



Patriot Post

Notes from the Principal's Desk



The month of March was centered on administering the Terra Nova assessment in grades 3 – 5. Attendance was wonderful for our testing grades thanks to parents. I want to thank you for getting your children to school on time as making up the exam is difficult. Once results are received they will be sent home. On March 23 the staff worked on continuous school improvement during the non-student day. Staff members received instruction on differentiated learning and also reviewed grade level data to improve instruction.

The end of the third quarter is April 3, and spring break is scheduled for April 9 – 13. The office will be open during this time. All first grade classrooms are scheduled to receive new furniture during spring break. Prekindergarten conferences are scheduled for April 25 – 27. Kindergarten through fifth grade conferences are scheduled on April 27. I hope all parents will plan to attend conferences and learn about their child's progress.

Gordon Elementary will be receiving 10 additional portable classrooms this summer in anticipation of continued growth in the Linden Oaks area. A new neighborhood will be constructed resulting in the need for portables. My understanding is that some of the homes will be completed before and during the 2012 –

2013 school year. The district is planning to add another school in Linden Oaks in the future for the new neighborhood, but Gordon Elementary will educate these students until a new school is built. I will be sharing more details regarding our growth in upcoming newsletters.



Joel Grim

In my last newsletter, I mentioned the Linden Oaks crossing guards will be eliminated next year. Apparently this has been overturned and crossing guards will be present. I am very happy as this decision will make Linden Oaks safer for our children walking to and from school. I do want to remind everyone that according to master policy 87, all students in prekindergarten through fourth grade must be escorted to and from school.

Gordon Elementary has been given permission to paint murals in our hallways and cafeteria. A committee has been formed to generate ideas. If you have some ideas or experience in painting murals, please let the front office know and one of the committee members will be in touch with you.

Vacation Gives Kids a Great Chance to Keep Reading

Don't let the word "break" fool you. Keep reading every day even when school is out for spring break. Students who read (or are read to) every day perform better in school than those who do not.

Participation in Home Reading has increased significantly! Take a look at our Home Reading data wall in the front hallway near the gym. Let's keep those lines moving up!

Congratulations to the following classes for having 100% participation in the month of Feb-

ruary 2012:

Merritt – AM
Harrison
Maul
Schmotzer

Merritt – PM
Marks
Upton

Congratulations to the following classes for having 80% or above participation in the month of February 2012:

Grant, 82%
Colley, 85%
Goodrich, 92%

Clark, 84%
DeBruhl, 90%
Munsell, 95%

Please remember that Home Reading Record sheets are on the Gordon website at <http://www.am.dodea.edu/Bragg/Gordon/homerading/homereading1.htm>

By Laura Festa, Read 180 Teacher



Safety and Security

Visitor Procedures, Safety Drills Highlighted During April

Building Access Controls

There are many visitors in and out of the school on a daily basis and we would like to remind you of the procedures we have in place for controlling access:

- Signs are strategically placed at entrances informing visitors to report to the School's Main Administration Office
- IDs must be presented prior to gaining access into the school; 100% ID policy in effect
- Once inside the school, IDs will be verified and exchanged for a visitor's badge. IDs will be maintained in a secure area in the office
- Visitors are required to wear the badge above the waist in plain view of other school employees
- Visitors are required to sign in indicating date, time and intended visiting locations within the school
- Badges will be collected from visitors upon exit

and IDs returned; time and date of exit is required and annotated on the visitor log

- When visiting the school, please remember to always park in the school parking lot, not on the curve directly in front of the school.

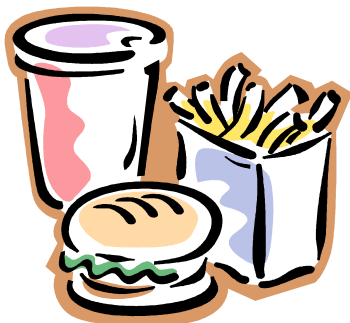
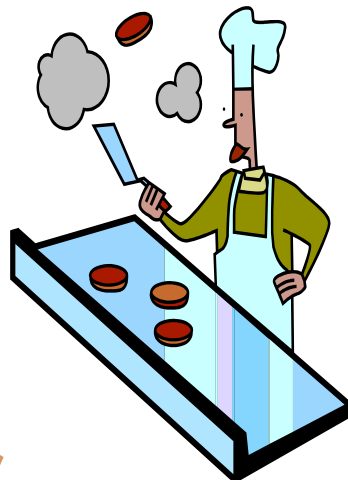
Evacuation Drills

During April, we will practice a Shelter-in-Place drill. Emergencies that trigger a Shelter-in-Place situation may come from a HAZMAT/Chemical Spill or Biological, Nuclear, and Explosive incident. It is necessary to practice this drill to ensure staff and students are familiar with the proper procedures in the event of an actual emergency. Please feel free to discuss this drill with your children. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the safety and security of the school, please feel free to contact the principal or assistant principal.

By Cynthia Flagg, Administrative Officer

Teachers work the counter during fundraiser

Mark your calendars for Thursday Apr. 5. That's the next Gordon McTeacher's Night®. It's great opportunity to celebrate the upcoming Spring Break by visiting with your teachers as



they step behind the counter to serve you. McDonalds donates a percentage of the proceeds to the PTA.

Month of the Military Child Events

- April 2:
Flag Ceremony, 8:45 – 9:00
- April 3:
The Armed Forces Brass Ensemble will have two performances of patriotic music in the gym at 9 and 9:40 a.m.
- April 4:
Winners of the essay contest will be announced and prizes awarded.
- April 5:
Soldiers will come to Gordon and read with students.
- April 9-13:
Spring Break

Child Abuse Prevention Month



Parent Information Session

at

Gordon Elementary School

on

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

at

9:15 a.m. in our cafeteria

Items to be shared:

- The student lesson on *“Safe Touching”*
- Rules for Personal Safety
 - Say No
 - Get Away
 - Tell Someone
 - You May Have to Yell
- Information on resources that can be found at the schools
- Signs of Abuse
- How to report suspected abuse.
- Accessing Mental Health Services in the community



Some Spring Break Activities Don't Break the Bank

Spring break is coming up soon. Students will be out of school from Saturday, April 7 to Sunday, April 15. You want your children to have fun and some downtime to rest and relax, but you also want to create some memories while they are away from school. Here are some fun Spring Break activities you can do with your family that won't break the bank. Having fun does not have to be expensive.

Play Tourist in your Town: Go into town and look at the historical buildings, visit a local museum. Just being outside seeing what the area offers is a lot of fun. The following links offer information things to see and do in some local area: [Things to do.](#)

Be a Cook for a Day: Spend some time cooking in the kitchen together as a family. Make homemade pizza, bake everyone's favorite cookies, or pick another country or state you would like to visit and cook some of the local food from that place. Once your meal is made why not turn it into a tea party or have friends over for a party?

Pajama/Movie Day: Pick a day during the week and stay in your pajamas all day long watching movies. Host a movie marathon where everyone in the family gets to choose their favorite movie to watch. Make some popcorn or set up an ice cream sundae bar. Invite some of your kids friends over and just enjoy relaxing. For even more movie watching fun, set up a tent in the family room and let the kids watch from their sleeping bags.

Park and Picnic: Go to your favorite park and do swings and slide, etc and then picnic on a big blanket when you're finished. This link will take you to the [North Carolina State Parks](#) homepage

Camping Indoors: It may be a little cold still to camp outside so why not camp indoors for some unusual fun? You can, sleep in a tent or make a tent of blankets and sleep in sleeping bags, and stay up telling stories by flashlight - all in the comfort of your own home.

Wii Olympics: Host a Wii Olympics tournament one day or every day of Spring Break. Each day pick a different "sport" and see who the best in the family is. Invite friends, neighbors and family members to compete. Make homemade medals and have a mock ceremony to honor the champion.

Source: <http://www.frugalissafinds.com/2012/03/fun-inexpensive-spring-break-activities.html>



Picture Day is Apr. 5

An illustration for Picture Day. On the left, three girls in blue dresses and two boys in casual clothes are holding hands. In the center, four small circular portraits of children are arranged in a 2x2 grid. On the right, a man in a purple shirt is using a camera with a large lens to take a picture.

Expect the Extraordinary!

You are cordially invited to attend the
2012 Fort Bragg Family Advocacy
Child Abuse Prevention Month Breakfast



Featuring best-selling author of I-2-3 Magic, Dr. Thomas Phelan
 (Free copy of his book to all attendees)

Wednesday
April 18, 2012
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.
Fort Bragg Club
\$9.25 per person



RSVP by Wednesday, March 23, 2012
 By calling: 396-5521 or
 email: earlene.m.moore2.ctr@mail.mil



New Parent Support Program
2012 January - June
Class Schedule

Hourly Three Visits
 Monday-Friday
 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Call for more information
 (910) 396-7951

A

0-1 Baby Fun
 January 2, 10, 17, 24, 31
 February 7, 14, 21, 28
 March 6, 13, 20, 27
 April 3, 10, 17, 24
 May 5, 12, 19, 26
 June 3, 10, 17, 24
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Miraculous Multiples
 January 12
 February 9
 March 6
 April 3
 May 10
 June 14
 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Baby Signs
 January 4
 March 7
 May 2
 1:00 p.m. - 12:00 p.m.

B

Pops Play
 January 9, 23, 30
 February 6, 20, 27
 March 5, 19, 26
 April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30
 May 7, 14, 21
 June 4, 11, 18, 25
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Play Morning
 Hitting Skills
 January 4, 18
 February 1, 15
 March 7, 21
 April 4, 18
 May 2, 16
 June 6, 20
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Play Morning
 Linking Skills
 January 5, 19
 February 2, 16
 March 1, 15
 April 5, 19
 May 3, 17
 June 7, 21
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Dishes on the Table
 February 21
 April 17
 June 13
 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Safe & Sound
 January 17
 March 20
 May 15
 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Infant Massage
 February 2, 9, 16, 23
 April 5, 12, 19, 26
 June 7, 14, 21, 28
 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Best Start
 January 4, 18
 February 2, 16
 March 2, 21
 April 6, 18
 May 2, 16
 June 6, 20
 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Soldier Support Center, 3rd Floor, Normandy Drive, Fort Bragg
To register, please call (910) 396-7951 or online:
www.fortbraggmwr.com/acs/new-parent-support/

ACS Family Advocacy Program
Class Schedule January - June 2012

Dads 101 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Jan 4 Mar 7 May 2	Screen Free Parenting 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Jan 23-26 Minges	Screen Free Parenting 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Apr 23-26 Linden Oaks Lodge
Dads 201 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Feb 1 Apr 4 Jun 6	Jan 23-26 Minges	May 14-17 Combles
Parenting 1-4 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Jan 5, 12, 19 Mar 8, 15, 22 May 7, 14, 21	Feb 6-9 Linden Oaks Lodge	Jun 25-28 Childbase of Linden Oaks
Parenting 5-13 9:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Feb 15, 22, 29 Apr 5, 12, 19 Jun 6, 20, 27	Mar 5-8 Ste Marie Eglise	Stewards of Children 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Jun 20 Apr 12
Co-Parenting 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Jan 10, Apr 10 Mar 6, Jan 5	Active Parenting 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Feb 6, 13, 21	Life Choices for Teens 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Jan 21 Feb 25 Mar 17 Apr 21 May 26 Jun 23
1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Feb 2, 9, 16 Apr 16, 23, 30 Jun 5, 12, 19	1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. Feb 7 May 8	Stress Management 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Jan 24, Apr 18 Feb 28, May 14 Mar 20, Jun 26
Couples Communications 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Jan 25 Feb 22 Mar 21 Apr 25 May 23 Jun 20	Anger Management 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Jan 18, 31, Apr 3, 25 Feb 2, 14, May 2, 22 Mar 28, Jun 12, 19	1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Jan 5, Apr 11 Feb 29, May 8 Mar 14, 22, Jun 7

Equal Opportunity Available - We are equal to you in our beliefs.
 No Policy, No Fear, No Discrimination 11-1-12



Soldier Support Center, 3rd Floor, Normandy Drive, Fort Bragg
 To register, please call (910) 396-5521 or online:
www.fortbraggmwr.com/fag.php

screamfree



Screaming at your kids a lot?
Wondering why they "just won't listen"?
Are they "driving you crazy"?

Come join us for a 4 day workshop designed to help you with your most important job...PARENTING!

Parenting workshops are offered monthly
 See back of flyer for date, time and location information
 Cost: FREE! (includes workbook and DVD)
 Free childcare available - call for details

To register or for more information call the Family Advocacy Program at (910) 396-5521



School Snapshots



Pre-K Circus Parade

Prekindergarten students delighted the school with a circus parade Mar. 8. Animals, acrobats, and other performers circulated through the hallways of Gordon Elementary giving everyone a special treat the Friday before Terra Nova testing began.

Living History

Fifth grade students assumed the identities of famous personalities for the Living History Project, Feb. 28. They presented oral reports about their chosen famous person to students from other grades, as well as school visitors and staff.



Food for Thought

Let's Turn Off—Go Screen Free

What? Screen free?!

TV, phone apps, and computer and video games often dominate our lives. But going screen free (or at least limiting it to 2 hours a day) allows you to create your own reality. Use Screen-Free Week, the 22nd through the 28th, as a great excuse to start exploring the world around you more often.

Imagine this...

- Instead of watching sports on TV, get out there and join a school or club team. Not into team sports? Rally friends to play soccer at a nearby field. Play basketball at a local park. Take a dance class!
- Instead of spending time mostly in virtual reality, go real time by learning a new skill. Check out school and community-based clubs focused on languages, chess, art, student government, cooking, photography, and so much more!
- Make social networking a face-to-face thing. Meet up with friends to talk instead of IMing. Get an exercise buddy—walk, run, bike!
- Fill the down time with projects you've always wanted to start—build a photo album, start a dog walking business, or grow a garden!

April

- Pecan Month
- Soy Foods Month
- Screen-Free Week (22nd-28th)

Food Bytes

School Meals Going Green

"Going green" is not just about eating your greens. Going green means considering the environment and health of our schools and communities. There's no better place to start going green than at school—the place where you spend most of your day!

Decrease food waste. Go for school meals instead of bringing a lunch. Only choose foods you like to eat. Share likes, dislikes and suggestions with cafeteria staff. Try to be neat and avoid spills.

Reduce paper and bulk waste. Only take napkins, utensils and condiments that you will use. After you eat, follow directions for where to place trays, paper, utensils and food.

Conserve water. Report any leaks in plumbing or continuously running or leaking toilets. Don't forget to turn sinks off!

Reuse and recycle. Recycle paper, magazines, cardboard, glass, metal and plastic in available recycling containers.

Re-think. Get involved with the school's vision and plan for going and staying green. Your voice as a student matters!

Nutrilink! Celebrate Earth Day 2012. Learn more at www.earthday.org.



Florida Department of Education, Florida Department of Health, Florida Department of Agriculture, and Florida Department of Environmental Protection. This information is provided for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be used as a substitute for professional advice. For more information, please contact the appropriate agency.

www.florida.gov, www.floridadoh.com, www.floridaagriculture.com, www.floridadep.com

Menus for April 2012

FORT BRAGG Schools

Monday, April 2	Tuesday, April 3	Wednesday, April 4	Thursday, April 5	Friday, April 6
Vanilla Yogurt w/ Fruit Mixed Or Cereal w/ Toast Sliced Peaches or Apple Juice CHOICE OF MILK LUNCH Chicken Sandwich OR Chili Con Carne w/ Corned (2) Jls CHOOSE TO GO Corn On Cob Green Beans Shredded Lettuce w/ Diced Tomatoes & Pickle Chips Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Sausage, Beans w/ Onions Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Meatloaf w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOOSE TO GO Creamed Potatoes Garden Peas w/ Carrots Shredded Cabbage Fresh Strawberries Fruit Mixed CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Onions Or Cereal w/ Toast Sliced Peaches w/ Diced Apples or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Or Turkey Deli Sandwich CHOOSE TO GO Lima Beans Steamed Broccoli Tomato Salad Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Peaches w/ Sliced Bananas or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Bar-B-Que Chicken w/ Roll Or Cheesburger CHOOSE TO GO Parmley Potatoes Ribs Beans Red Jal-O w/ Peas Apple Wedges w/ Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	No School 

Monday, April 9	Tuesday, April 10	Wednesday, April 11	Thursday, April 12	Friday, April 13
	Spring 		Break 	

Monday, April 16	Tuesday, April 17	Wednesday, April 18	Thursday, April 19	Friday, April 20
Pancake w/ Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Juice or Apple Juice CHOICE OF MILK LUNCH Chicken Tender w/ Roll Or Baked Potatoes w/ Meat & Cheese Sauce w/ Roll CHOOSE TO GO Steamed Corn Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges Mixed Fruit w/ Diced Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Juice or Grape Juice CHOICE OF MILK LUNCH Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce & French Bread Or Cheese Burgers CHOOSE TO GO Green Beans Steamed Corn Tomato Salad Fresh Strawberries CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Onions Or Cereal w/ Toast Peaches or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Cheese Pizza Or Sloppy Joe CHOOSE TO GO Garden Peas Steamed Broccoli w/ Broccoli Spinach Salad Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Vanilla Yogurt w/ Fruit Mixed Or Cereal w/ Toast Fresh Strawberries or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Roasted Chicken Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOOSE TO GO Creamed Potatoes Baked Beans Red Jal-O w/ Mixed Fruit Peaches CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Sausage, Beans w/ Onions Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fish Nuggets w/ Cornbread Or Meatloaf w/ Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TO GO Green Beans Corn on Cob Apple Wedges Coleslaw CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Monday, April 23	Tuesday, April 24	Wednesday, April 25	Thursday, April 26	Friday, April 27
Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Sliced Peaches or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Sandwich Or Chili Con Carne w/ Corned (2) Jls CHOOSE TO GO Steamed Corn Garden Peas Shredded Lettuce w/ Diced Tomatoes & Pickle Chips Sliced Peas CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Onions Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Juice or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Lasagna w/ French Bread Or Cheese Burger CHOOSE TO GO Lima Beans Steamed Broccoli w/ Cauliflower Tomato Salad Fresh Strawberries CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Pancake w/ Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Fresh Strawberries or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Ribs Or Turkey Deli Sandwich CHOOSE TO GO Green Beans Spinach Salad Orange Wedges Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Vanilla Yogurt w/ Mixed Fruit Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Bar-B-Que Chicken w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOOSE TO GO Baked Beans Creamed Potatoes Orange Jal-O w/ Peas Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Parent-Teacher Conference No Student Day 

Monday, April 30	Eat Smart, Move More
Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tender w/ Rolls Or Baked Potatoes w/ Meat, Cheese Sauce and Roll CHOOSE TO GO Green Beans Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges Apple Sauce CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<h3>Eat Smart, Move More</h3> <p>Research points to key steps that both youth and adults can take to eat healthier and be more active:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and eat more meals at home. • Tame the tube. • Choose to move more every day. • Right-size your portions. • Re-think your drink. • Enjoy more fruits and vegetables. <p>Take the challenge to eat smart and move more!</p> <p>One tip: Try school meals. School meals are designed with you in mind. They are a quick, easy and low-cost healthy choice!</p>   