

Patriot Post

Volume 4, Issue 4 Feb. 2012

Notes from the Principal's Desk

G ordon Elementary held an awards assembly after the first reporting period ended. Gordon will hold K-1, 2-3, and 4-5 award ceremonies each quarter in the cafeteria. Parents will be notified by the teacher if their child will be receiving an award. Due to the size of our cafeteria, we ask that strollers be left at the front of the school or in the car. Gordon is excited to recognize student achievement each quarter.

The Super Bowl is Sunday, Feb. 6. Students may wear their favorite team colors on Thursday, Feb. 2. This may be a jersey or T-shirt. School will not be is session on Friday, Feb. 3

Gordon recently experienced a power outage for approximately 30 minutes. Numerous concerned parents called the office wondering if school would remain in session or how lunch will be served. The district office and principals coordinate on all emergency situations. If children need to be sent home. I would contact parents through OneCallNow, using my cell phone. It is important that your cell phone number is in our system. Alternate plans can also be made for serving lunch such as food brought in from another school. Normally power outages are for a short time

and the power is restored. During this time, teachers open up the blinds and instruction continues. walkers on rainy days, you will need to be pa-

We are very excited about Feb. 16! Author Marc Harshman will be visiting Gordon Elementary and reading to the students. Mr. Harshman has written numerous children's books and does extraordinary presentations. He will also do writing workshops with 4th and 5th grade students. Mr. Harshman will remain for the P.T.A. Literacy Night from 5-7 p.m. and do storytelling with families. He will most likely sell and autograph books. Each grade level will host activities and the P.T.A. will sponsor a book fair. Children may dress up as their favorite book character for our literacy day. Students need to select an appropriate character and costume. Mark your calendar for this wonderful event.

Dismissal seems to be working in a timely manner for the size of our school. I do ask parents to be on time when picking up walkers. Some parents wait until the crowd diminishes before arriving to pick up their children. This slows down dismissal as teachers have to wait on parents. Parents need to be waiting on children for dismissal. We have been fortunate and not experienced severe weather. If you plan to pick up

walkers on rain days, you will need to be patient. Teachers will watch out the gym doors and deliver children to par-



ent as quickly as possible. Please remember that nearly 700 children are being dismissed from

Our home reading data indicates that many children are not reading at home. We are looking at some new incentives for children, but do encourage you to read with your child. As a parent of older children, I miss cuddling up with my elementary children and reading a good book. Take advantage of this opportunity as time truly flies. Reading at home will help your child love literacy and improve their skills.

My door is always open with questions, concerns, and positive feedback. I do request that if you are concerned with anything, try to solve the issue with your child's teacher as part of the chain of command. Most issues can be solved at the classroom level.

Thanks again for allowing me to serve your children. Gordon students are outstanding!

Continuous School Improvement

The CSI Team would like to welcome Mrs. Tricia Harm to our team. Mrs. Harm has been kind enough to donate her time for the school improvement process. Mrs. Harm will be an asset to our team as we work together with all stakeholders to make Gordon Extraordinary!

During the last CSI Day, Jan. 13, our staff accomplished several tasks. Pre-K teachers attended math training. Kindergarten through Third grade teachers attend more Fountas and Pinnell training for the assessment just adopted to assess reading. Fourth and Fifth grade teachers met to analyze Terra Nova data as well as common assessment data. Special Education Staff was also in training specifically targeted to their needs.

Literacy Night, scheduled for Feb. 16, is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing everyone for a night of fun and reading!

As always, should you have a suggestion, comment, or concern about school improvement, please email April Ennis at april.ennis@am.dodea.edu.

School Safety, Security

When visiting the school during normal school hours, please ensure you use the parking lot in front of the school. We recently added 34 additional paved parking spaces to accommodate our staff and visitors. Parking directly in front of the school or on the grassy areas, even for short periods, is not allowed. We must keep this area clear for force protection purposes and to ensure emergency vehicles are able to approach the school, if needed.

During mid-day Pre-K dismissal and arrival, please remember to park in the large parking lot behind the school. There is plenty of space. Please do not park in the parking lot beyond the orange barriers. This parking lot is used specifically for

our SPED school buses. Parking in this area interferes with the safe operation of our SPED buses. Please assist us in this area by parking in the large parking lot during Pre-K dismissal and arrival procedures.

In the near future, we will practice a lock down drill. It is necessary to practice these drills during random times of the day to ensure our staff and students are familiar with the proper procedures in the event of an actual lockdown situation. Please feel free to discuss these drills with your children. If you have any questions/concerns regarding the safety and security of the school, please feel free to contact the principal or the assistant principal.

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 fiyer 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



ScreamFree Parenting is not just about lowering your voice, it's about learning to calm your emotional reactions and focus on your own behavior more than your kids' behavior. By staying calm and connected with your kids, you begin to operate less out of your deepest fears and more out of your highest principles. This practical approach is for parents with children of all ages and will help them become calming authorities in their homes, bringing a revolutionary peace to their families.

ScreamFree Dates, Times and Locations:

January 23-26

9-12pm Nijmegen Neighborhood Center (910) 436-4743

March 5-8 9-12pm St Mere Eglise Neighborhood Center (910) 497-0510

May 14- 17 9-12pm Casablanca Neighborhood Center (910) 495-0120

> February 21-24 6-9pm ACS FRG Center (910) 432-3742

February 6-9 9-12pm Lodge at Linden Oaks (910) 764-5000

April 23-26 9-12pm Lodge at Linden Oaks (910) 764-5000

June 25-28 9-12pm Clubhouse at Linden Oaks (910) 764-4932

Evening

21-24 April 9-12 om 6-9pm 6 Center ACS FRG Center 2-3742 (910) 432-3742

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

Before attending class, please stop by the Family Advocacy Program on the 3rd floor of the Soldier Support Center to get a class workbook.

*To receive free childcare, attendees must first pre-register children with Ft Bragg CYSS







Robot Readers

After reading a story with a robot theme, entitled <u>Pearl and Wagner: Two Good Friends</u>, 2nd Grade Teacher Brenda Weston's class completed a robot project.

It's a Good Time to Join

PTA Sponsors Fun Fridays, Book Fairs, Guest Authors

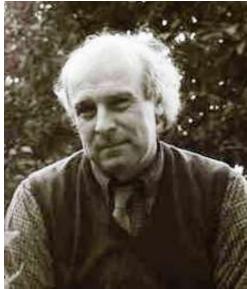
hanks to all who supported PTA through their purchases of pickles and Gordon bracelets. Our first "Fun Friday" was a success, and we hope to do at least one or two per month until the end of the school year.

Please be watching

Our next Scholastic Book Fair is set for Feb. 13-17. Literacy Night will be held on Thursday, Feb. 16. Children's author, Marc Harshman, will

for more "Fun Friday" information

to come near Valentine's Day.



Marc Harshmann

be our guest. Please plan to attend and enjoy story telling with him as well as the rest of the literacy activities and the book fair.

Please keep collecting those box tops and soup labels. We will be collecting them from classrooms soon and an-

nouncing classroom winners. Our first check from Box Top



returns was more than \$1,000. Keep up the great work.

Thank you for your continued support of Gordon PTA.

It is not too late to join. Envelopes are in the school office.

Students Receive Rewards for Participating in Home Reading Program

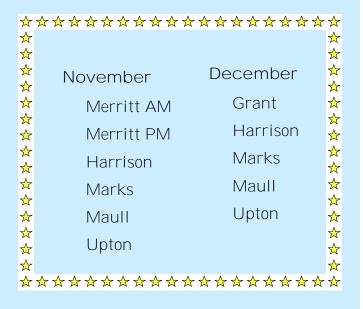
he week of Dec. 12, First through Fifth grade students who participated in Gordon's Home Reading Program for September, October, and November were invited to the cocoa and cookie celebration in the Information Center. Pre-K and Kindergarten students who participated all three months received special treats in their classrooms!

Parents, encourage your children to read every evening at home and record what they read on their Home Reading record. Records are collected the first school day of every month and rewards are given for participation



Students enjoy their treat at the Home Reading celebration.

Congratulations to the following classes for 100 percent participation



Ninety Gordon 4th, 5th Graders have GradeSpeed Accounts

radeSpeed is a web-based program that enables parents to log-in to view grade and attendance data for their student(s). GradeSpeed will be the only authorized and supported grade book used by Do-DEA employees in Grades 4-12.

All teachers have secure access to GradeSpeed through the use of an Internet web browser. Teachers use the grade book portion of GradeSpeed to enter assignments, grades, and to maintain grade calculations. Teachers are also able to email progress reports to parents through GradeSpeed.

GradeSpeed is just one of DoDEA's continuous improvement initiatives designed to ensure highest student

achievement. When parents have timely information about student progress and are involved in the education of their student, the entire learning environment is improved.

GradeSpeed enhances that all-important connection between home and the school.GradeSpeed makes communication between parents and teachers easier, more effective and timelier. Since GradeSpeed is web-based, the program can be accessed from anywhere. Parents who are deployed will be able to stay informed and involved in their child's academic life regardless of location.

Parents can access GradeSpeed via the Parent Portal.

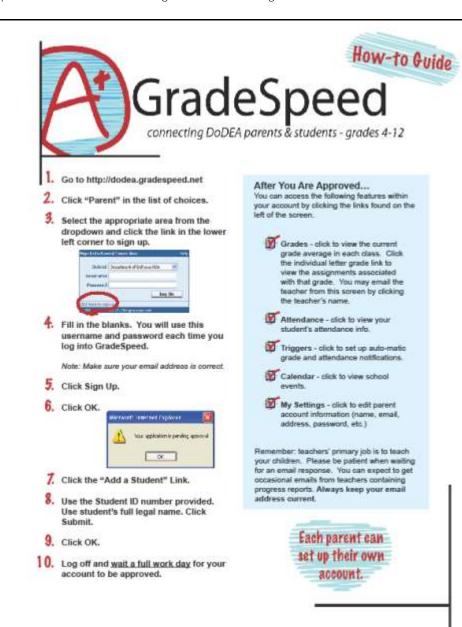
Parents must register at:
http://dodea.gradespeed.net to establish a personal GradeSpeed access
account. After their account has
been established, parents will be
able to login to view grade and attendance data only for their student.
They will also be able to view school
announcements and calendar events.
There is a note feature available in
GradeSpeed that parents can use to
directly contact their student's
teachers.

Parents, remember the following:

- GradeSpeed is not intended to replace face-to-face communication between parents and teachers in meetings and parent conferences.
- A teacher's primary job is to teach! While communication with parents enhances the educational experience, parents must be reasonable about expectations on the posting of grades and responsiveness. Please remember to be patient when waiting for an email response.

While students may have concerns about how much information parents will have, the truth is children with parents who are involved in their education have a much greater chance to be successful.

Always keep your email address current.



E.D.I.T.H.

Students Practice Exit Drills in the Home at Fire Safety House





Homework Hint 25 14 48 36 63 10 1. Tape index cards, with one typed or written product per card, to wall (hall wall works well). 2. Give child the fly swat and call out a multiplication problem (eg. 7x9) and instruct child to swat or smack the correct answer (which should be posted on the wall). 3. This also works with: a. Basic addition and subtraction facts b. Sight words c. Letter/ number recognition d. Letter sound correspondence Remember...physical movement stimulates both the right and left homispheres of the brain. When physical movement is paired with a learning activity, the content of that activity is more likely to be retained in our long term memory.



SCHOOL LIBRARY INFORMATION CENT

Fabulous Feburary

Black History Month

February is the month set aside to celebrate and honor the contributions of African-Americans. This is a wonderful time for students to learn about our country's rich heritage and history by reading biographies of famous leaders and great fiction written by African-American authors. Students in PreK-3 will enjoy books written by **Donald Crews**, Bill Cosby, and Leo Dillion. Students in the upper grades would definitely enjoy books written by Christopher Paul Curtis, Patricia McKissack, Mildred D. Taylor, and Walter Dean Myers. These are just a few authors, want more selections just visit your school library information center.

Valentine's Day

Conversational candy, chocolate filled boxes, and paper hearts are items you normally associate with Valentine's. What better way to add a little more love than with a book. Here are a couple of books I'm sure your child will adore.

PreK-3

Froggy's First Kiss Love, Ruby Valentine Arthur's First Valentine Love, Splat Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink

Grades 3-5

Somebody Loves You Mr. Hatch Heart to Heart with

Mallory
The Valentine Cat

Love Stinks Mr. Louie is Screwy!

President's Day

President's Day is the 20th of February. The information center has a collection of over one hundred books on U.S. Presidents. Get to know some of our lesser known leaders like Zachary Taylor, Benjamin Harrison and Chester A. Arthur. Tour the White House and discover fascinating facts about our nation's leaders.



The Evolution of the School Library

The SLIC: Key to Information Access

The school library has definitely evolved over the years, which is reflected in a number of name changes. It has gone from school library to media center; from media center to information center; to its current title of school library information center. This is commonly referred to many of our upper grade students as the SLIC. Throughout its many name changes, one aspect that has always remained constant in the library is information access. However the manner in which information is accessed has greatly increased, thanks to the many technological advances brought about by the 21st century.

Today's students must be able to locate and use information in a variety of formats. This includes being able to find and use books in the

SLIC, as well as online and in databases.

The key to learning how to access information begins in the school library information center.

CyberLibrary

Did you know that your student has access to an online encyclopedia and databases at home via link on the cyber library? What are databases? Databases are programs that hold large amounts of information, usually in the form of short articles from magazines, journals, and newspapers. This is an excellent resource tool when students are unable to locate information in books. Gordon subscribes to Encyclopedia Britannica Online, KidsInfobits, and CultureGrams. Username and passwords can be obtained through the school librarian.

The Gordon SLIC has been selected as a pilot school for the new automation system by DODEA. This new system is user-friendly and students will be able to access the online catalog anywhere internet is available. Full implementation of the system will occur gradually throughout the school year. To get a glimpse of the system go to the Gordon homepage and click on the SLIC.

The Information Center is looking for volunteers. Interested? Contact Ms. Bailey or Ms. Elliott at 907-1328 for more details.

Top 5 Patriot Picks
December
2011

Everybody Fiction

- 1. Franklin's Class Trip
- 2. Eleanor, Ellatony, Ellencake, and Me
- 3. Franklin Goes to School
- 4. A Very Marley Christmas

5. Polar Express

Fiction

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Rodrick Rules Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever The Christmas Toy Factory Ricky Ricotta's Mighty Robot vs the Voodoo Vultures from Venus

Red, White, and True Blue Mallory

Non-fiction

Baby Mouse

Baby Mouse: Our Hero I Spy Gold Challenger

Baby Mouse: Monster

Mash

Bone: Rock Jaw

Families Making the Connection

Let's Help - Teach Them Life's Simple 714

Celebrate American Heart Month with these 7 simple tips:

- Get active. Just 30 minutes a day helps control your weight and makes you feel
- Control cholesterol. How? Schedule a screening-know your numbers. Most often, go for foods low in cholesterol and saturated fat and free of trans fats.
- Eat better. Balance calories with activity to manage weight. Heart smart foods include fruits and veggies, whole grains, fish, lean meats, and poultry without skin. Choose 1% or fat free dairy products. Aim to reduce salt and salty foods in your diet. Check out the 2010 Dietary Guidelines for Americans at www.cnpp.usda.gov/ dietaryquidelines.htm.
- Manage blood pressure. By following the tips above, plus limiting alcohol and avoiding tobacco smoke, you can help prevent this "silent killer"
- Lose weight. Even a small weight loss can often make a big difference to health.
- Reduce blood sugar. Do you have diabetes? Keeping your blood sugar under control helps keep heart disease at bay.
- Stop smoking. Making this one change can make an enormous positive impact!

For motivation, support and additional ways to take action, go to http://mylifecheck.heart.org. Take the My Life Check TM assessment and make a new life resolution today!

February

- American Heart Month
- Children's Dental Health Month

Fit Foundations

Creole-style Black-eyed Peas

Makes 8 servings Serving size: 1 cup

Ingredients

- 3 cups water
- 2 cups dried black-eyed peas
- 1 teaspoon low sodium chicken-flavored bouillon granules
- 2 cups canned no salt added tomatoes. crushed
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- 2 stalks celery, finely chopped
- 3 teaspoons minced gartic
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1 bay leaf
- 1/2 cup chopped parsley

Directions

- 1. Add 2 cups of the water and black-eyed peas to a medium saucepan. Bring to a boil over high heat. Boil for 2 minutes. Then, cover the pan and remove it from the heat. Let stand for 1 hour.
- 2. Drain the water, leaving the peas in the saucepan. Add the remaining 1 cup of water, bouillon granules, tomatoes, onion, celery, garlic, dry mustard, ginger, cayenne pepper and bay leaf. Stir together. Then, bring to a boil. Cover the saucepan. Reduce the heat and simmer slowly for 2 hours. 5tir occasionally. Add water, as necessary, to keep the peas covered with liquid
- 3. Remove the bay leaf from the cooked beans. Spoon the beans into a serving bowl. Garnish with parsley and serve.







Menus for February 2012

FORT BRAGG Schools

Families Eating Smart and Moving More

Research points to seven key behaviors that can help children, youth and adults 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.
- Breastfeed your baby.

Ceresi Juice

CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH

Lasagna W/ French Bread CHOOSE TWO ned Broccoll w/ Carrots Com On Cob

Cream Cheese Cereal Applesauce or Ovange Juice Choice of Cold Milk

> Pepperoni Pizza Or Slappy Joe CHOOSE TWO Pinto Beens

Tomatoes Ownge Wedges

Wednesday, February 1

Breakfast Bagel w

d Lettuce w/ Diced

Thursday, February 2

Breakfast Pizza Or Peaches w/ Diced Apples or Grape Juice Choice of Cold Milk Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll

Or

Hotdog w/ Chill CHOOSE TWO Garden Peas Red Jell-O w' Pears Dessert Cherry Crisp

Friday, February 3

TEACHER WORK DAY

NON STUDENT DAY



Monday, February 6

Ham Blocult w/ Dalmeal Peaches w/ Bananas or Apple

Chicken Sandwich

Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Tuesday, February 7

nble Eggs w/ Grits Ceresi esauce or Ovange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH

wich CHOOSE TWO Garden Peas **Baked Apples** erw/ Carots Sticks CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Hot Ham and Cheese Sand-

Wednesday, February 8

Cherry Muffin w' Oatmea Or Cereal Wedges or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH

Cheese Pizza **Sub Sandwich** CHOOSE TWO Steamed Com Green Beans ed Lettuce w/ Diced

Thursday, February 9

Grilled Cheese Sandwich Or. Potato Rounds or Orenge Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Bar-B-Que Chicken w/ Roll Sloppy Joe CHOOSE TWO Parsley Potatoes Steamed Cabbage

Peaches w/ Sliced Bananas

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Friday, February 10

Pancake Nº Sausage Cares Peaches w/ Sliced Bananas or CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Macaroni & Cheese wi Roll Teco's CHOOSE TWO Pinto Seans Baked Apples

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Lettuce w/ Diced Tonsalpes

day, February 13

Bealdast Pizza Wedges or Apple Julce CHOICE OF COLD MILK

LUNCH Chicken Tenders w/ Roll Baked Potato wi Meat & Cheese Bauce and Roll

CHOOSE TWO Steamed Broccoll Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Tuesday, February 14

Breakfast Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Cereal sple Wedges or Orange Julo CHOICE OF COLD MILK

LUNCH e Rice Boup w Biscutt

CHOOSE TWO Garden Pess Fresh Placapak

Apple Sices sday, February 15

Tontalbes

Chicken Biscult unds or Grape Juice Toest CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH

Hot Ham & Cheese Sand CHOOSE TWO Lime Beans Baked Apples Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Thursday, February 16

Scremble Eggs w/ Grits Ceresi Sliced Peaches w/ Diced Apples or Orange Juice Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll

Hotdog w/ Chill CHOOSE TWO Creamed Potatoes Colesiaw CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Friday, February 17

Ham Biscutt w/ Catmesi sauce or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD NILK LUNCH Teco Seled w/ chips Or

Eshatch Oven Baked Potatoes Baked Benns Orange Wedges Com on Cob

Monday, February 20



PRESIDENT'S DAY



Tuesday, February 21

Pancake NI Sausage Ceres eaches or Apple Juice Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Spachett w/ French Bread CHOOSE TWO Garden Peas Shredded Lettuce w/ Diced Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Wednesday, February 22

Scremble Eggs w/ Gets Cereal dges or Orange Julo Toest CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Cheese Pizza

O: Sloppy Joe CHOOSE TWO Steamed Com Orange Wedges Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Thursday, February 23

Ham Blocult w/ Oatmeel Cereal Orange Wedges or Grape Juice Toest CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH -B-Que Chicken W/Roll Hotdog w/ Chill CHOOSE TWO Poteto Saladi Green Beans

Jel-O wi Pears

Orenge Wedges

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Friday, February 24

Grilled Cheese Sandwich Cereal aches w/ Diced Apples & Banana or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fish Sticks w/ Com Bread

Macaroni & Cheese CHOOSE TWO Steemed Cervots Baked Beard Peaches w/ Diged Apples and

Monday, February 27

Breakfast Plaza Ceredi Orange Wedges or Apple Julice CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Chicken Bandwich

0 saked Potato w Meet ,Chees Sauce and Roll CHOOSE TWO Steamed Carrots Orange Wedges Shredded Lettuce w/ Pickle

Chios

Tuesday, February 28

Scremble Eggs w/ Orts Ceresi Spole Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Vegetable Meat Soup w/ **Grilled Cheese Sandwich** 0 Cheeseburger

CHOOSE TWO

Lima Beans

Peaches w/ Diced Apples

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Wednesday, February 29

Cherry Muffin w/ Catnesi Ceres Fresh Pineapole Wedges or CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Plaza Or Oats Commission

CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Tossed Saled Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

