

# Patriot Post



Volume 5, Issue 5 February 2013

### Notes from the Principal's desk

## School attendance is key to students' future success

Linden Oaks continues to grow as evidenced by the ing to meet to assist your family. increased enrollment after the holidays. Gordon Elementary now has a student population of 610 students. Many houses continue to come online in our neighborhood. I am thankful the six portable classrooms are almost complete. In the near future, several special area classrooms will be relocated to the portables. This will create some much needed space in our main building.

The main issue I need to address in this newsletter is attendance. Students need to be on time and in school on a regular basis to maximize their instructional opportunities. Gordon Elementary is reviewing attendance records and contacting parents to schedule meetings for students who are frequently absent. Excessive absences may be referred to Command as required by DODEA policy. It is important that parents call the office and then follow up with a note if their child will be absent from school. Our computer system now tracks students who are tardy or leaves school early and marks them absent for a portion of the day. Again, my goal is for every child to be on time and here at school. I am including additional information in this newsletter on the absence policy. Please call the office with any questions.

The end of the second reporting period was January 24<sup>th</sup>. Report cards will be sent home on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Although conferences are not scheduled for this quarter, please contact your child's teacher with any questions regarding progress. My staff is always will-

Gordon Elementary offers a home reading program for our children. A tracking sheet is sent at the beginning of each month and must be returned at the end of the month. Children receive prizes for participating at least 20



I want to encourage every family to read with their children nightly. Children's skills and love for reading improve immensely when families read nightly together. Children who are reading at grade level will obviously be more successful in school and in the workforce.

As our community continues to grow, so does the car pick-up line during dismissal. You are encouraged to walk with your children. Parents may also use the parking lot at the rear of the school to park and walk up to pick up their children from the walking line. Walking with your children promotes physical fitness and improves health. Please remember to always have your I.D. during dismissal. It is also important to have a back up person on your emergency contact list in case you are unable to pick up your child. This will avoid confusion for your child when this happens.

Please come and eat lunch with your child and visit our wonderful school!

Gordon Elementary School/DoDEA MISSION: Educate, Engage, and Empower Each Student to Succeed in a Dynamic World.

Goal 1: By June 2013, all students will improve their reading comprehension skills by utilizing vocabulary, formulating questions, drawing conclusions, summarizing/retelling, and making predictions. Progress will be measured through the use of system-wide and local assessments.

Goal 2: By June 2013, all students will improve math skills, with an emphasis on Math Communication and Number/Number Relations. Progress will be measured through the use of system-wide and local assessments.

## DoDEA explains attendance policy

School attendance is important and in order to receive the best education, students need to Be Here! This year, DoDEA has implemented a system-wide attendance policy for students in DoDEA schools throughout the world. This new policy is consistent with those found in many public schools throughout the United States. School attendance issues have been identified as a serious issue for children throughout the country and military children are no exception. DoDEA's new attendance policy provides specific guidance on attendance, absences and identifies support services for students at-risk for not fulfilling the grade or course requirements. It's not surprising that regular school attendance correlates directly with success in academic

work, improves social interaction
with adults and peers and provides
opportunities for important communication between teachers and students. Regular attendance also has a
cumulative effect of establishing
life-long positive traits-- responsibility, determination, respect for
rules of society --that are critical for
developing career readiness skills,
success in college and in life.

### Highlights of the policy

All students are required to attend school for 180 instructional days per school year.

Academic penalties will not be imposed for excused absences.

Whenever a student needs to be out for more than five days, the teacher will provide a Student Educational Monitoring Plan to lessen the impact of a student missing instruction in class.

Excused absences can include:

- Personal illness.
- Medical, dental, or mental health appointments.
- Serious illness in the student's immediate family.
- A death in the student's immediate family or of a relative.
- Religious holidays.
- Emergency conditions such as fire, flood, or storm.
- Unique family circumstances warranting absence and coordinated with school administration.
- College visits that cannot be scheduled on non-school days.
   Reasonable amounts of time confounding deployments and reintegration providing missed school



## Attendance Policy (continued)

Many families--both military and nonmilitary-underestimate the importance of regular school attendance for young children (kindergarten and first grade) but even missing just 5 percent of kindergarten-that's just nine days--can be an indicator that a child will fall behind by the fifth grade.

Children take their cue from their parents when it comes to the importance of school attendance. To have a quality education experience, you need to be here. There are times when a student needs to miss school-everyone understands that. But attendance is important. To have a quality educational experience, you need to be here.

### What parents should know

Parents can team up with teachers to make sure students are in school and ready to learn.

### How parents can help:

- Schedule medical and dental appointments outside of school hours.
- Schedule vacations during school breaks.
- Schedule Permanent Change of Station (PCS) moves to coincide with summer breaks or other scheduled school breaks.
- When moving, check school

calendars to be aware of important school dates (beginning/ending of school year; testing dates, breaks, etc.)

Make it a habit to contact their

child's teachers/principals to arrange to pick up missed school work, either in advance if the absence is known, or the same day their child is absent.



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AUG 1 2012

For Parents of All Fort Bragg School Students

On behalf of the Commanding General of XVIII Airborne Corps and Fort Bragg, LTG Daniel B. Allyn, welcome to the Fort Bragg School community for the 2012-2013 Academic Year. We are extremely proud of our school system and encourage your active participation in our community to make it even better. Our intent is to make this a great school year for everyone and we need your help. Every study on parent involvement in schools shows that your participation is the most important factor in your child's success. Along with parental involvement, regular school attendance is essential for student success. Parents should carefully review the Fort Bragg Schools' attendance policy and ensure that students arrive at school promptly each school day. If students are not at school, learning is compromised.

On rare occasions, individual acts of certain students cause disruption to the educational experience of all. Some examples are non-cooperative attitudes with teachers and administrators, disruptive behavior at bus stops or on buses, fighting, carrying prohibited items, and prank bomb threats. I know that you share our belief that such behavior is inconsistent with our responsibility to provide a safe, high quality educational environment for our children.

When these situations occur, Fort Bragg Schools, the Juvenile Rehabilitation Board, and the Garrison Commander's office will intervene with appropriate action. We operate under the premise that parents are responsible for the behavior of their children at all times, and that living in government housing is a privilege – not a right.

Should any child engage in disruptive behavior, we will take action to prevent its repetition. We owe it to the community to do so. In less offensive cases, this action may take the form of in-school discipline or warning letter. In more serious cases, parents and children will be required to appear before the Juvenile Rehabilitation Board. For the most serious cases, the privilege to live in government housing may be revoked or a child may be barred from the post or schools. The prevention of bullying is a point of emphasis. If you or your child knows about any instance of this behavior, report it to school officials.

Additionally, it is critically important for students to adhere to the Fort Bragg Schools' uniform policy at Albritton and Shughart Middle Schools. The uniform policy is in place to ensure students focus on learning and not on social status issues that at times distract them from their studies. We need your help to make this work.

Please discuss these points with your child early on this year. Let him/her know you support a safe school and value education. Help us make this a great academic year for your child and our entire community.

Astrey Sanborn Colonel, USA Garrison Commander

# \*Fabulous Feburary

# Gordon Elementary School Library and Information Center



There is so much to celebrate in the month of February, what other word can we used to describe it except "fabulous". While February may be the shortest month in the year, it is definitely jammed packed with lots of fun-filled facts. It is the time we set aside to honor Black History, Valentine's Day, U.S. Presidents, Chinese New Year and that fury rodent known as

February is an excellent time of year for students to read biographies, and other non-fiction books. Gordon

Punxsutawney Phil, the

groundhog of groundhogs.



SLIC has over 200 biographies of African-Americans and U.S. Presidents, just

waiting to be picked off the shelf. Here are a list of February titles that are cause for celebration:



### PreK-2

Roses are Pink, Your Feet Really Stink by Diane De Groat is filled with rhyme and illustrations of pinks and reds just right for Valentine's Day. Things don't go exactly as planned for Gilbert, when he decides to write a not-so-nice Valentine poem to two of his classmates. What transpires in the story provides a lesson in responsibility and forgiveness.

Bringing in the New Year by Grace Lin is a story that shares the tradition of Chinese New Year through the eyes of a young girl and her family. The illustrations are filled with festive color that depict a joyful celebration.



### Grades 3-5

Sit-In How Four Friends Stood Up by Sitting Down

by Andrew Davis Pinkney tells the historical story of an event in the civil rights movement. Four college students in Greensboro, North Carolina defy the "whites only" signs and sit down to be served at a lunch counter in Woolworth's. The watercolored illustration allow students to peek into the past.

### What Presidents are Made

of by Hanoch Piven allows you to see America's presidents quite differently. Using everything from blue jeans to boxing gloves the author creates collages that are not only entertaining, but are informative as well.



For more book recommendations for young readers visit <u>www.readingrockets.org</u> or the <u>Children's Book Council</u>. On February 8th, Gordon ES will hold its second annual African-American Read-In. Guest readers are invited to read-aloud books by African -American authors. This event seeks to make African -American literacy a significant part of Black History Month.

### Top Picks for December Everybody Fiction (Picture)

- 1. How the Grinch Stale Christmas by Dr. Seuss
- 2. Super Fly Guy by Ted Arnold
- 3. Snowie Rolie by William Joyce
- 4. Do Not Open this Book by Michaela Muntean
- 6. Fly Guy vs the Flyswatter by Ted Arnold

### Fiction

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Roderick Rules by Jeff Kinney
- 2. Diary of a Wimpy Kids: the Last Straw by Jeff Kinney
- 3. Ghost Beach by R.L. Stine
- 4. Happy Birthday Bad Kitty by Nick Brusl
- Captain Underpants and the Invasion of the Incredibly Naughty Cafeteria Ladies from Outer Space by Dav Pilkey

# Read Acros

Read Across America is an annual reading motivation and awareness program. It is celebrated on Dr. Seuss birthday on March 2. This year Gordon will host its 2nd Dr. Seuss Read-In on Friday, March 1. Staff and Students will be encour-

aged to dress up as their favorite book character. Guest
readers are invited to come
and read their favorite Dr.
Seuss stories. These types of
activities help bring reading
excitement to all ages. This is
a powerful motivator that
helps in the creation of lifelong successful readers.

Coming Soon!





Dates to Remember	
Ground Hog Day	Feb. 2
African-American Read-In	Feb. 8
Chinese New Year	Feb. 10
Valentine's Day	Feb. 14
President's Day	Feb. 18
Dr. Seuss Read-In	Mar. 1

## The rewards of reading surpass snacks & treats

### Don't let your child miss out

Every month students who participate in the home reading program receive a coupon for free food and a small toy. All they have to do is read every night at home and record what is being read! Don't let your child miss out on receiving these fun rewards. Help your student record what he or she is reading, (or what is being read to him/her), and turn in the Home Reading record on the due date.

Laura Festa, Home Reading Program Coordinator

### Cheers to the classes with 100% participation

Nov	ember	Dece	ember
<u>PreK</u>	<u>Kindergarten</u>	<u>PreK</u>	Kindergarten
Harrison AM	Grant	Harrison AM	Grant
Harrison PM	Baker	Harrison PM	Baker
Jillard AM	Maull		Maull
Jillard PM	Merritt		Merritt
Melendez AM	Upton		Upton

Cheers to the classes with 80-99% participation

November	December
Cooper AM	Cooper AM
Clancy	Cooper PM
Colley	Jillard AM
Munsell	Melendez AM
Greene	DeBruhl

### Facts about READING

"Every school day in America, 3,000 students drop out—the majority of them are poor readers. Students with below grade level reading skills are twice as likely to drop out of school as those who can read on or above grade level."

(Adolescent Literacy: A National Reading Crisis)

"Children learn an average of 4,000 to 12,000 new words each year as a result of book reading."

(Scholastic: Classroom Libraries Work!)

"Studies have proven that increased family engagement in educational programs is linked with increases in child reading achievement and other academic successes (such as high school graduation rates.)"

(Pre-K Now)



- ◆ 5-7 pm Tuesday, Feb. 12
- Literacy Activities for Pre-K
   through 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- ♦ Food
- ♦ Fun
- Guest Storyteller



- Prizes
- Character Scavenger Hunt
- Reading Tips
- ♦ Book Fair









## Terra Nova testing nears for 3rd & 4th grade students

Please mark your calendars:

## MARCH 11-15 is TERRA NOVA TESTING WEEK

Nationwide standardized testing will take place in grades 3 and 4. Please avoid scheduling medical appointments or family trips during this *important week*. Have students to school *on time* during this week. Students arriving late will not be admitted to class during the test and will have to do a makeup test.

Mona Hegarty, school counselor





# PTA news & events

The PTA would like to welcome all of you back from winter break! We hope everyone had a relaxing and wonderful time!

We loved delivering all the special messages to our students. We want to thank all the parents and teachers that made our first candy-gram event a success!

The PTA accepts memberships and background checks all year long. If you have been thinking about it or just moved here, come on in to the office and ask for a form. Volunteers must have background check to participate in any function at the school.

## -February 21, 2013

-Cultural Diversity Dance!

-From 3:30 5 p.m.

-Keep in an eye on your child's folder for more information!

### -February 12, 2013

-Literacy Night Family Event!

-Come join your PTA, teachers, and administration and Get Your Read On!

-Family events will be from 5 - 7 p.m.

-Food will be served from 4:30 - 6 p.m.

## -We are always looking

-PTA monthly meeting @

**February 5, 2013** 

for new ideas, comments, and inquiries from our community so come join us! Your input is welcome and appreciated!

## -February 14, 2013

-Preordered candy grams will be delivered.

### -Gordon Patriot t-shirts, longsleeve shirts and sweatshirts are always available to order ,and if you need a special size just ask!

# School Snapshots





First grade students sing during a presentation to the Fort Bragg School Board.



Fourth grade students play their recorders for their parents.



Fourth graders perform the hand washing song.

Gordon teachers attend a math work shop during the Continuous School Improvement (CSI) Day.





### Families Making the Connection

Be Heart Smart with Seafood

Celebrate American Heart Month by making seafood the main protein on your plate twice a week. Try to eat about 8 ounces of seafood each week (limit white tuna to 6 ounces per week). Fish and shellfish contain a variety of important nutrients like protein, iron, zinc and healthy fats (omega-3 fats). It's heart smart! Try these tips to help you eat more:

Keep it lean and flavorful. Spices and herbs are great flavor enhancers for seafood. Try dill, chili powder, paprika or cumin. Lemon or lime juice also kicks up the flavor. Grill, broil. roast or bake seafood rather than frying it.

Vary your choices. Go for fish like salmon, herring, sardines, pollock, trout, catfish, and flounder. Shellfish counts, too! Try oysters. mussels, clams and calamari (squid). Think mussels marinara, cioppino (seafood stew), steamed clams or pasta with calamari.

Have it on hand. Canned salmon, tuna or sardines are quick and easy to use. Canned white tuna is higher in omega-3 fats, but canned "light" tuna is lower in mercury.

Get creative. Go beyond the fish fillet. Try salmon patties (see recipe on the back), shrimp stir fry or grilled fish tacos.

Shop smart. Eating more seafood doesn't have to be expensive. Tilapia, canned tuna and some frozen seafood are usually lower cost options. Check for specials and coupons for seafood at your local store.

#### February

- American Heart Month

### Fit Foundations

Salmon Patties

Makes 9 servings Serving size: 1 patty

### Ingredients

- 1 can (15 1/2 ounce) drained salmon\*
- 1 cup whole grain cereal or crackers
- 2 large eggs, lightly beaten
- 1/2 cup 1% fat milk
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil

- In a medium bowl, use a fork or clean fingers to flake salmon until very fine.
- 2. Crush cereal or crackers into crumbs. This may be done by placing the cereal or crackers in a resealable plastic bag and then crushing with a rolling pin, for example.
- 3. Add cereal or cracker crumbs, eggs, milk and pepper to salmon. Mix thoroughly.
- Shape salmon mixture into 9 patties.
- Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat.
- 6. Add patties to the skillet and cook until browned on both sides and heated through

Recipe tip: Serve salmon patties on a bed of mixed greens lightly dressed with olive oil and vinegar. Or, they can be served as a hamburger substitute. Place each patty on a whole grain bun with tomato and lettuce slices. Enjoy!

\* This recipe can also be prepared with light canned tuna instead of salmon.

Children and pregnant and breastfeeding w A variety of seafood lower in mercury should be part of a healthy diel. To learn more, go to www.fda.gov/Food/ ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm110591.htm.





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## **Menus for** February 2013



### Fort Bragg Schools



nday, February 4

Whole Grain Craissant

Toasty O's Cereal

Toest w./ Jelly

LUNCH

CHOOSE ONE

Chicken Sandwich Baked Potato w/ Meat &

Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO

Green Beans

Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges

Lettuce w/ Pickle Chips CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Monday, February 11

Pancake N' Sausage

Toasty O's Cereal

Toast w/ (Jelly)

Orange Wedges or Apple Juit CHOICE OF COLD MILK

LUNCH

Chicken Sandwich

Baked Potato w/ Meat &

Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO

Steamed Broccoli Steamed Com

Orange Wedges Apple Wedges

### 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.

Tuesday, February 5

Waffle w/ Sausage Link

Cheerios Cereal

Toast w/ Jelly LUNCH

Grape Juice or Sliced Peach

CHOOSE ONE

Turkey Pasty w/ Roll

Cheeseburger

**CHOOSE TWO** 

Pinto Beans

Apple Wedges

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Tuesday, February 12

Yogurt w/ Grenole

Cinnamon Toaster Cereal Fresh Pineapple or Orange

Toest w/ (Jelly)

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

LUNCH

Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce &

French Bread

Or

CHOOSE TWO

Green Beans

Glazed Carrots

- Enjoy more fruits and vegetables.
- Breastfeed your baby

By promoting good nutrition in the places where our children eat - at home and at school - we can have a greater impact on their health. Encourage your child's healthy eating habits by supporting school meals!

Wednesday, February 6

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Wednesday, February 13

Scramble Eggs w/ Grits

ipple Wedges or Grape Juice

Toast w/ (Jelly)

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

LUNCH

Cheese Pizza

**CHOOSE TWO** 

Steamed Corn Garden Peas

Spinach w/ Tomatoes

Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

nos Cereal

Thursday, February 7

Scremble Eggs w/ Grits Ham Bisquit w/Oatmeal Or Toasty O's Cereal Cinnamon Toast Cereal ple Juice or Orange Wedge Toast w/ Jelly Orange Juice or Applesa Toast w/ Jelly LUNCH LUNCH CHOOSE ONE CHOOSE ONE Q-Chicken w/ Roll Turkey Deli Sandwich Hotdog w/ Chili **CHOOSE TWO** CHOOSE TWO Black Eyed Peas Steamed Collards Tossed Salad Red Jell-O w/ Mixed Fruit Fresh Pears

CHOICE OF COLD WILK

## HUGS Teacher Workday Non Student Day

### Friday, February 8

Golled Cheese Sandwich Or Cheerios Cereal pple Juice or Orange Wedg Toast w/ Jelly LUNCH CHOOSE ONE Fish Sticks w/ Combread Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Baked Beans Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

#### Thursday, February Friday, February 15

Breakfast Pizza Toasty O's Cereal Orange Wedges or Apple Juice Toast w/ (Jelly) CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Holdog CHOOSE TWO Creamed Potator
Pinto Beans

Cheerios Cereal Grapes or Orange Juice Toast w/ (Jelly) CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Teco Salad w/ Chips Fish Sticks w/ Combresd **CHOOSE TWO** Oven Baked Fries Baked Beans Cherry Tomatoes Sliced Peaches

Grilled Cheese Sandwich

Or

### CHOICE OF COLD MILK nday, February 18



President's Day Holiday



## Sliced Peaches

Waffle w/ Sausage Link Toasty O's Cereal Wedges or Orange Julo Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Cheese Pizza

Or Sloppy Joe on School Made CHOOSE TWO

Steamed Com Green Beans Tossed Salad Fresh Apple CHOICE OF COLD MILK

### Wednesday, February 20

Scremble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cinnamon Toast Cereal nge Juice or Apple Wedge Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Turkey Sandwich w/ Grave

Or Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce & French Bread CHOOSE TWO Sweet Potato Fluff Lima Beans Spinach w/ Cherry Tomatoes Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

#### Thursday, February 21

Ham Bisquit w/ Oatmeal Cheerios Cereal Apple Juice or Pineapple Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Bar-B-Que Chicken w/ Roll

Or Hamburge **CHOOSE TWO** Creamed Potatoes Baked Apples Red Jell-O w/ Mixed Fruit CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Orange Jell-O w/ Pears Apple & Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

### Friday, February 22

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Breakfast Pizza Or Cinnamon Toast Cereal Juice or Apple & Orange Wedges Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fish Sticks w/ Combread roni & Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO Oven Baked Fries

Baked Beans Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK





Whole Grain Croissant Toasty O's Cereal Orange Juice or Apple Wedges Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH

day, February 25

Chicken Sandwich Or Baked Potato W/ Meet & Cheese w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Steamed Broccoli Orange Wedges Lettuce w/ Pickle Chips CHOICE OF COLD MILK

### Tuesday, February 26 Scremble Eggs w/ Grits

Cinnamon Toast Cereal pple Juice or Orange Wedge Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK Turkey Pastry w/ Roll Or

Cheeseburger CHOOSE TWO Sweet Potato Fluff Pinto Beans Colesiaw Apple Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK

Sausage Biscuit w/ Oatmeal Cheerios Cereal

Pepperoni Pizza Turkey Deli Sandwich **CHOOSE TWO** Steamed Com Black Eyed Pear Tossed Salad

### Wednesday, February 27

ape Juice or Sliced Peache Toast w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK

CHOICE OF COLD MILK

### Thursday, February 28 Pancake N' Sausage

Toasty's Cereal Toest w/ Jelly CHOICE OF COLD MILK Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll CHOOSE TWO Parsley Potatoes Garden Peas Red Jell-0 w/ Pears

Coleslaw

CHOICE OF COLD MILK