



New Glarus Elementary School



# News and Views

November/December 2019

## With Thankfulness



“Be thankful  
For what you have;  
You’ll end up  
Having more.  
If you concentrate on  
What you don’t have,  
You will never,  
Ever have enough.”  
~Oprah Winfrey



### NGES State Recognition for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports



The Wisconsin RtI Center has recognized New Glarus Elementary School for our PBIS work with Behavior at the Silver level for the past year. This state level recognition is for our work towards fully implementing a system that leads to improved student outcomes. This equitable system helps increase consistency of instruction, enhances staff skills, proactively provides supports for all learners, and builds stronger relationships. Thank you to families and staff who work together to build strong foundations for all students to be learners for life.



# Snack Time

The Classroom Snack Bag retired this year! Families are no longer asked to supply the elementary classrooms with shared snacks. To provide a safe environment for children with life-threatening allergies and to provide equitable access for snacks with the Morning Milk program, the New Glarus Elementary School is providing snacks for students during break.

Each grade level has its own snack time routine and plan. Snacks include goldfish crackers, pretzels, cereal options, and such. For birthday snacks, students can choose a special birthday treat. Examples of birthday treats include Cookies, Rice Krispie Bars, Jello Cups, Pudding Cups, etc. If your child has an allergy or sensitivity to gluten, food colorings, eggs, milk, etc., please be sure to contact your homeroom teacher to make a plan for individual snacks for your child.

## Parent Advocacy Team



## Winter Concert Times



The Elementary Winter Concert will be on **Thursday, December 5th**. We will be hosting two performances on the same evening.

**Kindergarten - 3rd grade** will perform at **6:00**.

**4th and 5th grade** will perform at **7:00**.

\*5th Grade band will also perform at the Winter Concert.

Three times throughout the year, the Parent Advocacy Team meets to discuss questions families may have about the school and to share feedback on everything from recess to homework. These meetings are open to all parents. Most recently, the team met for a conversation about traffic concerns, multitage classroom arrangements, and equity issues. Our next meeting will be in January. A specific date will be determined closer to that time. Come join us if you would like to learn more about what happens at school or have ideas you would like to share. All are welcome!



# Attendance

Attendance in school is critical to student success and learning. Our goal as a district is 95% attendance which is missing nine days or less in a school year. The state law allows 10 absences total for a school year.

Each month the district administrators meet with the Green County Human Services Truancy Coordinator to review student absences. They will provide support for children and families who need assistance in attending school regularly.

In an effort to be sure families are informed of their children's attendance, *automatic emails* are generated after **4 days** of missing school and again after **7 days** of absences. If there are special circumstances such as extended illnesses or emergencies affecting your child's attendance, be sure to keep the office informed.

# After School Plans

When the need arises to change your child's after school plan, please notify the office by **2:30**. We have a document that tracks when parents call and the plan changes. Teachers review the document before dismissal. However, there are times the last chance to review the document is at recess time at the end of the day. Therefore, if plans change after 2:30 it is difficult to guarantee everyone is going to know about it. Thanks for your help!!

# Traffic Flow



This was a topic at the last Parent Advocacy Meeting as well as many other conversations in the district! As many of you know, if you drop off your children at school, traffic can be quite congested.

We have recently had a few incidents with students nearly getting hit by cars. We need to put safety first. Here are a few things everyone needs to know about traffic flow, especially those who drop off in the morning to keep everyone safe.



**\*NO parking or dropping off** in the front parking lot. This is a **staff parking and bus ONLY** lot in the mornings.

\*If you need to **park and walk** children into the building, use the **Veterans Park** parking lot.

\*The **Kiss and Fly** is for drop off along the west side of the building.

\***Enter** at the far south driveway

\***Exit** at the middle driveway.

\***NO Exit** at the driveway by the crosswalk

\*Make a **U-turn** at the end of the Kiss and Fly drop off line and exit at the middle driveway.

\*We are getting signs to have the middle driveway (exit driveway) be a **Right Turn Only** between **7:30-8:30 AM**. Once we have signs, we will let you know the start date. However, if drivers could start getting into the habit of turning right only from the exit, it would be a huge help.



## Meet the 4K Team

Back row (L to R):

**Mrs. Hooks** - Mrs. Hooks is in her 17th year at NGES. She started as an intern in Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd grade and has taught a Title I preschool class, Kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, & 5th grade, and now 4K. Outside of school, she enjoys gardening, spending time with family, photography, and time on the beach!

**Mrs. Brecklin** - Mrs. Brecklin is in her 22nd year at NGES. She has taught Kindergarten, 1st Grade, and 4K. In her free time, Mrs. Brecklin enjoys Broadway musicals!

Front row (L to R):

**Mrs. Truttman** - This is Mrs. Truttman's 14th year in the district, one in food service and the rest in 4K. She loves yoga and is a certified yoga instructor! She is Broadway musical fan, too.

**Mrs. Dorn** - This is Mrs. Dorn's 20th year in the district. She has been a special education assistant, and now is in her third year in 4K. Mrs. Dorn has seven children who have all graduated from NGSD! She lives on a dairy farm and rents a vacation home, but during her free time she enjoys spending time with her grandchildren.



## Lunch and Recess

Lunch and recess are two important times of the day for students to socialize and interact with one another. We all enjoy a break in the middle of our busy days!

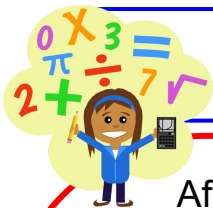
A local news station recently did a survey regarding lunch times for students, and based on the Facebook feedback, it is important for parents to know how lunch and recess work at New Glarus Elementary School.

- ❖ All grades, K-5th, have a 30 minute recess first, and then a 30 minute lunch time. One hour, everyday, is a recess/lunch break for students which is probably more than most adults have! Having recess first allows students to play and expend energy before sitting down to eat. It also insures students don't rush through their meal, or throw most of it away, to get to recess.
- ❖ Being in the cafeteria and timing the lunch line, the longest students are in line is approximately seven to eight minutes on average. This means they still have at least 20 minutes to eat. Cold lunch students go in and sit down as soon as they have washed their hands. In fact, some classrooms leave the lunch room a few minutes early because students are finished eating and start to get antsy waiting the full 30 minutes that is designated.
- ❖ Grades K-3rd also have an additional 15 minute morning recess and a 15 minute afternoon recess. 4th and 5th graders have a 15 minute break scheduled in the afternoon. However, 5th grade band students get ready for full band on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays during this time.

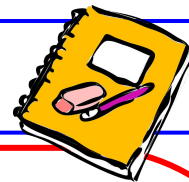
Here is the K-5 schedule:

K/1st - 9:35-9:50 AM recess, 10:50-11:20 recess, 11:20-11:50 lunch, 2:50-3:05 PM recess  
2nd/3rd - 9:25-9:40 AM recess, 12:00-12:30 recess, 12:30-1:00 lunch, 2:30-2:45 PM recess  
4th/5th - 11:25-11:55 recess, 11:22-12:25 lunch, 2:15-2:30 PM recess





# No Homework??



After reviewing [research](#) and discussing homework as staff, we came to a decision to eliminate traditional homework at the elementary building in the Fall of 2016. Because we all grew up with the “do you have homework” question as students, it is hard for adults to accept no homework as an acceptable standard of practice.

Additional [research](#) shows that for elementary students, time in class yields superior learning results while extra work at home is simply extra work and not really learning. In fact, it can have a negative impact on children’s attitudes of school.

Some families have asked what they can do instead of homework to help their children succeed. The blog, [Happy You, Happy Family](#), had a great article about what we can do everyday to raise bright, kind children - read to them, even if they know how to read to themselves. I would encourage you to take a peek at this article. It is worth reading and ties into our expectations at NGES for homework:

\*Read everyday for enjoyment

\*Experience math with real life activities

Real life activities can include cooking (measurement/fractions), shopping (money/adding/subtracting), sharing treats (fractions), and such activities. Your children work hard at school which is their “job” and should be able to enjoy stress free evenings and weekends with family to play and simply be children. And you should enjoy this time with them as well!



## Thanksgiving Meal Sign Up



For the past 4 years, Taher and the New Glarus School District Food Service Program have provided Thanksgiving meals to families in need. Thanksgiving meals feed a family of 4. It is that time of year again. If families are experiencing difficulties or hardships, you may request a Thanksgiving meal by contacting [Rebecca.derke@ngsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:Rebecca.derke@ngsd.k12.wi.us) or by calling any school office. **Requests are due by November 12<sup>th</sup>.**

# Knights of the Month

Last year, the New Glarus Elementary School started the Knight of the Month award. Students in each homeroom choose a peer they feel is a great example of a Knight, a student who is respectful, responsible, and safe as well as someone who is kind, a good friend, helps others, and makes good choices. Each month the students select a Knight of the Month from their homeroom. **Congratulations Knights!!**



## September 2019 Knights

- Lauren Martinez - KB
- Emmett Lamb - KW
- JT Sandlin - K/1L
- Lev Bartlett - K/1R
- Ellie Shepherd - 1B
- Ashton Goecks - 1D
- Dane Schmitz - 1H
- Alice Boyle - 2N
- Graycee Andreas - 2M
- Wyatt Coon - 2/3A
- Hadley Ness - 2/3B
- Nicole Burton - 2/3S
- Maci Boley - 3A
- Brynna Lamb - 3P
- Corbin Schneeberg - 4Sg
- Liam Hedeman - 4V
- Evelyn Beal - 4/5M
- Taydon DeRouin - 4/5S
- Kofi Belknap - 4/5E
- Emma Funk - 5N
- Finian Hoepfer - 5B

# September October Highlights



## First Day of School



## Knighting Ceremony



# September/October Highlights

## Homecoming



## Halloween Parade and Dance



# Important Dates



November 3 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

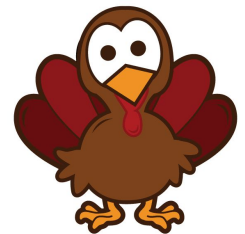
November 5 - PTO Mtg. @ 6:30

November 11 - Veterans Day Program @ 10:00, Green & Gold Order Pick Up, Board Mtg. @ 7:15



November 26 - NO School/Inservice, End of First Trimester

November 25-29 - Thanksgiving Break



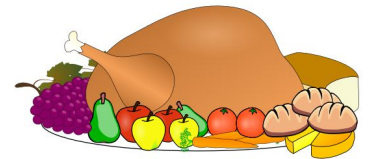
December 3 - PTO Mtg. @ 6:30



December 5 - Winter Concert  
K-3 @ 6:00, 4-5 @ 7:00

December 9 - K-5 Green & Gold Celebration, Board Mtg. @ 7:15

December 13 - Holiday Luncheon



December 23-January 1 - Winter Break

January 2 - School Resumes

