



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.

From Principal Huels

While January has raced by and we have celebrated our 100th Day, we are looking forward to February events, including our St. Jude's Math-a-Thon, Kindness Week, our Fifth Grade Spelling Bee, and Read Across America. While academics are our focus, we also strive to have school offer activities where students can find their talents and be part of an enjoyable group.

February also causes me to think even more about Mrs. Jenny Eckenfels, who we lost in February, 2023. As a result, we want to honor Jenny and her family by emulating her in our personal and professional lives. Fifth grade students can look forward to the potential of being nominated for her Sunshine Award. [Please follow this link](#) to learn more. We will honor her on February 23, Sunshine Day, by wearing purple or a Mrs. Eckenfels's shirt.

With Valentine's Day approaching, I would also like to offer something special to teachers and staff. Please consider writing a note to special teachers and/or staff members. I will get your note to the right person. Just [follow this link](#). Thank you!

We have a Gardner Parent Academy rescheduled for February 20. If you would like to visit school from 6:30-7:15 pm, we will visit about homework time in the evenings and maintaining family expectations. [Here's a survey you can complete to RSVP.](#)

While you are online, please visit [Skyward](#) as well to accomplish the following:

- Check grades.
- Visit fee management to see if you owe registration fees.
- Visit the Food Service tab to check your lunch balance. Please remember that lunches are not free this year.

Even more, it would mean so much to me if you would take the time online to complete the 5 Essentials Survey as we always hope to find ideas for improvement. The 5 Essentials Survey offers you the opportunity to rank five categories: Effective Leaders, Collaborative Teachers, Involved Families, Supportive Environments, and Ambitious Instruction. Here is a [link](#) to take the survey. Thank you in advance if you are able.

Here's to a fantastic February!





Band and Chorus News

Chorus News

We are working hard on our next concert. "The Gardner Comedy Show" which will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. The show features dancing dinosaurs, pizza delivery men, and many jokes. Two other dates to mark on your calendar are for the Spring Band and Chorus Concert Tuesday, on April 30 and singing at the Cardinal baseball game on Friday, May 3. Information about the Cardinal game will be sent home at the end of the month.

Band News

Band members are reminded that practice records are due every Tuesday. Please remember to also go to your weekly band lessons. Practicing and attending lessons are the ways to improve your playing. On Thursdays we get to listen to band member's talents with "Got Something to Share". We have some amazing talents in our band. Keep working and sharing your talents. Please remember the end of the quarter 800 minute practice record doughnut challenge. Our next concert will be the Spring Band and Chorus Concert on Tuesday, April 30.

Midterm

3rd quarter midterm is Friday, February 2nd. Grades will be updated by 3:30 on Friday. Log into your Skyward account to view your student's current grades.

Yearbook

If you would like to order a yearbook please visit inter-state.com/order and use the code 82325E. The deadline to order is March 1st. Students will receive their yearbooks in May.

Spelling Bee

The 5th grade spelling bee will be on Tuesday, February 13th at 8:30 am in the Gardner gym. Families are invited to attend. A link will also be shared if you would like to live stream the Spelling Bee.

Kindness Week

Gardner students are invited to celebrate Kindness Week! Random Acts of Kindness Day is on February 17th, but we are going to celebrate KINDNESS all week! We will have fun dress up days! See the attached flyer for all the information!

St. Jude's Math-A-Thon

It's time for the St. Jude Math-A-Thon! The Math-A-Thon will run February 1st thru the 29th. Students who are interested will bring home a permission slip. They will receive a math booklet, where they can complete math activities in their "Funbook" while raising money for St. Jude and earn prizes at the same time!



GARDNER GAZETTE

February 2024

Maple Gardner

Happy Moo Year! Welcome back. We hope you had a fun break! We're excited to give you an update on **Maple Gardner**. She is now five months old, weighs 325 pounds, and is growing quickly! She'll continue to grow until she's about 2 years old, which is when she'll have her first calf. Once she has her first calf, she'll start producing milk. Cows are milked in a building called a milking parlor. Most dairy farmers use machines to milk their cows, which is faster and easier for the cows and the farmer. On average, a dairy cow produces 8 gallons of milk per day—that's more than 100 glasses of milk!



— Farmers Josh and Emily Reinhardt

Read Across America

Read Across America is February 26th through March 2nd. We will have some fun activities at school and will also have dress up days. There is a flyer attached with all the information.

Kids Heart Challenge

Next week, Coach Hogan will kick off our annual **Kids Heart Challenge** event with our Gardner Elementary physical education students. Our goal is to promote Heart Health awareness by jumping rope during PE classes, and to raise donations for the **American Heart Association**. As always, numerous fun and exciting incentives are available for the students who earn donations! All online and cash/check donations are due by Monday, March 4th. Our school wide celebration assembly will take place on Friday, March 15th! Our students and community show tremendous support for our event each year. Please consider donating once again toward this great cause and organization! Be on the lookout for information to come home with your child.

Half Day of School

Friday, February 16th is a half day of school. Town students will be dismissed at 11:10 and bus students will be dismissed at 11:25 or once traffic has cleared and buses can enter the parking lot.



GARDNER GAZETTE

February 2024

February Calendar

- Feb. 2nd - 3rd Qtr midterm
- Feb. 12th - 16th - Kindness Week
- Feb. 13th - 5th grade Spelling Bee , 8:30am
- Feb.16th - Half day of school. Town students dismissed at 11:10/bus students 11:25
- Feb. 19th - No school, in observance of Presidents' day
- Feb. 23rd - Sunshine day - wear purple or your Jenny shirt
- Feb. 17th - WCUSD Science fair
- Feb. 26th - Mar. 1st - Read Across America week
- Feb. 27th - Chorus "Comedy Show", 7:00pm

[February lunch menu](#)

WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS ZAHNOW—ROGERS—GARDNER

February 2024



	2nd	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
GG OR GA UM RS T					1 Chicken Sliders with Celery and Peaches BREAKFAST: Donut and Fresh Fruit	2 French Bread Pizza with Garden Salad and Fresh Apples BREAKFAST: Churros and Fresh Fruit
DW ER LA IP	5 Pulled Pork on Bun with French Fries and Tropical Fruit BREAKFAST: Breakfast Muffin with Fresh Fruit	6 Corn Dogs with Steamed Carrots and Pears BREAKFAST: Cinnamon Roll w/ Fresh Fruit	7 Chicken Alfredo with Breadstick Garden Salad and Strawberries ** BIRTHDAY TREAT ** BRKFAST: Breakfast on a Stix & Fresh Fruit	8 Soft Taco Mexican Beans and Mixed Fruit BREAKFAST: Pancake and Sausage Sandwich and	9 Chicken Stir Fry with Stir Fry Veggies and Orange Smiles BREAKFAST: Bagel with Cream Cheese & Fresh Fruit	
GC RH IE LE LS DE	12 Chicken Rings w/ Crackers and Mixed Veggies and Pears BREAKFAST: French Toast Sticks w/ Syrup and Fresh Fruit	13 Cheeseburger with Potato Wedges and Applesauce BREAKFAST: Grape Crescent Roll with Fresh Fruit	14 PIZZA HUT PIZZA with Baby Carrots and Grapes BREAKFAST: Sausage Egg Biscuit and Fresh Fruit 	15 Macho Nachos with Refined Beans and Dried Cherries BREAKFAST: Donut and Fresh Fruit	16 1/2 DAY OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST: Pop Tart and Fresh Fruit	
SS UA NN BD T R	19 PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAY 	20 Pork Patty Melt with Corn and Mandarin Oranges BREAKFAST: Funnel Cake with Fresh Fruit	21 Spaghetti with Meatsauce and Breadstick Garden Salad and Mixed Fruit BREAKFAST: Mini Pancakes with Fresh Fruit	22 Turkey Dinner with Green Beans and Apricots BREAKFAST: Breakfast Pizza and Fresh Fruit	23 Bosco Stick with sauce with Baby Carrots and Fruit Slushie BREAKFAST: Donut and Fresh Fruit	
LS UT NA CC HK R	26 Hamburger on Bun Steamed Carrots and Pears BREAKFAST: Breakfast Bar & Fresh Fruit	27 Brunch for Lunch Diced Potatoes and Craisins BREAKFAST: Breakfast Bagel w/ Fresh Fruit	28 Hot Ham and Cheese on Bun w/ Celery and Pineapple BREAKFAST: French Toast Sticks w/ Syrup and Fresh Fruit	29 Hot Dog on Bun with Baked Beans and Peaches BREAKFAST: Breakfast Muffin and Fresh Fruit	Lowfat milk offered with each meal. 	

♡ KINDNESS WEEK ♡

February 12-16

FEBRUARY 12, MONDAY - P.S. I LOVE YOU

Wear pajamas to foster a comfortable environment!

FEBRUARY 13, TUESDAY - MAKE A NEW FRIEND

Wear a t-shirt representing something you like and find someone wearing something similar!

**FEBRUARY 14, WEDNESDAY - PEACE, LOVE, &
KINDNESS**

Dress in red or pink for Valentine's Day!

FEBRUARY 15, THURSDAY - CRAZY FOR KINDNESS

Show how crazy you are about being kind by dressing in crazy socks and hair!

**FEBRUARY 16, FRIDAY - WITH KINDNESS WE ARE
ALL ON THE SAME TEAM**

Wear all the orange and black you can!

Gardner Elementary

Read Across America Week (Feb. 26 – Mar. 1)

Important Dates



Monday, Feb. 26th – Team up for reading - Wear your favorite team colors or jersey.

Tuesday, Feb. 27th – Reading takes you places – Wear your favorite vacation t-shirt or dress like you are on vacation.

Wednesday, Feb. 28th – Snuggle up and read – Wear your favorite pajamas.

Thursday, Feb. 29th – Hats off to reading – Wear your favorite hat.

Friday, March 1st – “Pawsitively” wild about reading – Wear animal print or bulldog gear. Remember to bring a flashlight.