

# GOLDEN GATOR GAZETTE

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*January 2010*

Hello Everyone,

I hope you had a great Winter Holiday and enjoyed two weeks off. The Daddy Daughter Dance was great and seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. Thank you to Jody Higgs and her posse for all their hard work. The picture is so cute - I think it's my favorite one so far. The cast of Beauty and the Beast is working to learn their lines, songs and dances - I can't wait to see it!

Thank you,  
Darlene Fiedorowicz  
PTA President

## **January Dates to Remember:**

**January 14th** - PTA Meeting 8:45 am / Gate 9:45 am MPR

**January 18th** - Martin Luther King Holiday / no school

**January 27th** - 5th Grade Growth/ Development

**January 28th** - Lost & Found tables

**January 29th** - Staff Development Day/ no school

Dear Parents,

Welcome back! I hope everyone had a relaxing winter vacation with your families and friends. The time goes very quickly! After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, January is a time when teachers and students intensify their focus on learning.

Congratulations to three Golden Hill students whose entries took first place in the Reflections contest at the district level:

- Genevieve Smith - Literature (Primary) "Beautiful Things Are ..."
- Damon St. James - Music (Primary) "Beauty is Music"
- JoAnne Tran - Music (Intermediate) Untitled

Genevieve, Damon, and JoAnne's entries will now move to the next level of judging - Orange County. If a student wins at the county level, they move on to state competition. Best of luck to our three winners!

Golden Hill will be hosting the Saturday School Opportunity Attendance Recovery (SSOAR) program on Saturday, January 23. This is a way for students to make up an absence while participating in enrichment activities, and allows us to recover funds lost through absences. We hope your child is able to join us for this learning opportunity.

The annual **Variety Show** will be held on **Friday, February 5 at 7:00 pm** at Plummer Auditorium. This show is always a lot of fun. Another event coming up soon is **Jump Rope for Heart**, which will be held on Thursday, February 11 during P.E. classes. This event, sponsored by our Golden Hill Student Council, promotes healthy hearts while raising funds for the American Cancer Society. Look for more information to come home soon...

As always, thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely yours,

Bob Johnson

Dear Golden Hill Parents,

The GATE Program is in full gear as always...just as our kids are. It's obvious seeing it in the incredible work the teachers have been busy doing because of all of the information that the kids come home to share about what they have learned. (Thank you teachers!)

The Golden Hill Gate Parent Organization is moving towards more parent involvement and hopes to continue to do so. This year we have had parents step up and take the initiative to plan trips for the students and families that all can experience and enjoy as well as sharing bonding with one another. We have had several initial meetings to discuss the GATE program, a potluck for families, a trip to the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena to learn what NASA is up to and our last trip was a train ride to downtown L.A. to the El Capitan Theatre to see the movie adaptation of Charles Dickens's, "The Christmas Carol." It's been very enjoyable to chat and visit with one another and have opportunities in which to share school/family times. **Thank you** parents for participating and organizing! All ideas are welcome, so, keep them coming! Just leave a message with your teacher and we'll get back to you in helping to plan an event (big or small).

GATE testing has already started for all 2<sup>nd</sup> graders this year. Results for the testing will not be out until the last part of the school year and then parents will be notified and an informational parent meeting will be held for parents whose children qualified. Testing for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade students is slightly different. If you would like to have your child tested for the GATE program, the time to mention it is at the parent conference meeting you will have with your child's teacher in the spring. At that time, you can discuss your concerns and request that your child be tested. Before testing, the GATE office looks at two important issues towards admitting 3<sup>rd</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> students for testing. The two items they primarily look at are *advanced* CST scores as well as excellent scores on your child's benchmark testing that is done each semester. Of course this discussion is one you will have with your child's teacher and both of your opinions are accounted for in the request. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call and leave a message at the office and we will get back to you.

Though, the year feels as if it is moving fast, it is not over...and one thing I know for sure is that we will continue to have a few more great GATE program activities this year with the help of all of the parents, staff and teachers, and enthusiasm of the students!  
Wishing you joy and happiness for your family.

Sincerely,  
Marilyn Shadaram & Steven Shin  
Golden Hill GATE Representatives