

Patriot Post

Expect the Extraordinary!

Notes from the Principal's Desk

It is hard to believe November is here already. The P.T.A. Book fair and McDonalds night was a blast. Thank you so much for your support! The P.T.A. will put the funds to good use for the benefit of all students at Gordon Elementary School.

Mrs. Julia Goodrich was selected as the DoDEA North Carolina Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Goodrich is a 3rd grade teacher who exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding teacher. She shows a genuine love and concern for her students each day. Gordon Elementary is proud of Mrs. Goodrich and that she chooses to work in our building.

The staff at Gordon is always open to meeting with parents, but may not be available when you drop in. I ask that if you want to

meet with a Teacher, that you call and make an appointment so they are prepared and available to meet with you. Periodically, parents attempt to meet with Teachers when students are in the room. This does not work and is a disruption to instruction. Please call the office in advance and a meeting will be scheduled.

Due to the growth at Gordon, a new 5th grade class is being formed to lower our class sizes from 31 to 23 students. I appreciate DDESS wanting to keep class sizes smaller so students can have more attention from the Teacher. The new Teacher is scheduled to begin on November 7th.

I also want to wish Kari Frazier the best as she is moving to Japan to teach. Kari is a third grade Teacher who does a wonderful job



Joel Grim, Gordon Principal

with her students. Kari will definitely be missed at Gordon. November is a busy month with report cards, conferences, and holidays. I ask that you review the school calendar so you do not miss any important dates.

Please contact the school at 907-1300 with any questions.



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- Nov. 4: Teacher work-day. No school for students.
- Nov. 6: Daylight Savings Time ends.
- Nov. 8: Report cards go home.
- Nov. 11: Veterans' Day holiday. No school.
- Nov. 16-17: Pre-K Parent conferences.
- Nov. 18: K-5 Parent conferences.
- Nov. 23-25: Thanksgiving break.

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Accreditation

The School Improvement Process is evident when you walk-in Gordon. Last February we went through the Accreditation Process and received accreditation from AdvancED.

Gordon was evaluated in 7 standards: Vision and Mission, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Learning, Documenting and Using Results, Resources and Support Systems, Stakeholder Communications and Relationships, and Commitment to Continuous School Improvement.

Gordon was commended in the following areas

- A strong sense of ownership and shared leadership. The dynamic vision of "Expecting the Extraordinary" is a true collaboration involving parents, staff, students, and community members.
- The implementation of data notebooks, data charts, and student data notebooks to better inform instructional decisions is an excellent foundation for future instructional decision making.
- School faculty and administration have begun the identification and systematic use of multiple data.

Commendations and Next Steps

measures that can lead to improvement in student achievement

Gordon will work to improve in two areas

- Analyze existing data at a greater depth to identify possible subgroups of students and differentiated learning opportunities to promote student achievement.
- Build and expand upon the existing foundation of a warm, welcoming environment to help support and engage parents who seem to be disengaged from the school and its activities.

This is where you, the parents, come in. We want to hear your suggestions on ways to make Gordon more engaging and supporting for you. We service your children with pride each and every day, but that is only part of our job. As a military community we want to be united for the children. Please provide suggestions to make Gordon more engaging and supporting for you, the parent, to april.ennis@am.dodea.edu. Thanks for all you do to support your child in his/her education.

DODEA's attendance policy is designed to help reduce the number of student of absences. That policy is summarized on these two pages. It also explains the process that students with more than five absences will be referred to the Gordon Student Study Team and possibly after seven to Command.



Attendance – what everyone should know:

- School attendance is a serious issue for children throughout the country and military children are no exception.
- Many families — both military and non-military — underestimate the importance of regular school attendance for young children (kindergarten and first grade) but even missing just 5% of kindergarten — that's just nine days — can be an indicator that a child will fall behind by the fifth grade.
- Regular school attendance 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.
- 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.
- DoDEA has an attendance policy that is consistent with attendance policies in many U.S. public schools.
- DoDEA's attendance policy is founded on the principle that regular student attendance promotes higher levels of student achievement, school connectedness, and readiness for colleges and careers.
- Key components of the policy include:
 - A requirement for students to attend school for 180 instructional days per school year (subject to specific exceptions noted in the policy).
 - A requirement for students to complete an educational plan consistent with regularly planned school work during absences.
 - Increased communication with parents about the effects of absences on student performance.
 - Referral of students with five days of absences to the Student Support Team.
 - Referral of students with seven days of absences to the local Command for appropriate intervention and support.
 - A Student Educational Monitoring Plan to lessen the impact of a student missing classroom instruction if they need to be out for more than five days.
 - Daily attendance record-keeping, review, and analysis.



A message from DoDEA Acting Director Marilee Fitzgerald on Attendance.



Acting Director discusses Attendance on the Pentagon Channel.



We can't teach you if you're not here.

Excused absences can include:

- Personal illness
 - A medical, dental, or mental health appointment
 - Serious illness in the student's immediate family
 - A death in the student's immediate family or of a relative
 - A religious holiday
 - 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 surrounding deployments and reintegration providing missed schoolwork is obtained in advance and completed upon return.
- Academic penalties will not be imposed for excused absences.
- We have and will continue to be as flexible as possible in accommodating the precious time families have together but flexibilities and accommodations have limitations, especially when they impact on student performance and attendance at school.

Attendance – 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.

From the PE Point of View . . .

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.



School Snapshots



Kindergarten students preview books at the book fair.



Ms. Clark and her some of her students wear mix-matched clothes to show that " Drugs and I Don 't Mix " during Red Ribbon Week.

Home Reading Heroes

Gordon's Home Reading Program began Sept. 6. All students who read at least 20 nights in September and turned in their reading log received a coupon for a free kid's meal at Sonic. Congratulations to the following classes in which 100% of the students met the goal!

Merritt – AM & PM	Jillard – AM & PM
Grant	Marks
Mauil	Upton

Please encourage your child to participate in Home Reading every night. Students who read or are read to at least 20 nights in October and turn in their Home Reading Records will receive a coupon for a free personal pan pizza at Pizza Hut.



Ms. Oppedal 's 4th graders use 2 liter soda bottles to make ecosystems.

READ

Gordon Information Center

American Indian Heritage Month

November is the month set aside to celebrate and honor the contributions of Native 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 noteworthy Native Americans like Osceola, Sitting Bull, Maria Tallchief, and Sequoyah.



Find stats and facts about tribes, types of homes, clothing, and much more.



Here are few titles to get you started:

K-2

Non-fiction

Pocahontas

by Nancy Polette

Sitting Bull

by Susan Evento

Fiction

Knots on a Counting Rope

by Bill Martin

3-5

Non-fiction

Chief Tecumseh

by Anne M. Todd

A Boy Called Slow : the true story of Sitting Bull

by Joseph Bruchac

The Trail of Tears

by Joseph Bruchac

Fiction

Meet Kaya: an American girl

by Janet Shaw

The Journal of Jesse

Smoke : a Cherokee boy

by Joseph Bruchac.

The Legend of the Indian

Paintbrush



retold and illustrated by Tomie dePaola.

The Diary of a Wimpy Kid series is always at the top of the request list. For the month of September it made our top five list once again. Here is a list of the top five fiction circulated in the Gordon Information Center*

Everybody Fiction (Picture)

1. *Super Fly Guy*
by Ted Arnold

2. *Maybe a Bear Ate It!*
by Robie Harris

3. *Hi! Fly Guy*
by Ted Arnold

4. *Shoo, Fly Guy*
by Ted Arnold

5. *I Spy Fly Guy*
by Ted Arnold

Fiction

1. *The Werewolf of Fever Swamp* by R.L. Stine

2. *Captain Underpants and the Preposterous Plight of the Purple People* by Dav Pilkey

3. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: the Ugly Truth*
by Jeff Kinney

4. *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Gregg Heffley's Journal* by Jeff Kinney

5. *Junie B. Jones, First Grader: Boss of Lunch* by Barbara Park

Coming Soon!

If You Give a Dog a Donut written by Laura Numeroff and illustrated by Felicia Bond is the latest addition to the *If You Give...series*. This book is great for students in kindergarten through third grade.

Cabin Fever by Jeff Kinney is the sixth book of the very popular *Diary of a Wimpy Kid* series. If you like to laugh out loud this book is definitely for you. Recommended for students in third through five grade.

Son of Neptune by Rick Riordan is the second book of the *Heroes of Olympus* series. Filled with action and adventure, a must read for any fan of myths and fables. Recommended for fourth and fifth.

Families Making the Connection

Let's Act—Become a Part of Your School's Health Team

The school environment has an impact on children's behavior, health and well-being. Promote overall academic success by taking action to encourage healthy eating and physical activity at school! Join *Let's Move!* efforts by taking action in these ways:

Become a part of your child's school health team. Schools must develop wellness policies to address foods and beverages available at school and goals for nutrition education and physical activity. Talk to the school principal or PTA president to learn more. Also, check out *Successful Students Eat Smart and Move More* resources at www.nutritionnc.com/ResourcesforSchools.

Learn about the School Health Index. This is a self-assessment and planning tool that can help put school and child wellness into action. Go to www.odc.gov/healthyyouth/SHI/index.htm to get started!

Understand competitive foods. These are foods that compete with healthier school meals. Think cookies, crackers, pastries, salty snacks and sugar-sweetened drinks. A school health team can help set standards that address the sale of competitive foods.

Don't forget about physical activity! Encourage low cost, no cost steps to promote physical activity at school.

November

- American Diabetes Month
- Good Nutrition Month
- Peanut Butter Lovers' Month



Menus for November 2011


FORT BRAGG SCHOOLS

Chef Salads Served Monday, Wednesday and Friday

Chicken Salad Served Tuesday

Tuna Salad Served Thursday



Monday, November 7	Tuesday, November 8	Wednesday, November 9	Thursday, November 10	Friday, November 11
Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Or Cereal w/ Whole Wheat Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chick Filet on Whole Wheat Bun Or Sub Sandwich on Whole Wheat Bread CHOOSE TWO CHOOSE TWO Corn on Cob Garden Peas Lettuce w/ Pickle Chips Orange Wedges CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Pancake 'N Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Applesauce or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Whole Wheat Spaghetti w/ Sauce and French Bread Or Cheeseburger CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Steamed Carrots Fresh Whole Apple Tossed Salad CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Chicken Bisquit Or Cereal w/ Toast Fresh Apple Wedges or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOOSE TWO Creamed Potatoes Fresh Collards Greens Orange Jell-O w/ Pears Fresh Whole Apple CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal w/ Toast Peaches or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Or Hot Ham Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Steamed Corn Garden Peas Orange Wedges Carrot and Celery Sticks CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Teacher Workday Non-Student Day 

Monday, November 14	Tuesday, November 15	Wednesday, November 16	Thursday, November 17	Friday, November 18
Pancake 'N Sausage Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tenders w/ Dip & Roll Or Baked Potato w/ Meat & Cheese w/ Cinnamon Roll CHOOSE TWO Steamed Broccoli Corn on Cob Orange Wedges Applesauce CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Taco Soup w/ Tortilla Flour & Cheese Or Hot Ham & Cheese Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Lima Beans Baked Apples Peaches Cauliflower w/ Broccoli CHOICE OF COLD MILK	THANKSGIVING FEAST Breakfast Pizzas OR Cereal w/ Toast Peaches w/ Bananas or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Turkey w/ Dressing, Gravy and Roll Or Corn dog CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Broccoli Casserole Orange Jell-O w/ Pears Waldorf Salad Dessert: Sweet Potato Pies CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Grilled Cheese Sandwich Or Cereal w/ Toast Applesauce or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Or Slappy Joe CHOOSE TWO Steamed Corn Garden Peas Orange Wedges Fresh Whole Apple CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Veteran Day  Non-Student Day

Monday, November 21	Tuesday, November 22	Wednesday, November 23	Thursday, November 24	Friday, November 25
Bagel w/ Cream Cheese Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Sandwich Or Turkey Deli Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Corn on Cob Green Beans Orange Wedges Lettuce w/ Pickle Chips CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Cheese Pizza Or Hot Ham Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Garden Peas Steamed Carrots Tossed Salad w/ Dip Peaches CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Thanksgiving Break Non-Student Day Non-Teacher Day 	Happy Thanksgiving 	Thanksgiving Bread Non-Student Day Non-Teacher Day 

Monday, November 28	Tuesday, November 29	Wednesday, November 30
Breakfast Pizza Or Cereal w/ Toast Orange Wedges or Apple Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tenders w/ dip & Roll Or Baked Potatoes w/ Meat & Cheese Sauce w/ Cinnamon Roll CHOOSE TWO Steamed Broccoli Steamed Corn Orange Wedges Carrots w/ Cauliflower & Dip CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal w/ Toast Apple Wedges or Orange Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Spaghetti w/ French Bread Or Cheese Burger CHOOSE TWO Green Beans Sweet Potatoes Fresh Whole Apple Tossed Salad w/ Dip CHOICE OF COLD MILK	Pancake 'N Sausage Or Cereal Peaches w/ Diced Apples or Grape Juice CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pepperoni Pizza Or Turkey Deli Sandwich CHOOSE TWO Corn on Cob Garden Peas Orange Wedges Lettuce w/ Diced Tomatoes CHOICE OF COLD MILK

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.

Fit Foundations

Turkey Enchiladas

Makes 8 servings

Serving size: 1 enchilada

Ingredients

- Cooking spray (or vegetable oil)
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon ground coriander
- Dash of black pepper
- 2 1/2 cups low sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup (4 oz) shredded cheddar cheese
- 1 cup fat free sour cream
- 3 cups chopped cooked turkey (1 1/2 lb)
- 1/4 cup bottled salsa
- 6 (6-inch) flour tortillas

Directions

- Preheat oven to 350° F. Lightly coat a medium saucepan with cooking spray.
- Place the pan over medium heat. Add the chopped onion. Sauté about 3 minutes.
- Combine flour, coriander, and black pepper in a medium bowl. Slowly add the broth, stirring with a whisk. Stir until well blended.
- Add the broth mixture to the pan and bring it to a boil. Cook 3 minutes, or until thick, stirring often. Remove the pan from heat. Then, stir in cheese and sour cream.
- Combine 1 cup of the cheese mixture with the turkey and salsa in a bowl.
- Spread 1/2 cup of the turkey mixture down center of each tortilla, then roll up. Place in a 13 x 9 inch baking dish coated with cooking spray. Pour remaining cheese mixture over tortillas. Bake 20 minutes, or until bubbly.

