

# Patriot Post



## Notes from the Principal's Desk

Happy Holidays to your family! This is a combined December and January newsletter since December is a very short month. As a parent of three children, I understand how hectic the holiday season can be for families. It is easy to feel overwhelmed with everything there is to do during December. I want to encourage you to stay abreast of school calendar items so you don't miss anything. The inclusive dates of the winter break are December 19<sup>th</sup> through December 30<sup>th</sup>. School will resume on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

I want to thank our P.T.A. for a wonderful Turkey Bingo Night. The students had a blast! It was great having so many people in our building. I certainly appreciated all the volunteers who made the evening possible. The P.T.A. also helped with picture retakes. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated group of people. Please consider joining the P.T.A. and becoming involved. Your

involvement will make Gordon an even better place!

As many of you are aware, Gordon Elementary uses the One Call Now system to contact parents if their child is absent or tardy. One Call Now will still contact you even if the school is aware of the absence in advance. This is a safety measure to ensure all children are accounted for and not overlooked. One Call Now also has a feature that allows me to send newsletters and other important information to your email account. This saves the school numerous reams of paper. Last month I sent a couple of important documents to you. I ask that you keep your email addresses updated with the office.

I do appreciate everyone's support of our security measures. My staff is doing a great job of dismissing 675 students in a timely manner. Although you may have to wait in line to get your child, we are following Fort Bragg Master Policy 87 by

releasing children directly to the authorized adult. If you consider the number of parents, students,



Joel Grim

and preschool siblings outside on a typical day, we have in excess of 1,200 people on campus during dismissal. I ask that you continue being patient as this system appears to be the most efficient for our size of campus. Patience will especially be needed on rainy days as dismissal will take extra time. It is important that you keep your transportation form updated so the school is aware of all people authorized to pick up your children.

Periodically, I like to visit with parents to discuss any concerns. On Monday, Dec. 12, I will be in the cafeteria at 9 a.m. for a Principal Coffee.

*I do wish your family a wonderful holiday season!*

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- Dec. 8: Wacky Hair Day!
- Dec. 12: Principal Coffee.
- Dec. 14: Winter Program.
- Dec. 19-30: Winter Break.
- Jan. 3: Students Return to School.
- Jan. 13: CSI Day. No Students (Possible Storm Make-up Day).
- Jan. 16: Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. No School.
- Jan. 26: End of 2nd Reporting Period.

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## The CSI Process: Where We Are Now

**Continuous School Improvement is just that.....continuous**

At Gordon Elementary, we are committed to serving the military children that enter our doors to the highest degree possible. Steps that we are taking to provide a high quality education all students are:

Obtaining a military partner--We are proud to announce that the 427th Special Operations Squadron has agreed to be our partner. We look forward to working with them.

Using data – As a grade level, teachers collect data from common assessments that are given. We then analyze the data to drive our instruction and deter-

mine the best way to meet students' individual needs.

Providing professional development -- Teachers in grades kindergarten through 3rd are learning how to give a new reading assessment to target each child's instructional level. The assessment is from Fountas and Pinnell, leaders in the reading industry. [Read more.](#)

The CSI team is looking for a Parent Representative. The CSI team meets about every two weeks to discuss issues and needs. If you are interested, please email April Ennis at [april.ennis@am.dodea.edu](mailto:april.ennis@am.dodea.edu).



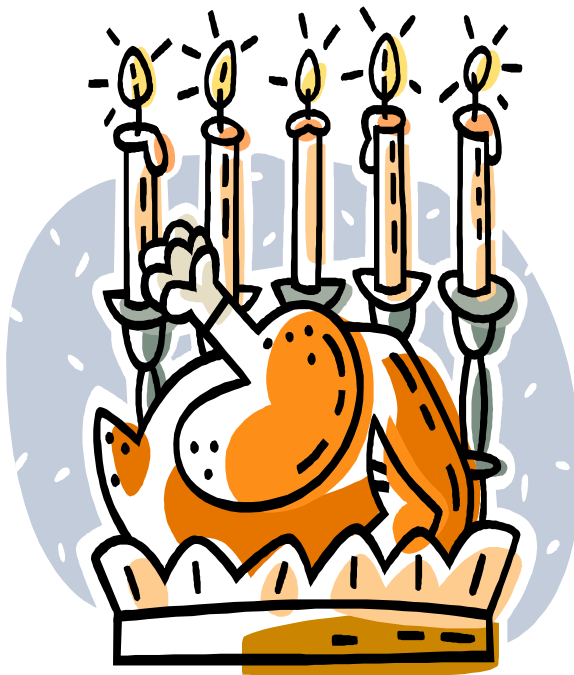
## PTA 's Turkey Fun Night Benefits Gordon Families

The Gordon PTA held "Turkey" Bingo Night Nov. 15. Many Gordon families attended, and some of them left with a turkey for their holiday feast.

The students had many chances to win goody bags, and many adult names were drawn for random door prizes.

Concessions were sold as a fundraiser for the PTA, but the bingo was free. Thanks to the House of Raeford, Wal-Mart, and Food Lion for donating the turkeys.

Thanks also to Robin Emanuel



and Kelli Walker for organizing this event.

Gordon PTA held its a regular meeting Dec. 1 in the teaching kitchen. During the meeting, ideas for upcoming January and February PTA events were discussed.

If you are interested in becoming a PTA member, please feel free to attend our meetings.

If you are unable to attend, please pick up an envelope in the school office, complete the information, and return it with the \$4.00 dues to the office or to your child's teacher.

Thanks for your continued support of Gordon PTA.

## A Blizzard of Coats Floods Lost and Found

"One picture is worth a 1000 words." A winter's worth of coats, hats, and gloves has accumulated in our Lost and Found. Lost and found items will be kept only through the Winter Break. Whatever remains will be donated to a charitable organization.



# Appropriate Clothes, Shoes for PE is Important

A comprehensive physical education program is provided for grades K-5. The purpose of PE is to provide appropriate instruction for building a healthy body, mind, and character for each student. The goal is achieved through a skill-based instruction program that encompasses personal fitness skills, perceptual motor skills, rhythms, recreational and sport skills.

To be successful in meeting these goals



proper dress for physical education is very important. Pants that sag or need to be held up require a belt. If a dress or skirt is worn to please make sure that shorts, tights, or leggings are worn



underneath. Shoes should have closed toes and heels for safety.

If there is a strap on a shoe the strap needs to be an inch wide so the shoe does not come off. Students should not wear boots, Crocs, sandals, flip-flops, dress shoes, cleats, toe shoes, water shoes, beach shoes, or plastic shoes to PE.



Earrings should be carefully selected on PE days. If earrings are worn posts would be best; please no dangling earrings or hoops larger than one half inch. Students to be excused from PE due to an illness or injury need a doctor's note. Students who medically cannot participate will still need to come to class to watch and learn.

## Heroes of Home Reading

**P**izza Hut's BOOK IT! Program has begun here at Gordon!! All students meeting the required goal for Home Reading each month will receive a Pizza Hut coupon for a personal pan pizza!

Please encourage your student to participate at least 20 nights each month for the required amount of time for his or her grade level. Students can be read to or can read independently. Record sheets are collected by classroom teachers at the beginning of each month.



Congratulations to the following classes in which 100% of the students met the goal in October!!

**Merritt – AM**

**Harrison**

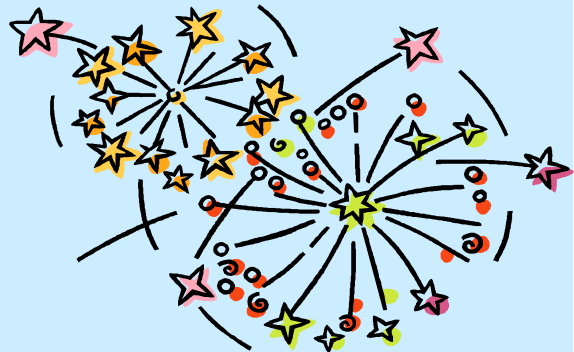
**Mauil**



**Jillard – AM**

**Marks**

**Upton**





# School Snapshots







## Food for Thought

*Let's Dance—Show Us Your Moves!*

Yes, you can dance!

You don't have to be a great dancer to enjoy dancing. Reality TV reminds us that dancing makes physical activity fun. It's also a perfect way to express your imagination and creativity.

Not sure what type of dance you like? There are so many types to choose from. Think hip-hop, jazz, tap, modern, ballet, swing, and country and western. Or, just put on some music and create your own style!

Ready to dance?

- Look into classes at nearby dance studios or community centers. Find out if dance classes are offered at your school.
- Wondering what to do on a cold winter's day? Looking for something fun to do with friends? Having a holiday party? DANCE!
- If you'd rather dance to your own beat at home, try out a dance DVD.
- Start getting your moves down now to celebrate National Dance Day on July 31st!

Nutrilink: Looking for some inspiration? Check out video clips on YouTube.com or the So You Think You Can Dance website, [www.fox.com/dance](http://www.fox.com/dance).

## December

- Pear Month
- Handwashing Week (4th-10th)
- Cocoa Day (12th)

# Menus for December 2011

Fort Bragg Schools



## Eat Smart, Move More

Research points to key steps that both youth and adults can take to eat healthier and be more active:

- 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.



Take the challenge to eat smart and move more!

One tip: Try school meals. School meals are designed with you in mind. They are a quick, easy and low-cost healthy choice!

Monday, December 5	Tuesday, December 6	Wednesday, December 7	Thursday, December 8	Friday, December 9
Ham Sausit w/ Oatmeal Or Cereal w/ Toast Peaches or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tenders w/ Dip & Roll Or Baked Potato w/ Meat & Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO Steamed Broccoli Garden Peas Tangerine Fresh Apples Slices CHOICE OF COLD	Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Spaghetti w/ French Bread Or Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Lima Beans Baked Apples Tossed Salad Orange Wedges	Chicken Sausit Or Cereal w/ Toast Potato Rounds or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Or Sloppy Joe on School Made Bun CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Corn on Cob Garden Salad Fresh Grapes CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grbs Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Bar-B-Que Chicken w/ Roll Or Cheeseburger CHOOSE TWO Parsley Potatoes Steamed Cabbage Orange Wedges Green Jell-O w/ Peas CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Pancake w/ Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fishwich Or Macaroni & Cheese w/ Ham & Roll CHOOSE TWO Oven Baked Potatoes Baked Beans Apple Wedges Broccoli Florets CHOICE OF COLD MILK

## Food Bytes

*Pear-fect Fruit for Winter*

What's so special about pears?

- As colder weather sets in, pears are pear-fectly delicious. Many fruits come on the scene in spring and summer, but not pears! The pear harvest happens in early fall, making them tasty into the winter months.
- Pears offer good nutrition in one sweet package. They are an excellent source of fiber and a good source of vitamin C. Pears are a perfect snack at about 100 calories each.
- There are many varieties! Anjou, Bartlett, Bosc and Comice, to name a few. Why not do a pear taste-test to see which one is your favorite? It's a great way to celebrate National Pear Month!
- Pear trees grow in the Ring of Fire—yep, we're talking volcanoes. In the U.S., the main growing region for pears is within the Pacific Northwest (Oregon and Washington). Pear trees love the region's volcanic soil, plentiful water, warm days and cool nights found in the shadow of the Cascade Mountains. The Cascades include both dormant and active volcanoes.

Nutrilink: For more fun pear facts, go to [www.usapears.com](http://www.usapears.com).

Monday, December 12	Tuesday, December 13	Wednesday, December 14	Thursday, December 15	Friday, December 16
Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tenders w/ Roll Or Sloppy Joe on School Made Roll CHOOSE TWO Garden Peas Steamed Corn Orange Wedges Cauliflower Broccoli w/ Dip CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grbs Or Cereal w/ Toast Peaches or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Turkey Pasta w/ Corn Muffin Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOOSE TWO Steamed Cabbage Lima Beans Sweet Potato Fluff Applesauce CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Breakfast Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Or Cereal w/ Toast Applesauce or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pizza Or Sub Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Corn on Cob Green Beans Tossed Salad Peaches CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Pancake w/ Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Turkey Dressing Supreme w/ Roll Or Baked Ham w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO Candied Yams Garden Peas Broccoli Casserole Waldorf Salad Dessert: Sweet Potato Pie CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Ham Sausit w/ Oatmeal Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fishwich Or Cheeseburger CHOOSE TWO Oven Baked Fries Baked Beans Colelaw Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK



WINTER BREAK  
DECEMBER 20-JANUARY 1



FROM THE LUNCH BUNCH TO YOU  
WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU THE VERY BEST  
HOLIDAYS AND WE WILL SEE YOU IN  
2012

