

SFA Newsletter

December 2011

Attendance/Absences— Texas Law (T.E.C. 25-092) and District Board Policy {(FDD/FDD) (Local)} states that students of Gregory-Portland ISD are required to attend school each day of the school year. When a student must be absent from school, the student—upon returning to school—must bring a note, signed by the parent that describes the reason for the absence. Parent notes are expected to be submitted upon the student's return to school. Parent notes will not be accepted beyond 5 school days after the student's return. Only nine parent excuse notes will be accepted throughout the school year.

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day's learning on the previous day's, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student's mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.

PTO News

- ❖ **Buy your SFA 2011-2012 Yearbook!**
Deadline to buy a yearbook is Friday December 9th. Cost per book is \$15

- ❖ Goodie Sale— After school on Friday December 2nd
- ❖ Papa John's next Slice Night will be on Thursday Dec. 15th. Last month's winner was Mrs. Sturgeon's class.
- ❖ Christmas Dance for 1st-4th grades on Friday Dec. 9th from 4:30-6:00pm. \$1 fee plus bring a Christmas ornament to exchange. Refreshments will be served.

Please keep in mind...

- ❖ Sticker and pencil machine available for students to buy from daily for 50¢ each
- ❖ Order a balloon bouquet to celebrate any special occasion for \$3
- ❖ School spirit shirts--\$10 & \$12

Kindergarten News—

The units for December include the following:

- Nutrition
- Celebrations in the United States
- Celebrations Around the World
- Graphs
- Numbers 10-15

- Addition & Subtraction
- **Please work with your child on their sight word list and help your child learn to tie his/her shoes.**

First Grade News —

A Night of Giving 2011

Christmas for Kids Year Round is sponsoring an event at the Portland Revival Center on December 17th. The G-P ISD elementary schools have been asked to donate a new or gently used book to be given to each child who attends this event. S. F. Austin is setting a goal of 100 books to donate. If you would like to contribute a new or gently used book, please send it to school with your child. More information on the event will come at a later date so that you and your family may attend.

Also, continue to listen to your child read the weekly story and phonics book. After they read the story, check their comprehension by asking the following questions: What was the story about? Who are the characters? Where did the story take place? What was the problem? How was it solved?

Finally, keep in mind that next semester students will be expected to independently read instructional materials on skill sheets and tests.

Second Grade News —

- ❖ The 2nd grade field trip to watch The Nutcracker will be on Friday, December 9th at 10:00am. It will be performed by the Corpus Christi Ballet at the American Bank Center's Selena Auditorium. The buses will be leaving the school around 8:45am and returning about 12:00pm. We encourage that your child wear nice clothing so that they may get the full ballet experience.
- ❖ Please make sure to check your child's teacher website for weekly homework, news and an overview of skills being taught in the classroom
- ❖ Please practice reading your child's story that week at home to help prepare them for their Friday reading test. Their reading book comes home on Wednesday's and is to be brought back on Thursday's.
- ❖ Please make sure that your child is studying the math flashcards every night for homework. We continue to add new flashcards to the bag every few weeks.

3rd Grade News—

Third graders are becoming knowledgeable of current events by reading their Weekly Readers! They have learned about 911 Memorials, Veterans' Day heroes, and Nobel Peace Prize winners. In addition, students have learned about droughts and famines occurring in other parts of the earth. Their latest interest involves the November launching of the robot, Curiosity, to Mars to record its physical properties!

4th Grade News—

- ❖ SFA Science Fair is slated for **February 29th!!** Please start researching possible projects!
- ❖ Science—Earth's Resources
- ❖ Math—Fractions, Equivalent Fractions, Graphs & Tables
- ❖ Continue studying multiplication & division facts daily
- ❖ AR points are due by 3:30pm on December 14th to qualify for the Pajama/Hot Cocoa Party on December 15th. All students should be reading 45 minutes EVERY night!
- ❖ Practice STAAR Writing—December 13th

Upcoming Events—

- ❖ **S. F. A. Elementary will be hosting its annual science fair on February 29, 2012. Students in grades K-2nd are encouraged to participate. As per district policy, all 3rd and 4th graders need to complete a project.**
- ❖ **Divisions will be—K/1st, 2nd Grade, 3rd Grade, & 4th Grade**
- ❖ **The top 6 winners in each division will advance to the 1st Annual G-P I.S.D. Science Fair District Meet on March 31st at the G-P High School.**
- ❖ **More detailed S.F.A. Science Fair information will be sent at a later date.**
- ❖ **End of 3rd Grading Period—Dec. 16th**
- ❖ **Early Release—Dec. 16th at 1:30pm**
- ❖ **Christmas Holidays—Dec.19th - Jan. 2nd**

NONDISCRIMINATION NOTICE: It is the policy of the Gregory-Portland Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or handicap in its programs and services.

District Title IX Coordinator: Asst Superintendent, 608 College Street, Portland, TX 78374 (361) 777-1091 **District 504 Coordinator:** Special Programs Director, 608 College Street, Portland, TX 78374 (361) 777-1091

Es norma de el Escolar Independiente de Gregory-Portland no discriminar por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo o impedimento, en sus programas y servicios.

well as any applicable accelerated instruction program, extended year program, or tutorial session, unless the student is otherwise excused from attendance or legally exempt.

Regular school attendance is essential for a student to make the most of his or her education—to benefit from teacher-led and school activities, to build each day’s learning on the previous day’s, and to grow as an individual. Absences from class may result in serious disruption of a student’s mastery of the instructional materials; therefore, the student and parent should make every effort to avoid unnecessary absences.

A court of law may also impose penalties against both the student and his or her parents if a school-aged student is deliberately not attending school. A complaint against the parent may be filed in court if the student:

- Is absent from school on ten or more days or parts of days within a six-month period in the same school year, or
- Is absent on three or more days or parts of days within a four-week period (G-P ISD Student-Parent Handbook & Code of Conduct, 2011).

❖ **Attendance/Absences**— State law requires that a student between the ages of six and 18 attend school, as