

Ram Gazette

A publication of the Georgia O'Keeffe PTA

November 28, 2011

Ram Calendar

12/5-9 Winter Book Fair

12/6 PTA mtg. 8:10am @ PTA room

12/14 FOL mtg. 12:30pm @ library

12/19-30 No School for Winter Break

Child ID Program

The Child ID Program will be at Georgia O'Keeffe, on Tuesday, Dec. 06 to PHOTOGRAPH, FINGERPRINT, WEIGH and MEASURE children. Participation in the program is at the individual parent's option. A fee will be charged; depending on the package chosen. The parents will be provided with a wallet size ID card (similar to a driver's license) with the information about their child, in addition, if a cell phone number and the carrier is one that is listed, a MMS of the card will be sent to the phone for the children participating. An application envelope with additional information about The Child ID Program will be sent home about one week before the program date. Children can enter to win a pizza party with the return of the Child ID envelope. Siblings are welcome.

PTA Reflections Entries

The deadline to enter this year's Reflections contest is almost here! Entries need to be submitted by Wednesday, November 30. All entries should reflect the theme "Diversity Means...." For questions about categories and rules or to download an entry form, please visit http://www.ptareflections.org/cs/student_entry_form.

We also need some volunteers to help judge all the amazing, creative Reflections entries the students have worked so hard on. If you or someone you know would be interested in judging, please contact Elaine Peabody at elainepeabody@hotmail.com.

S-P-E-L-L-I-N-G Bee!

We're bringing back the spelling bee! It's been several years, but now students ages 9 and older at GOK will have the opportunity to participate in a spelling bee! During the week of November 28, each class will be administered a written spelling test. These tests will be graded and any student scoring an 85% or above will qualify for the school spelling bee, which will be held during the week of December 12.

One class in each grade with the highest percentage of students who qualify for the school bee will win a pizza party! The winners from our school spelling bee will move on to compete in the county spelling bee. Good luck kiddos!

If for any reason you would not like your child to participate in the GOK spelling bee, please email Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net including your child's name and teacher with the subject line "spelling bee opt out."

Note: Last week's gazette stated that students in grades 2-5 would be able to participate. Unfortunately, we were given incorrect information and have since been told by the district bee coordinator that students must be at least 9 years old to participate. Sorry for the confusion!

APS Calendar Changing

After taking no action on two proposed calendars last week, APS board members sent the 2012-13 school calendar back to be reworked by an expanded committee made up of more parents and students as well as community representatives, principals, union representatives and administrators. Board members felt that the Aug. 13 start date proposed by the original calendar committee was too early. A second proposal submitted by the superintendent started a week later, on Aug. 20, but shortened winter break and cut fall break and Presidents Day.

Both proposed calendars included several four-day school weeks, which concerned some board members.

The board sent the calendar back to the committee and asked that more parents and students be involved in the process. The board also invited public input, asking that suggestions and concerns be emailed to boarded@aps.edu

The expanded committee will meet later this month with a goal of submitting a revised calendar to the board's policy committee in December.

The committee has to consider many issues when developing the school year calendar including required instructional time for students, union contracts, payroll requirements, federal holidays, testing dates, make-up days, community partnerships and tradition. For example, the APS school year traditionally has ended before Memorial Day, though weather make-up days have been included after the late-May holiday. Including make-up days during the school year could result in more four-day school weeks.

Another tradition is a two-week winter break, though that would mean students wouldn't return to class until the second week of January in 2013.

The first day of school for the past few years has been in mid-August, though some board members expressed concerns that the early start date results in increased cooling costs and air conditioning problems for schools.

After School Performances December 6

Come join us on December 6 at 6:00 in the O'Keeffe cafeteria for after school performances by our Spanish Club, Drama Club and Poetry in Motion Clubs and shop at our FOL Book Fair in the library from 5:30-7:30.

Doña María's fabulous and talented After-School Spanish class, that meets weekly on Thursdays, will start off the program with some of the songs of this semester's repertoire. Doña María is thrilled with this semester's group of kids who not only show off their Spanish talents but also their music talents. The program has grown so much in popularity that we're thinking about offering it another afternoon. Enjoy "la música", sing along if you wish, and 'Feliz Navidad'!

"Live! It's Fairy Tale News" will be performed by 23 thespians in grades 2-5. These students, directed by Robin Gates, have worked hard twice a week since September to bring you a fun fractured fairy tale that will be enjoyed by all ages.

Rounding up the program our Poetry in Motion group will recite, perform, and sing renditions of original and popular poems for children directed by Ms. Huggins and accompanied by Scott Barker and Ms. Huggins.

Enjoy an evening of performances and have fun shopping for good books all in one night!

HELP GOK WIN A \$25,000 GRANT!

There are only two more weeks to vote for GOK in the Clorox Power A Bright Future grant contest. We have over 1,400 votes so far, but we still need alot more! Please continue to vote everyday for the next two weeks. Send reminders to your family and friends, put the information on Facebook, and vote, vote, vote. Your vote can make a difference and help GOK win a \$25,000 grant to build an outdoor learning ecosystem and garden. Remember, the winners of the grants are based solely on the number of votes received. We can not win this grant without your help! There are two easy ways to vote. You can text clorox7569 to 44144 or vote online at <http://www.powerabrightfuture.com/gallery/detail/?nid=1325>. Vote often, spread the word, and feel good about the effort you are making to bring a unique and interesting new learning environment to your child(ren)'s school!

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Lost & Found

Just a reminder that any lost items are in put in the lost & found area which is located in the school's foyer/entry hall. Any items that were left after parent conferences will be donated to the PTA clothing bank.

Submitting Gazette Articles

A quick reminder if you have something to submit for the Gazette, **Sunday night, 6:00 p.m. is the deadline. If entry is not submitted by deadline it will be added the following week. Feel free to use this wonderful information resource to spread the word about upcoming events. Send articles to Jessica Pascua at ram.gazette@gmail.com.**

Get all the school news you need right here in your Gazette!