

GEMS

Graham Expeditionary Middle School

Monthly Newsletter

October, 2011

Upcoming Dates:

10/19

Invited Parent-Teacher Conferences

10/20

Open House Conferences

10/21

Capital Day – No School

10/22

GEMS clean-up day:
10am – 12pm

10/24-26

Fieldwork to Camp Mary Orton

10/26

Halloween Dance

10/27-28

PD DAYS – No School

11/9

Parent Group Meeting

Clean-up Day

Join us on Saturday, October 22nd, from 10am – 12pm to help clean up the grounds on GEMS' new property. We will be working on trimming trees and shrubs, picking up trash, weeding the backyard garden, and replacing rotting wood.

Below are a list of tools that would be handy, so please bring them if you can:

- hedge clippers
- hedge trimmers (gas or battery powered)
- weed whackers
- loppers
- push brooms
- dust pans
- rakes or leaf blowers

Parent - Teacher Conferences

Invited Conferences – Wednesday, October 19:

These are set up by the GEMS office by appointment only

Open house conferences – Thursday, October 20:

These are open to the entire GEMS family -
come anytime between 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Student-Led Conferences – NOT THIS WEEK!!!

Our first round of SLCs will take place at the end of the term in early December

Supply Drive

We are helping a refugee family from Rwanda who arrived in the U.S. a few weeks ago. From now through October 26, GEMS is collecting goods to help this family in transition. The family has 10 members and a baby

due any day! They are in need of basic, everyday things that

don't expire and can be stored without refrigeration. These things include the following:

- Laundry detergent
- Hair care products for African-American hair
- Hygiene items such as soap and dental products
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Dried & canned food, especially beans and rice



Boy Scouts of America

If you are interested, the Buckeye District of the Boys Scouts of America is hosting an information meeting on Tuesday, October 18th from 7:00pm – 8:30pm at 48 N. Broadway, Columbus, OH. If you have further questions, please contact Bob Bryan via e-mail at buckeye_transition@columbusrr.com.



Detentions

GEMS files detentions in a way that helps students take responsibility for their actions. We have also designed the process to include family members as much as possible. All detentions are given in connection to a violation of both a school policy (i.e. chewing gum, classroom disruption) and one of the 10 EL Design Principles. Students are asked to complete the detention form and explain the actions that were worthy of receiving a detention. Then, the information is stored in our database, copies of the detentions are mailed home to each family, and students are scheduled to serve either a lunch or after school detention. After four lunch detentions, students will be scheduled to serve an afterschool detention. Students who have not been given a detention for a period of one month will have one detention reduced from their record. A student will never

have less than zero detentions on their record. Hopefully through this process, we can help students make good choices while at school that will enhance everyone's school experiences and make GEMS a safe and healthy

Parent Involvement

Please mark your calendars for our next Parent Group meeting – Wednesday, November 9th at 6:00pm in the GEMS library. If you have items of interest or concern to be raised, please e-mail our Parent Group leader, Windi Noble, at wjnoble@yahoo.com. Thank you to everyone who came to our first meeting and helped to make it a successful start.

Camp Mary Orton

Next week we will be going to Camp Mary Orton in Worthington for school-wide community development. We will be outside and doing group activities with professional staff from Camp Mary Orton. Part of this opportunity is the requirement that their Leadership & Challenge Center Participation Form. Please fill this form out (it was handed out on Monday to students) and return it by this Thursday, October 20th. Thank you!

