

GEMS Fieldwork Permission Slips

Last week, each of you should have received new Parental/Guardian Consent and Release forms for your student. This is a new procedure aimed toward all students being able to participate in all expeditions, fieldwork, and fieldtrips without needing to have a new permission slip filled out for each trip. If you haven't already, please return this form to the front desk as soon as possible! If you need a new copy, please contact the office at 253-4001. In addition, details of upcoming fieldwork will always be mailed home at least 7 days in advance.

Parent Group Meetings!

The GEMS parent group has been actively meeting together monthly and working on a variety of projects and fundraisers! The group meets monthly on either Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Join us for the next meeting on January 25th at 7 pm.

We hope to see you there!

Proof of Address Needed!

A new state audit requirement is causing us to need a valid proof of address on file for each student enrolled at GEMS. The proof of address must be for the parent or legal guardian of the student. If the parent of the student is not in state, then legal documentation of an in-state guardian must be provided.

Valid proof of address can be confirmed with any of the following forms:

- Utility bill
- Lease of mortgage agreement
- Bank statement
- Voter registration
- Drivers license

Please return your proof of address to the office. We will gladly make copies of documentation brought to our office. Electronic versions (i.e. scanned and attached to an email) are also acceptable and can be emailed to Miss Pulliam at pulliam.1@gemsschool.org. Thank you!

New Staff Members!

We have hired two new staff members who will begin at GEMS in January. Please join us in welcoming Janice and Stephanie!

Janice Gray

Intervention Specialist

Stephanie Waldeck

Math and Science Teacher



JOIN US: WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!!

GEMS has many volunteer opportunities available for YOU! We can use help with lunch monitoring, chaperones for field work, and special events.

We also have a fundraiser coming up on March 5th, 2010 called *Have A Heart*. This is an annual fundraiser to support our schools. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Emilie Cattrell at cattrell.1@gemsschool.org. The next parent volunteer meeting is January 8th.

Upcoming Dates

December 18th - January 3rd
Winter break: *NO SCHOOL!*

January 3rd
Professional Development Day:
NO SCHOOL!

January 4th
First day of school-students return from
winter break.

January 8th (11:30 am)
Have A Heart Parent Volunteer meeting

January 12th
Enrollment Information Session

January 17th
Martin Luther King Jr. Day: *NO
SCHOOL!*

January 25th (7:00 pm)
Parent Group Meeting

January 26th
Enrollment Information Session

Get Involved!

Market Day: We need your support! GEMS receives a portion of profits for all groceries sales through Market Day. Payment can be made through cash, check, credit card, or Ohio Direction Card. Our next order is due on January 11th with pick up on January 14th. We hope to see you there!

Soup Labels and Box Tops! GEMS is now collecting Campbell Soup Labels and Box tops for Education! Please bring your labels and box tops to the GEMS office and drop them off in the collection box.

Expeditionary Learning Design Principals

1. The Primacy of Self-Discovery
2. The Having of Wonderful Ideas
3. The Responsibility for Learning
4. Intimacy and Caring
5. Success and Failure
6. Collaboration and Competition
7. Diversity and Inclusivity
8. The Natural World
9. Solitude and Reflection
10. Service and Compassion

The Ten Design Principles are our best short statement of the philosophy of education and core values of Outward Bound and Expeditionary Learning. They focus our attention on what is important, and give us something to go back to when we need guidance. The language is therefore direct and uncompromising.

“Learning is an expedition into the unknown. Expeditions draw together personal experience and intellectual growth to promote self-discovery and construct knowledge. We believe that adults should guide students along this journey with care, compassion, and respect for their diverse learning styles, backgrounds, and needs. Addressing individual differences profoundly increases the potential for learning and creativity of each student.”