

## March 8<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup> Newsletter

### Geist Montessori Academy

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### Dr. Sue's News

Dear Parents and Families,

Next week is a very busy week at GMA. Progress notes will be coming home, student led conferences will be going on, and of course the Book Fair will be in full swing. Please check your classroom newsletter and contact your teacher(s) if you need more information on any of the happenings next week.

It is hard to believe that it will be spring break at the end of the month. The students have been working so hard this winter, and they deserve a nice break! Please continue to encourage them to work hard and do their best the next few weeks.

As we inch closer to spring break, hopefully we are getting closer to warm weather! At this time we still have March 29<sup>th</sup> off as a flex day, but we never know what the weather will do between now and then. If we have to cancel school for a snow day, the 29<sup>th</sup> will be another e-Learning day. Please stay tuned to your local stations if we get any snowy weather between now and the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue



GEIST MONTESSORI ACADEMY

### Upcoming Events

- March 11<sup>th</sup>**
  - Progress Notes
- March 13<sup>th</sup> 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Student Led Conferences
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Book Fair
- March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>**
  - Early Release Days
- March 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - PTO Meeting
- March 19<sup>th</sup>**
  - School Board Meeting
- March 22<sup>nd</sup>**
  - Spring Pictures
- March 29<sup>th</sup>**
  - No School (Flex Day)
- April 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**
  - Spring Break

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### Next Pizza Lunch

**March 13<sup>th</sup> – March 20<sup>th</sup>**

**Questions?** Contact Katyann at [kdialvo@gma.k12.in.us](mailto:kdialvo@gma.k12.in.us)



## The Inside Scoop

- **Fundraisers**
  - Over the past few weeks, the upper elementary has held two fundraisers to raise money for the Wheeler Mission. The two events were Disney day and Penny Wars. Disney day was a huge success bringing in over \$300. Penny Wars just wrapped up and was very successful as well. We had a winner at both campuses, with Miss Katyann's middle school class winning at North, and Miss Ali's class at South. In all, with the two fundraisers, they raised over \$1150 for the homeless. We would like to thank everyone for their donations!
- **Progress Notes Come Home ( March 11<sup>th</sup> )**
  - Progress Notes will be coming home today, so please be on the lookout for those from your teacher. If you have any questions about your child's progress notes or progress during the third quarter, please contact your student's teacher.
- **Student Led Conferences ( March 13<sup>th</sup> , 14<sup>th</sup> , & 15<sup>th</sup> )**
  - To mark the end of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter we will be holding our annual spring student led conferences. This is a great time for your child to show some of the amazing works they have using. If you have not signed up for a conference yet, please contact your teacher(s) or check out their sign up lists to make sure you don't miss out.
- **Book Fair (March 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> )**
  - During conferences we will have the Scholastic Book Fair at both campuses. This annual event is a great chance to find some great books and help GMA at the same time. A portion of the money made during the book fair is used to help every teacher purchase new books for their classroom library! Stay tuned for more info to come as the date gets closer.
- **Early Release Days ( March 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> )**
  - We will have early release on the afternoon of Thursday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. The North Campus will dismiss at 12:00PM and the South Campus will dismiss at 12:15PM.
- **IREAD ( March 18<sup>th</sup> - March 27<sup>th</sup> )**
  - IREAD will take place from March 18th - March 27th for students in 3rd Grade. Students need proper nutrition and good rest to do their best. For more information and regarding the IREAD Assessment and for some helpful videos from the Indiana Department of Education Office of Student Assessment, please visit our website at <http://gmacademy.org/idoe-office-student-assessment/>
- **PTO Meeting ( March 19<sup>th</sup> )**
  - Come join the PTO at the South Campus, on Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 4:15. They will be discussing the latest and greatest events, volunteer opportunities and updated info on everything else. Come get involved and support PTO during this month's meeting.
- **School Board Meeting ( March 19<sup>th</sup> )**
  - The next GMA board meeting will be Tuesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in the North Campus common area at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come see the latest behind the scenes work going on at GMA.
- **Spring Pictures ( March 22<sup>nd</sup> )**
  - Fliers for spring pictures came home last week. If you are interested, please be sure to send in your money and form with your child on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- **No School ( Flex Day ) (March 29<sup>th</sup> )**
  - Thanks to a little luck, we are currently still able to save our last flex day! That means we get an extra day off, and we can start spring break early. Enjoy!
- **Spring Break ( April 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> )**
  - Congratulations, we made it! Enjoy the time with your family as the students have earned a much needed break. School will be back in session starting April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Reminders

- **Visitor Sign In**
  - Please remember to always sign in at the front desk when visiting either campus. Once you are signed in, the staff working the front desk will give you a visitor badge and make sure you get to the proper location in the school. If you have any questions when visiting, please let our office staff know.
- **The Annual Fund**
  - The annual fund is always open, and you can donate anytime in person, over the phone, or on our website. We have some ambitious ideas to upgrade existing technology, to become a strong STEM presence in the community, and to strengthening our peace education through service learning projects that will allow us to give back in so many ways. Your generous donations will be used to support all these efforts as we aim to make the next chapter at Geist Montessori Academy even better than the last. We hope that you will join us with your financial support. Please visit our website <http://gmacademy.org/donate/>
  - Geist Montessori Academy is a 501(c)3 non-profit and your donation may qualify as a charitable deduction for federal tax purposes. Does your employer have a charitable gift matching program? Please consider asking your employer to match your donation to Geist Montessori Academy by contacting your Human Resources department.
- **News Section of Our Website**
  - Don't forget to check out the News section of our website to stay updated on school happenings and events. Please visit <http://gmacademy.org/news/> for details.
- **Pistachio and Cashew Aware South Campus**
  - Please take notice that the South Campus is a pistachio and cashew aware campus. Due to some life threatening allergies in the building, we must keep these two types of nuts out of the South Campus at all times. Please make sure that all snacks, treats, and lunches do not contain any traces of pistachios and cashews.
- **One Call Messaging**
  - Geist Montessori Academy utilizes the communication system, OneCall. This tool allows us to communicate via email, phone and text message simultaneously. If you would like to receive text messages, please text the word "ALERT" to 22300. Standard messaging and data rates apply. Please contact the Front Office with questions or concerns at [317-335-1158](tel:317-335-1158).
- **Family/Student Handbook**
  - For your reference the Family/Student Handbook is available on the website at <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-19-Family-Student-Handbook.pdf>
- **Carline Info**
  - We have noticed some unsafe practices in carline recently. Please make sure your children are safely buckled in their seat while entering and exiting carline. Also, please refrain from being on your phone while driving in carline. These little choices can be the difference between safe travels and serious injury or damage.
  - As a reminder, you will need to enter the building to sign out your student(s). If they are being signed out before the school day is complete, it will be counted as an early dismissal, and should only be done in the case of an emergency or special appointment. Please only do so as needed.
- **Carpool Map**
  - If you would like help with picking up and dropping off your student, please sign up for our carpool map. This system will allow you to connect with other GMA families in your area to coordinate a carpool. If you have questions, or you would like to sign up, please contact the office.
- **Early Pick Up**

- If you need to pick up your student(s) before dismissal, please make sure you park in the school parking lots and enter the building to sign them out. Do not park at Neal Tire, Fall Creek Veterinary or Geist Community Church. Your car will be towed.
  - If student(s) are signed out before the school day is complete, it will be counted as an early dismissal, and it should only be done in the case of an emergency or special appointment. Please only do so as needed.
- **Student Medication**
    - If your student(s) require any kind of medication, over the counter or prescription, it needs to be turned in to the office along with a student medication form. This form can be accessed online at <http://gmacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/medication.pdf> or in the office at both the North and South campuses.
  - **Material Fees**
    - We would like to thank all of our families that have paid their material fees. They are a vital part of each school year, as we use them to purchase everything the students need in the classroom. Without these fees, we would not be able to properly start our school year. If you have not yet taken care of your materials fees, please contact the school as soon as possible. We rely on these fees to provide students all the supplies they need for the school year. We still have several families who have not paid. We are able to take payment over the phone, on our website at <http://gmacademy.org/pay-materials-fees/> or in person via cash, check, or charge. Please remember, that you are getting a Montessori education that usually costs around \$13,000 per year for free. We rely on our material fees to help replace and obtain materials for the classrooms. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Karinda at [kholland@gma.k12.in.us](mailto:kholland@gma.k12.in.us).