



A Century of Excellence

The Gopher Communicator

December 6, 2013

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John Koch, Principal



*An International Baccalaureate
World School*

Thank you to Easthill Church!

On November 16 the Easthill crew came to GHS for their twice-yearly Community Care Day. This time they focused on painting several classrooms that had not had new paint in many years. As always, thank you very much to every volunteer for your partnership and dedication to Gresham High School. Given these times of depleted resources, your assistance is much appreciated..

School and District Report Card Data

The Oregon Department of Education released the new report cards for Oregon's K-12 public schools this fall. The annual report cards provide parents and community members with an overview of each school's performance in the areas of academic achievement, attendance or graduation, participation in state testing, other school statistics, and an overall school rating. Please remember that this report is a summary of some indicators of school performance. No single report can tell the whole story of a school's educational program, or the people who work and learn there. At GHS we are proud to say that despite the severe lack of resources all schools have faced the past five years, GHS has continued to show steady growth and improvement. To truly learn about our schools, you are encouraged to visit them. Working together, we can ensure every one of our students is prepared for success!

Inclement Weather

The inclement weather season is upon us. Please be prepared by familiarizing yourself with applicable information such as where to locate real-time information about closures, delays, and snow routes. To learn more use the link below to go the Gresham-Barlow School District home page. On the left side of the page is a second link entitled "school closures". Click that link and you will find the needed information.

<http://www.gresham.k12.or.us/>

On the Gresham High School website there is also a link on the left side of the page entitled "school closures". In addition to the District link this link also lists radio and TV stations that broadcast emergency closure information as

well. Each of these stations maintains pages on their websites that provide real-time updates about closures as well. Also on the "closures" page is a link to the Flash Alert system. Although this system sometimes provides delayed notification, registration in this system will enable you to have real-time automated emergency alerts related to school sent via text message to your phone. The link is www.flashalert.net.

Things to Keep in Mind During School Closures

* If a delayed opening to school is called on a Wednesday the high schools will start at 9:35 am, middle schools at 11:05 am, and elementary schools at 10:35 am.

*If snow routes are called in the morning buses will remain on snow routes in the afternoon.

Parents: You can reduce the cost of student fees!

In schools throughout the district parents can purchase scrip. Scrip is basically store gifts cards purchased for groceries, entertainment, restaurants and retail store throughout the community. When people purchase these gift cards a percentage of the purchase price (varies by store) goes directly back to the Gresham-Barlow Education Foundation. The Education Foundation is a private organization whose primary mission is to support students and schools in the Gresham-Barlow School District.

Here is the kicker regarding fees! When parents or guardians purchase scrip an individual account is set up in your name at the Foundation. **From that account you can dedicate a portion of the proceeds given to the Foundation to pay your student's school fees.** In the end, paying fees actually costs you nothing—the stores you purchase from pay your fees via the percentage of money given to the Foundation. All parents have to do is contact the scrip manager at school to have your portion of the money sent to the bookkeeper at school

Foreign Language Credit Opportunity:

Students that are fluent in a language other than English, may qualify to take the Foreign Language Assessment Test (FLAT) and have a chance to earn up to 2 full high

school credits. If you know of any qualifiers, please make sure they are aware that registration for this test is open until December 9th. Test will be given on January 7th at Gresham High School. Students can sign up through the GHS website or pay the bookkeeper. The cost is \$50.

School Immunization Clinic

The following clinic is available to provide the required immunizations for school attendance:

Date: December 18, 2013

Time: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Location: Rosa Parks School, 8960 N. Woolsey, Portland, OR 97203

Attention All Sophomore Students!

Is ACE Academy in Your Future?

Are you interested in Architecture, Construction, or Engineering? The ACE Academy is hosting a FREE field trip on December 12th to their school. Students who attend will have the opportunity to participate in a fun activity while learning about the ACE Academy. ACE works in partnership with Gresham High School to provide Juniors and Seniors education and experience within one of the three areas of Architecture, Construction and Engineering within their school day. Please see Mrs. Blaser for more information.

Attention All Sophomore Students!

Is CAL in Your Future?

On December 17, the Center for Advanced Learning (CAL), located at 1484 NW Civic Drive in Gresham, is offering a Sophomore Shadow Day for students who are interested in knowing more about CAL's great programs! Students will participate in classes, receive a full tour, meet teachers, and take part in a question and answer session with students, teachers, and the director of CAL. CAL Ambassadors will meet participants at the CAL bus at GHS. Upon arrival at CAL, GHS students will work alongside CAL Ambassadors during their time at the school. This is a great opportunity to have a direct experience of what CAL offers.

Auto Dialer Phone Calls

Recently there have been a number of calls from school using the auto dialer system. The volume has been a concern of ours as well as some parents. For your information the 4 PM calls are attendance calls only. We make those early in the afternoon to meet our obligations regarding notification of absences. The evening calls are made to provide special announcements about events or information. Sometimes this means there will be two calls to a home in a day. Thank you for your cooperation with this system.