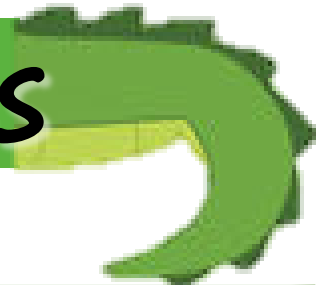


GATOR Tales



B.D. Gullett Elementary

March, 2020



Principal's Message

Hello all and Happy March! Baseball season is upon us and if you are like my family, lots of orange clay seems to be all over the car and garage floor! This is a great time of year (except for the traffic) as we look forward to trips to the beach, outdoor events, and other fun activities. Spring Break is right around the corner and this time of year typically signifies the end of the school year will be here very quickly and next year's planning has to get started.

Teachers should be setting up parent/teacher conferences to discuss the 3rd quarter report cards. With Record Day happening on Friday, March 13th, then Spring Break, expect to see a schedule of days available beginning Monday, March 23rd. Our annual conference night will be held on Thursday, March 26th. Please make every effort to set up a time and come in for your conference. This valuable time together will give you a good idea of where your child is academically and behaviorally. In addition to the report card, other information will be handed out or shared.

As I mentioned with planning for next year, I wanted to make sure all families understand that we will not be accepting any specific requests for next year's teacher. With a projected 1100 students on campus, it is impossible to meet these requests and continue to keep classrooms balanced. If there are important details we need to know before setting up class rosters, please let us know in writing before the end of the school year. But again, please do not ask for specific teachers. Thank you.

Go Gators!

Mr. Richardson

Recent news reports indicate we are in the midst of a very active cold and flu season. In addition, the potential for corona virus has been discussed among county and state leaders. Although there are no cases of the virus, we are asking each student to be diligent in washing hands, coughing/sneezing into their elbow, cleaning their desks with sanitary wipes, etc. Please encourage your child to continue to keep hands clean by washing often. Also, if your child has a fever, they need to stay home for 24 hours fever free before returning. Thank you

SCHOOL UNIFORMS????

Parents will give their input

More than half of the elementary schools in Manatee County have mandatory uniform policies in place for their students. This year, Gullett's SAC was charged with the task of deciding to move forward with establishing a policy or leaving the dress code the way it has been for years.

During the February SAC meeting, held on Wednesday, February 26th, the membership discussed and voted to move forward with a school-wide vote to determine if uniforms will be required beginning in August for the 20-21 school year.

The process for establishing a school uniform policy is lengthy and allows for all families to provide input into this decision. During your parent/teacher report card conference, you will be handed a ballot to vote YES or NO for whether or not you wish to have uniforms at Gullett. In order for this process to work, each family will be given one ballot to cast your vote. We must have *more than half* of the school families cast a vote. Once collected, 51% of the votes must be in favor for the policy to go through. If not, we then wait another three years before the policy can be put to a vote again.

If the policy is voted in by a majority of our families, a uniform committee will be created through SAC to establish the guidelines that will be put in place. Many areas will need to be considered such as: colors and types of tops, colors and types of bottoms, incentives, consequences for not following policy, etc. Once established, the information will be communicated to all families before the end of the year in order to begin in August.

Ballots will be provided to the teachers and if you have multiple children here, the oldest student's teacher will have it for you. Current 5th graders and those that are rezoned to a new school for next year will not need to vote as they will not be attending Gullett.

The entire uniform policy/process is being provided via email or can be picked up at the front desk.

Early pickup time – before 2:45

As you know, the school day for elementary school students begins at 8:25am and runs until 3:15pm. Because of the size of our school, we have to begin the dismissal process around 3:05 each day to allow for our students to move safely and quickly to their dismissal areas. In addition, teachers are providing last minute details, students are packing up, and sometimes announcements are given. This time of day is very busy! So knowing this, we are mandating that there will be **NO STUDENT PICK UP after 2:45**. After this time of day, students will have to go home as they normally do. We understand that emergencies come up or something unexpected happens. We will of course work with you. However, you will need to call the front office before this time to let us know. If you know of an afternoon appointment or need to leave early, please come in before 2:45pm and we will call for your children. Again, please call ahead. Students are all over the campus during the day and we can't promise how long you will wait for an unannounced pick up. **Thank you** all for understanding and helping our school run as smoothly as possible.

Testing windows

The annual state testing window will be taking place after we return from Spring Break. Our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders are being well-prepared and we are confident they will exceed expectations once again. In addition to the FSA test for these grades, our 2nd graders will be taking the district benchmark assessment to determine their level of mastery through the 3 quarters of school. Please encourage your child to do his/her very best. Help them get a good night's rest. And most importantly, please help them get to school on time during these dates. All of these things could make their day a little less stressful. Here is a breakdown of upcoming dates:

March 2-12:	2 nd Grade ELA and Math 3 rd Quarter District Assessments
April 1-2:	3 rd Grade ELA FSA Assessment
April 2:	4 th & 5 th Grade Writing FSA Assessments
May 4-5:	4 th & 5 th Grade ELA FSA Assessments
May 6-7:	3 rd , 4 th & 5 th Grade Math FSA Assessments
May 13-14:	5 th Grade Science State Assessment
May 18-19:	2 nd Grade ELA End-of-Year District Assessment

April 27-May 15: Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade iReady End-of-Year Diagnostics

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 5	Kindergarten Round Up		
March 6	Early Release – 12:55pm		
March 7	Casino Night @ The Grove	April 4	Father/Daughter Dance
March 13	NO SCHOOL – Record Day	April 9	STEAM Night 6:15-7:45pm
March 16-20	SPRING BREAK	April 10	NO SCHOOL – Good Friday
March 23-27	Book Fair	April 15	Early Release – 1:40pm
March 25	SAC 5:15pm / PTO 6:15pm		
March 26	Conference Night		
March 27	Early Release – 12:55pm		