



# GARDNER GAZETTE

December 2023

**Please remember to leave a message on the attendance line if your child is going to be absent or late to school, 618-939-3060. School starts at 8:00 am**

## From Principal Huels

I cannot believe that December has arrived. It feels like school just started a few weeks ago! With December arriving this week, we will start to focus on our next incentive event, Reindeer Games, on December 19. Students without behavior referrals will enjoy this event the most.

In an effort to have students remember themes from *Fish In a Tree*, I have created a writing contest due on December 5. While our word contest at the beginning of the year had a correct answer, this contest does not. Students will write a RACES paragraph to explain which passage in the book is most important to our life at Gardner. I will be looking for impressive ideas and writing. Please encourage your child to consider this writing opportunity, and we have copies of the book available in the office.

We had some tired eyes and bodies at school as we returned from Thanksgiving break. Already this week, I have talked to students and parents who share that screen time, especially late at night, has become a problem. If you need to consider new habits at home, please [take a look at this link](#) about sleep habits or hygiene for children. In addition, here is a recommended link called [Childrens MD, Helping Moms on the Go](#) that offers helpful ideas on several topics. Feel free to contact me or Mrs. Ehrenstrom if you need another opinion. Sleep is so important, especially during winter and the holidays. Life is even better when we can all feel rested.

If you face some challenges at home with screen time, please consider [listening to a podcast](#) with pediatrician, Dr. Meg Meeker, who offers a helpful perspective. In addition, [Common Sense Media](#) can help you make decisions about what your child watches or listens to. Inappropriate language at school concerns me, so please consider making careful choices regarding music, videos, and games.

I am already thinking about plans for January and February. Now that I know more students, I would enjoy meeting more Gardner parents, and parenting is a really hard job. Take a look at this [Parent Academy](#) idea, and please RSVP if you are interested in meeting new people. Thank you!

WCUSD5 would love to find some new substitute teachers as the year continues. If you or someone you know is interested or curious about getting started, please call me at school, 618-939-3060, or send me an email, [ahuels@wcusd5.net](mailto:ahuels@wcusd5.net). I would love to answer your questions and help you accomplish the first steps. Our substitute teachers are so important in our life at school.

Wishing you a wonderful December!



## Band and Chorus News

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade Christmas Band and Chorus Concert is Tuesday, December 5 at 7:00 p.m. in the gym. Band members will need to be in the music room by 6:30 p.m. Chorus members will need to be in the music room by 6:50 p.m. This is a “dress-up” concert. Look your best, no jeans. Girls, please wear skirts, dresses, or nice pants. Boys, please wear nice shirts and pants. Ties are optional but encouraged. Santa hats that do no light up or make sounds, or move may be worn.

## Tree of Lights

Gardner Elementary students will once again collect money for the Waterloo Rotary Tree of Lights Campaign from December 4th to December 15th. SHOW students will sell candy canes in the mornings from 7:40 to 7:55. With each donation of \$0.50 or more, students will receive a candy cane. Money collected helps to assist needy families in Monroe County throughout the year, and especially during the holiday season. We will use the trees outside of the office to track our progress. Our goal this year is to raise \$1,000.00. The first tree will be lit up when we have \$100 in donations. The next trees will be lit when we have reached the \$400, \$750, and \$1,000 milestones. Please help us light up our forest of trees!



## Food Drive

The food drive for the House of Neighborly Services was a huge success! Thank you to everyone who donated items. Gardner families donated 700 items. The winning class was Mrs. Cooper’s class, bringing in 98 items. SHOW students helped to box, bag, and load items! We thank them for their help!

## 12 days of Christmas

Gardner students are invited to join in on the fun with the 12 “dress up” days of Christmas beginning on December 5th. A flyer will all the dates and information is on the last page.

## Half day of school

Friday, December 8th is a half day of school for students. Town students will be dismissed at 11:10 and bus students will be dismissed at 11:25, or once traffic has cleared and the buses can enter the parking lot.



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## December Calendar

Dec. 4th - 15th - Tree of Lights Campaign  
 Dec. 5th - 20th - 12 Days of Dress up  
 Dec. 8th - Half day for students, 11:10 town students dismissed, 11:25 bus students dismissed  
 Dec. 20th - last day for students. End of 2nd quarter  
 Dec. 21st - Jan.3rd - Holiday break  
 Jan. 4th - Students return to school

### December lunch calendar

## WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS December 2023 ZAHNOW—ROGERS—GARDNER

2ND	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
DW ER LA IP					1 Bosco Sticks with Marinara Sauce with Celery with Sunbutter and Strawberries <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Bagel with Cream Cheese and Fresh Fruit
G C R H I E L S D E	4 Popcorn Chicken w/ Crackers and Green Peas Fresh Apple Slices <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Funnel Cake with Fresh Fruit	5 Hot Dog with Steamed Carrots and Tropical Fruit <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Breakfast Pizza with Fresh Fruit	6 Pizza Crunchers Garden Salad and Applesauce <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Sausage Egg Biscuit and Fresh Fruit	7 Walking Taco with Cowboy Caviar and Orange Smiles <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Donut and Fresh Fruit	8 <b>1/2 DAY SCHOOL</b> <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Poptart and Fresh Fruit
S S U A N N B D T R	11 BBQ Pork Sandwich with Smiley Fries and Apricots <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Breakfast Muffin with Fresh Fruit	12 Cheese Pizza Grape Tomatoes and Grapes <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Cinnamon Roll with Fresh Fruit	13 Soft Pretzel w/ Cheese with Green Beans and Applesauce ** <b>BIRTHDAY TREAT</b> ** <b>BRKFAST:</b> Breakfast on a Stix & Fresh Fruit	14 Soft Taco Refried Beans and Banana <b>BREAKFAST:</b> French Toast Sticks with Syrup and Fresh Fruit	15 Fish Sticks on Bread with Steamed Broccoli and Fruit Slushy <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Breakfast Bagel and Fresh Fruit
L S U T N A C C H K R	18 Hamburger on Bun French Fries and Mixed Fruit Cup <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Mini Pancakes & Fresh Fruit	19 <b>PIZZA HUT CHEESE PIZZA</b> Baby Carrots and Peaches <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Breakfast Muffin w/ Fresh Fruit 	20 Corn Dog with Celery w/ Ranch and Pears <b>BREAKFAST:</b> Donut and Fresh Fruit	21 <b>WINTER BREAK</b> 	22 <b>WINTER BREAK</b> 
	25 <b>MERRY CHRISTMAS</b> 	26 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	27 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	28 <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	29 <b>NO SCHOOL</b> 





**Dear Parents and Students,**

**We have many blessings to be thankful for during this holiday season. Wouldn't it be nice to share some Christmas cheer?**

**SHOW will be selling candy canes for \$0.50 each to go to the Waterloo Rotary Tree of Lights. All the proceeds from this fundraiser go to help families and organizations in need, right here in Monroe County!**

**SHOW will be accepting donations December 4th - 15th in the morning 7:40-7:55. Please consider making a donation.**

**Happy holidays!**



## GARDNER ELEMENTARY

### 12 "DRESS UP" DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

#### Week 1

- Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - *Sweater Weather* - favorite holiday sweater (cute or ugly)
- Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> - *Feelin' Fuzzy* - favorite holiday socks
- Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> - *Holiday Glow Up* - wear something shiny or bright
- Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> - *Frozen Friday* - favorite flannel



#### Week 2

- Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - *Holiday hair* - favorite holiday headgear
- Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> - *Rudolph ready* - wear red
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> - *Bells will be ringing* - wear gray or silver
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> - *Gettin' Grinchy* - wear green
- Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - *Vacay is on the way* - favorite vacation shirt



#### Week 3

- Dec. 18 - *Feelin' Frosty* - wear white
- Dec. 19 - *Christmas is a comin'* - wear red and green-reindeer games
- Dec. 20 - *Merry mornin'* wear your favorite PJs

