____ No

Action

Taken: _____

(This section to be completed by a SAC member)