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Important Dates

Parent/Teacher Conf.
February 7, 3-7pm

**NO SCHOOL—
Teacher In-Service**
February 16

**NO SCHOOL—
President's Day**
February 19

Wrestling
January 29—March 8



Remember to collect those box tops and turn them into the main office. Thank you for supporting our students and MGMS .

Important Updates from the Principal

Dear Mt. Garfield Families,

I would like to invite you to join the celebration throughout the month of February and all year round, as Mt. Garfield Middle School plans special events and recognitions to honor the crucial role parents and families play in your student's education. To every parent and family member who pours their time, resources, efforts and hours into their child's education - Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts! Nothing could be more important than your engagement and involvement with your child's education, and in their schooling.

This month, MGMS students and staff are excited to announce our first **Student Led Conferences** on February 7, 2018 from 3:00 - 7:00 PM. We are recommending students with the last name A-L attend conferences between 3:00 - 5:00 p.m., and students with the last name N - Z attend between 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. However, if you are unable to attend during these suggested times, we invite you to attend at the time most convenient for your family.

You are also invited to attend our School Accountability Committee Meeting that also takes place on February 7th, immediately following conferences at 7:00 p.m.

What is a student led conference?

A student led conference offers our students the opportunity to share with parents his/her learning progress. Students lead parents through a discussion of their work and established academic and learning behavior goals. The role of the classroom teacher is a facilitator in the conference process and includes the teacher facilitating multiple conferences at the same time. The student directs the conversation focused on their work and classroom behavior.

Roles and Responsibilities of Student-Led Conferences

Successful student-led conferences require changes in the roles that teacher, student and parents have played in traditional parent conferencing. Teachers become facilitators, students become leaders and parents become active listeners.

Teacher Role: To prepare students for the student led conference. This includes guiding work sample collection, and training and supporting students with conference preparations. The teacher becomes a guide and observer of the conferencing process.

Continued on next page

Important Updates from the Principal (continued)

Student Role: The student becomes the key participant, responsible for working with the teacher to identify strengths, identifying learning needs and collecting evidence to validate learning. As students prepare, they take ownership of their learning and engage in a self-reflection process about their achievement and future goals.

Parent Role: Parents become partners in learning when students lead a conference. The opportunity for parents to have one-to-one time with their child focused on learning and achievement is important to the conferencing process. The parent role is to listen and ask questions.

We look forward to seeing you and your family participating and celebrating your student's learning achievements during this groundbreaking evening.

On Thursday, February 15, 2018, Mt. Garfield Middle School is hosting a Family Game Night for the entire family. A delicious dinner will be provided by our amazing cafeteria ladies at no cost to you between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m., and Student Council members will have a concession stand available for you to purchase yummy snacks throughout the night. Board games and other fun and engaging family activities will be offered in the library and various classrooms for you to enjoy with your children. You are also welcome and encouraged to bring a board game to share if you'd like. At the end of the evening, there will be drawings of a variety of board games for you to take home and enjoy with your children.

Family engagement is an important piece of our school's mission, and creating opportunities to engage families in meaningful ways is a goal of Mt. Garfield Middle School. Research on family engagement suggests that when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and abilities achieve at their highest level.

Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We could not do the work of educating your student without you! Join us this month in celebrating family engagement and your student's achievement.

Sincerely,
Rocio Roybal
Principal

School of Choice

It is just about time for School of Choice!! **This year we will begin the process at 10:00 in the morning on March 5, 2018 and close the window at 4:00 p.m. on March 30, 2018.**

IMPORTANT: Parents will apply for SOC through ParentVue this year, therefore, please assure that parents know that they **MUST** have a ParentVue account. Please include this information in your newsletters and any other means that you use to communicate with parents.

The letters to parents should start arriving in your building the week of February 12 and you may send it out as you receive it.

Office Information

Please call the office at (970) 254-4720 **X37111** if your child will be absent for any reason so that we may note the absence correctly.

We ask that you make every effort to schedule Doctor visits and appointments after the school day ends so that we do not continually interrupt valuable teaching time. We understand this is not always possible, but certainly appreciate your efforts to limit these interruptions.

In addition, **if you have an address or phone number change, please let us know right away. This information is vitally important in case of an emergency.** We must be able to reach you. Thank you in advance for your attention to these matters.

Ready, Set, Smile!

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to **guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid** and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash, check, or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS Main Office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at jostensyearbooks.com. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page. The cost is currently \$28. Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more.

Parents, your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book! Don't wait any longer. Order today by calling or stopping by the MGMS Budget Office, or on-line with Jostens!

NWEA Testing

In September, Mt. Garfield Middle School conducted the first of three assessments called NWEA, (Northwest Evaluation Association). We will conduct the math and reading assessment again in February, and science will be administered before the end of the school year. We will use the results to measure your student's individual growth in each area.

NWEA tests are unique in that they adapt to your child's level of learning. If your child answers a question correctly, the next question is more challenging. If they answer incorrectly, the next one is easier. This results in a detailed picture of what your child knows and is ready to learn—whether it is on, above, or below their grade level.

NWEA assessments are nationally normed and are actually very relevant to the successful, active instruction of your student. We receive each child's data right away. This quick data along with other sources of information enables us to make important decisions to support student achievement, and if needed implement academic interventions to meet individual student needs and measure growth in real time. That makes these particular assessments invaluable to the achievement of your student. You are a very important part of your student's academic success and we greatly appreciate your support!

Health Office Information

Please welcome our new **Health Assistant, Nicole Pinnt!**

Vision and Hearing Screenings will take place for all 7th and 8th graders on **February 15th**

Let's Keep our Gators Healthy!

Here are 5 Steps to Help Prevent the Spread of Germs:

- ◆ Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- ◆ Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs
- ◆ Try to avoid close contact with sick people and if you are sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.

Information obtained from the CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.htm>

MGMS PE Happenings!

Gator Physical Education continues to build strong BODYS & MINDS



Students have completed their basketball activities. Games were very exciting and competitive with several games going into overtime. Offensive and defensive strategies, along with dribbling and passing skills, carried over to Floor Hockey where students continue to work cooperatively in becoming successful team members. At the completion of Floor Hockey the FUN game of Human Foosball, yes, just like the table foosball game that resembles soccer, begins. Moving into the winter months, our next unit will be net activities; badminton, ping pong, eclipse ball and pickleball.

Physical education students are required to dress out daily in the GATOR t-shirt, shorts, and tennis shoes that tie and come with a good attitude ready to be challenged and have fun.

We have students that may not have the clothing necessary to be successful in P.E., although we do have limited clothing for their use, if your family has shorts, Gator t-shirts or shoes that are not needed or being used we would encourage you to donate them to our program.

If you have MGMS P.E. clothing at your home that your student has borrowed please return them to our P.E. Dept. so other students may use them.

Happy Holidays!!!

Thanks,

Eve Edmiston & Clay Kame, MGMS P.E. Teachers

MESA Club

Happy 2018 everyone. MESA at MGMS has hit the ground running since we've gotten back from winter break. Before the break, we hosted our annual all-school winter dance on Friday evening, Dec. 8. We had a DJ, lights, smoke machines, and lots of dancing. This was our biggest and best winter dance yet. Everyone was dressed so nicely, and we know that everyone had a great time.

Since we've been back to school, we've had a brand new competition for middle school MESA students: balsa wood bridges. Students researched, designed, planned, built bridges constructed only of balsa wood and wood glue. Our competition was this past Tuesday, January 23. The bridges had specific dimensions that had to be met. The competition involved suspending a bucket from the bridge and then filling the bucket with sand until the bridge collapsed. The winners were determined based on the overall efficiency of the bridge (mass of the bridge vs. the mass of the sand it was able to support.) Now, please understand, the bridges weighed very little. Most bridges weighed in the 60-79 gram range. A standard paperclip weighs 1 gram, so you can see how light the bridges were. Even with the minimal mass, several of these bridges held over 13 kilograms of mass. That's almost 29 pounds of sand! We are so proud of all of our students for the hours of effort they put into creating their bridges.

Our next competition is special because we host it. It is the mousetrap car competition, and it's scheduled for March 1. Students research, plan, design, build, and will test a car powered solely with the energy contained in the spring of a mousetrap. This is always a great competition, and the thought processes and creativity demonstrated by the students is amazing.

The D51 MESA Program Advisers received the Colorado Associate of Science Teachers – Middle School Teaching Award. This was celebrated at the Colorado Science Conference in Denver on November 17th. The advisers received recognition for their collaborative work in STEM across the Western Slope. They received recognition at the awards ceremony, a plaque, and \$500! This award was a statewide award, and recognizes the importance of providing free opportunities for STEM for underrepresented populations! Stay tuned for more MESA news in future newsletters.

Band News

The MGMS Bands are heading into the busiest time of year. Coming up in 2018, we have our annual Name That Tune Concert, Solo and Ensemble Festival, Jazz Jam, Pre-festival Concerts, Colorado West Music Festival, and more! In addition, three great musicians have been selected to participate in Western Slope Honor Jazz. These students submitted audition recordings and were chosen from musicians across the Western Slope. Congratulations to Eliza Smith, Kaine Nelson, and Usiel Romero. Thanks for your support of the band program, and remember to like the Mt. Garfield Middle School Bands Facebook page.

BREAKFAST CHANGES LIVES
..... HOW?

KIDS WHO EAT SCHOOL BREAKFAST...

MISS LESS SCHOOL

They attend an average of
1.5 more days
per year

DO BETTER IN MATH:

They average
17.5% higher
math test scores

MORE ATTENDANCE + HIGHER MATH SCORES =

20% more likely to graduate high school

COME EARLY- All students Receive a FREE hot breakfast

ARRIVE LATE –All students Receive a FREE cold packaged breakfast

Available at

- Bookcliff MS
- Chipeta
- Dos Rios
- Rocky Mountain

- Mt. Garfield MS
- Clifton
- Fruitvale
- Nisley



FREE BREAKFAST

FOR ALL COLORADO SCHOOLS WITH A 70% OR GREATER FREE AND REDUCED %

WHY?

INCREASE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

WHERE?

IN THE CAFETERIA
for hot breakfast
before tardy bell
grab 'n' go cold pack after tardy bell

WHO?

All STUDENTS no matter the eligibility

For breakfast menu go to [d51schools.org/Parent tab/Meals Tab/Menu Tab](http://d51schools.org/Parent/tab/Meals Tab/Menu Tab)

FREE DENTAL DAY

FOR UNINSURED KIDS • MarillacHealth
THURSDAY • FEBRUARY 8, 2018



Appointments
every 50 minutes...
8:00 am to 7:00 pm
Thursday, Feb. 8, 2018
Call today to schedule!

298-6320

Give Kids a Smile® is an annual one-day event to provide FREE education and preventive dental care to uninsured children from low and middle income families in Mesa County. (ages 8 to 18 years old)

**EXAMS • X-RAYS
FLOURIDE VARNISH
OTHER MINOR TREATMENT IF NEEDED
FOR MESA COUNTY'S
CHILDREN!**



Special Guest Appearance:
Miss Colorado, Chloe Brown

MarillacHealth: 2333 N. 6th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501
www.MarillacHealth.org

DIA DE SERVICIOS DENTALES GRATIS

PARA NIÑOS SIN SEGURO DENTAL
MarillacHealth • 8 de Febrero de 2018



¡SOLAMENTE POR MEDIO DE CITA!
¡LLAME A PARA HACER UNA CITA!
DE 8:00 A.M. A 7:00 P.M.
FEB 8 del 2018

298-6320

Give Kids a Smile® (En español "Regale una sonrisa a los niños") Es un evento que se realiza una vez al año para proporcionar educación y cuidados preventivos dentales GRATIS a los niños de familias de bajos recursos que no tienen seguro o muy poco seguro del Condado de Mesa. 8 años a 18 años



Invitada especial:
Miss Colorado, Chloe Brown

MarillacHealth: 2333 N. 6th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501
www.MarillacHealth.org

**EXAMENES • RAYOS X
APLICACIÓN DE FLORURO
TRATAMIENTO MENOR SI ES
NECESARIO ¡PARA LOS NIÑOS
DEL CONDADO DE MESA!**