

Ram Gazette

A publication of the Georgia O'Keeffe PTA

September 5, 2011

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!

Ram Calendar

09/6 Ice Cream Social @ 6:30p.m, cafeteria

09/13 Individual Pictures

09/14 FOL Meeting @12:30p.m., library

10/7 No School for Fall Break

10/14 PTA Meeting @ 8:10a.m, PTA Room

11/11 No School for Veteran's Day

Parent Rep Needed for IC

We are in need of a parent representative to sit on the GOK Instructional Council (IC). The IC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2:10pm for one hour. The first meeting will be 9/21/11. Ideally (but not required), the parent rep would also be able to attend PTA meetings and FOL meetings, held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 8:10am and the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 12:30pm, respectively. The IC is made up of our principal, instructional coach, a parent rep, grade level reps, and goal team reps (math, reading, writing, etc). Curriculum, testing, schedules, policies, and more are discussed. Contact Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net with questions or to volunteer.

I Scream, You Scream . . .

The whole family is invited! Don't miss the PTA Ice Cream Social! Tuesday, September 6 at 6:30pm in the cafeteria. Have some yummy ice cream, meet new friends, and find out what's happening at GOK! (Best of all, it's FREE!)

Volunteer Background Checks

To help protect our children, any volunteer that spends time at GOK should first complete the APS Background Check. Start out by picking up a signed form in the office and take it, with payment, to the APS offices. This year the cost is \$18. If you submit your receipt to the PTA mailbox with your name, address, child's name, and teacher the PTA and FOL will reimburse the fee. The PTA and FOL support safety measures taken for our children and thank you for doing your part! The background check needs to be re-done every two years. To find out when your last check was performed talk to Amoreena in the office. The APS Background Check is not optional – if you plan on volunteering in the classroom, library, doing collaboration, or going on field trips you need to complete this process.

Let APS Hear Your Thoughts!

You're invited! Please join Superintendent Winston Brooks and the APS Board of Education to discuss the goals of Albuquerque Public Schools. They want to hear from us! You can attend any of the scheduled meetings or send your comments to boarded@aps.edu .

W 9/7 6-8pm Ernie Pyle Middle School Auditorium/Cafeteria, 1820 Valdora Dr SW

Tu 9/20 6-8pm LBJ Middle School Cafeteria/Commons, 6811 Taylor Ranch Dr NW

Th 9/29 6-8pm Jefferson Middle School Media Center, 712 Girard NE

Tu 10/18 6-8pm Sandia High School Media Center, 7801 Candelaria NE

W 10/19 6-8pm Desert Ridge Middle School Media Center/Commons, 8400 Barstow NE

Th 11/17 6-8pm Manzano High School Cafeteria, 12200 Lomas Blvd NE

Let the Clubs Begin!

The after school club program at GOK begins this week! You should have received confirmation emails over the weekend letting you know what clubs your children are registered for. With questions, email Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net .

After School Clubs at GOK

GOK students are offered several options for after school fun. Besides clubs that require payment from families (band, Spanish, YMCA, etc) there is the EMSI, or Elementary/Middle School Initiative, that is sponsored by the City of Albuquerque. Registration information for these free clubs was sent home last Thursday in the Ram Folders and was also posted on the web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/gokemsi/> . Because of GOK's new school hours the EMSI clubs will require more help from willing parents. Any club being taught by a GOK staff member cannot begin until 2:30pm. The students participating in the clubs will be able to stay in the school library between 2:00 and 2:30, but supervision is needed. If you can give half an hour for one or more days per week to supervise these kids, please email Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net . Without supervision for these kids during this half hour the after school program will have to be cancelled. On any given day there will be about 40 kids to watch. The students will be required to sit quietly reading or doing homework. Find a friend, and sign up together! Thank you for helping this program to be a success!

Join Girl Scouts now!

Attend our Troop Organization night on September 14, 2011 at Eisenhower Middle School from 6:30pm- 7:30pm to find out how. What did you do today? Girls are coming together to join Girl Scouts and participate in troops, events, camp, travel, program, series, and virtual. If you can think it, you can do it! Your daughter can make friends and learn new things as she discovers her world. Girls and adults can participate in a way that fits your schedule! DON'T WAIT! Volunteers are needed to co-lead troops or for events and programs. Please call Amanda at 505-923-2521 to find out how to join or visit our website at www.nmgirlscouts.org.

Cub Scouts

Is your 1st through 5th grade boy interested in joining Cub Scouts? Stop by any of our events with your child for fun activities. All siblings welcome. <https://beascout.scouting.org>

For information contact Monica Camarillo at 856-5651 or mcserrana@yahoo.com.

2010-2011 Yearbooks

If you missed out on getting your yearbook last May, it's not too late! We have a few left that we are selling for a steal - \$15 - that's less than our cost! To get your own book of memories, contact Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net .

PTA Budget Revisions

The proposed PTA budget for the 2011-2012 school year will be on display this week in the window of the PTA room (in the cafeteria) and also on the PTA web site (<https://sites.google.com/site/gokpta/>). The budget will be voted on for approval at the September 6, 2011 PTA meeting. Any parent or community member that holds a current GOK PTA membership is welcome to comment, question, or approve/disapprove of the budget.

Get Involved at GOK!

It takes everyone to make GOK the excellent school that it is. Below are descriptions (and time commitments) of the PTA committees at GOK. Please email Tami at mtbaker@comcast.net to add your name to a committee list. Remember that without enough volunteers some events or

programs will not be held. Committee sign-up sheets will also be at the PTA Ice Cream Social to be held Tuesday, September 6, at 6:30pm in the cafeteria.

Retail Programs

Advertise, collect, and maintain enrollment forms, Box Tops, and Albertson's cards. All year.

Spring Fundraiser

Distribute pledge sheets, work with committees to carry out event, work on day of event, collect and process funds, solicit donations, design and carry out reward parties. April.

Fall Fundraiser – Need Committee Chair!

Distribute ordering materials to students, process and distribute orders. August, September.

Craft Fair

Work on a team to solicit vendors and organize craft fair. Assist in set up/clean up. November.

Technology Fundraiser – Need Committee Chair!

Plan and implement entertainment. Solicit donations and run silent auction. March.

Community Fundraising

Manage fundraiser's such as Dion's night, Cliff's, Peeler Cards, etc. All year.

Individual/Class Pictures

Schedule, advertise and distribute pictures. October.

Yearbook

Take club pictures and help distribute yearbooks. All year.

Student Directory

Help collate and staple student directories. August/September.

School Supply Drive – Need Committee Chair!

Take orders and distribute kits. April/May and August/September (next year).

Ram Folders

Solicit advertising; distribute. May and August (next year).

End of the Year Party – Need Committee Chair!

Schedule, advertise and implement end of year party. May (April planning).

Enrichment – Need Committee Chair!

Organize and execute fine arts or other programs that complement student curriculum. All year.

Hospitality

Prepare food and help with setup/clean-up for PTA functions. Assist with monthly staff luncheons. All year.

Green Team

Plan, organize, and implement events and awareness at GOK. All year.

Teacher Appreciation

Plan and implement teacher appreciation activities for GOK staff. All year.

5th Grade Party – Need Committee Chair!

Plan and supervise end-of-the-year 5th grade party. May (April planning).

Mini-Grants – Need Committee Chair!

Distribute info. to teachers, collect, and assemble team to score grant. Once per each semester.

Spelling Bee – Need Committee Chair!

Plan and conduct spelling bee. All year.

Box Tops for Education

Dear GOK parents,

My name is Katharine Fishman and I am the head of the Retail Committee here at GOK. One of my jobs is to serve as the volunteer Box Tops coordinator for GOK.

This year, our goal is to raise \$3,000 for the PTA. Here are three easy, everyday ways you can help:

Clip - Clip the Box Top from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. We will be announcing the submission deadline for the Fall soon along with fabulous incentives for each class and individual students which bring in the most Box Tops! Each Box Top is worth 10 cents when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education. If you visit www.rewardyourschool.com and register your shopping card, you can get 5 Box Tops just for registering!

Shop online - Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace (boxtops4education.com/marketplace). Up to 15 eBox Tops per \$10 spent on qualifying purchases is automatically donated to our school, at no additional cost to you. Plus, you'll get exclusive Box Tops deals and discounts!

Read - Buy books online through the Reading Room, a partnership between Box Tops and Barnes and Noble. Our school receives up to 6 eBox Tops per \$10 spent on qualifying purchases.

Not sure where to find Box Top coupons? I have attached a flyer that will help you learn which products contain Box Tops. And, for a limited time, some of these products each have four Box Tops! Time to stock up!

Also, feel free to visit www.boxtops4education.com to learn more about Box Tops and to register to win 1,000 Box Tops for our school!

Smith's Rewards

Do you want to help raise money for GOK but don't have the time? One of the easiest ways to earn money for GOK is by registering your Smith's Rewards card! That way every time you shop you automatically earn money for GOK. It's that simple!

To enroll, simply present the attached letter and your Rewards card to your cashier during your next visit to Smith's. Your cashier will scan the barcode on the letter to link GOK to your card. Then, whenever you use your Rewards card to shop, you help to earn money for GOK!

You must re-enroll EACH YEAR. So even if you have participated in the program before, you must present the attached letter again in order to link your card to GOK.

The letter will also be available in the office if you would like to pick one up. Or, if you would like, a letter can be sent home with your child. Just email me at kfishman@lafalin.com and I will see to it that the letter is sent home in your child's backpack.

Be sure to give the letter to your relatives, friends and neighbors. The more purchases made by participants linked to GOK, the more GOK will earn!