



GROWth Report

Galewood Early Elementary School
"Our Roots Start Here!"

Volume 1, Issue 2

Principal's Corner: A Note from Steve Chartier, Principal

Fall Parent/Teacher Conferences are just around the corner and will be held at Galewood on Tuesday, October 16th and Wednesday, October 24th. P/TCs will be held from 5:00-8:00 PM, unless another mutually agreed upon time has been arranged in advance between you and your child's teacher(s).

A conference is similar to a visit to the doctor's office. You may have a great deal that you wish to discuss, but a very limited amount of time to do so. The better prepared you are going in, the more beneficial the meeting will be for both you and the teacher. Below are some "tried and true" tips for making your Parent/Teacher Conference more productive.

Schedule your appointment early: If you're one of the first parents to sign up for a conference, you'll be more likely to get a time that works well for you and your family. If possible, attend the meeting together. This lets the teacher know that all of you are invested in your child's education. And, you can compare notes on what you heard and talk over how to handle the information upon arriving at home. Your child's teacher will be providing you with a handy web link in the next few days that will assist you in signing up for your conference.

Ask your child how things are going at school: Several days prior to meeting with your child's teacher(s), ask your child very specific questions about school. What would he/she like to ask the teacher if given the chance? What does he/she like best about school? Are there any content areas at school that he/she is having difficulty with? If he/she could change anything about school what would it be?

Write down your questions: Once the Parent/Teacher Conference has begun, it may be difficult to recall what you wanted to discuss. Jot down your questions beforehand and bring them to the conference.

Stick to discussing your child: Most Parent/Teacher Conferences last about 20 minutes. Try not to use that time to ask questions about basic school policies. That type of information can be located within our Parent Handbook, which is available for viewing online at our school's website (www.charlottenet.org). The conference is your chance to get detailed information and feedback about your child, so grab it while you can. If you have a specific question that doesn't come up, do not hesitate to ask. You know your child better than anyone, so take the initiative. Our teachers will be listening!

Try not to get defensive: Every parent wants to hear how wonderful his/her child is—and your child's teacher should tell you about his/her special skills and achievements. Keep in mind, however, that one of the main functions of a Parent/Teacher Conference is to point out areas where your child has some room to develop. The teacher might even suggest additional course work, tutoring, special classes or some changes in behavior. Know that this is all part of the experience.

Conferences provide an opportunity for you as parents and for us as educators to strengthen your child's education, and to maximize the elementary school experience.

I look forward to seeing each of you during our upcoming conferences!

Warmly,



Important Dates

Included here are key dates to note within your calendar. **Check our school website often** as dates will be added there as events are scheduled within the building.

October

- 10/1: Half-Day of School: Dismissal at 11:46 AM
- 10/2: New Bell Times Begin
- 10/3: Fall Count Day
- 10/8: Board of Education Meeting/Central Office: 6:30 PM
- 10/15: Fire Drill Number at 2:30 PM
- 10/16: Picture Retake Day: 9:15-11:00 AM; Parent/Teacher Conferences from 5:00-8:00 PM
- 10/22: Principal's Coffee/Gym from 5:15-6:00 PM; PTSO Meeting/Gym at 6:00 PM
- 10/23: Fall Book Fair Begins
- 10/24: Parent/Teacher Conferences from 5:00-8:00 PM; Fall Book Fair Evening Hours from 4:30-8:30 PM
- 10/26: Fall Book Fair Ends
- 10/31: Halloween Festivities Throughout Day: Staff Members Will Communicate Specifics to Families.

November

- 11/6: Lockdown Drill Number 1 at 1:45 PM
- 11/12: Board of Education Meeting/Central Office: 6:30 PM
- 11/19-11/23: NO SCHOOL THIS ENTIRE WEEK
- 11/26: School Resumes at 8:45 AM; Principal's Coffee/Gym from 5:15-6:00 PM; PTSO Meeting/Gym at 6:00 PM

December

- 12/3: Developmental Kinder Holiday Performance/CPAC: 7:00 PM
- 12/10: Board of Education Meeting/Central Office: 6:30 PM
- 12/14: Lockdown Drill Number 2 at 10:20 AM
- 12/24 – 1/4: HOLIDAY BREAK: NO SCHOOL



It's Hip to Clip

Galewood School partakes in the Box Tops for Education program.



You can find box tops on hundreds of products, and it only takes a few minutes to clip them out. When sent to school, each box top earns Galewood approximately \$0.10.

Help us earn funding that makes a difference to the lives of our students. Clip your box tops and ask your family/friends to do the same. Send your Box Tops to school in a sealed Zip-Loc bag, and do so all throughout the year!

Attention Families!

Bell times for Galewood are as follows:

- 8:35 AM: Students Enter Building
- 8:45 AM: Classes Commence
- 8:55 AM: Tardy Bell Rings
- 3:31 PM: Dismissal

Half-Day Schedule

- 11:36 AM: Dismissal

Fog Day

- 10:35 AM: Student Enter Building
- 10:45 AM: Classes Commence
- 10:55 AM: Tardy Bell Rings
- 3:31 PM: Dismissal

Office Hours

- 8:15 AM – 4:30 PM, M-TH
- 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM, F



Join Steve for Coffee



Our principal, Mr. Chartier, invites all parents, caregivers and community members to join him for coffee and conversation each month, prior to Galewood's PTSO meeting. These informal gatherings are meant to share on-goings within the school and to build a sense of community. The next Principal's Coffee will be held on Monday, October 22nd from 5:15-6:00 PM. Steve hopes to see you there!

Join the Galewood PTSO!

A lot of exciting on-goings are taking place to make the Parent/Teacher/Student Organization (PTSO) at Galewood Early Elementary School the very best it can be. We have lots of new families, and we welcome all of you! We also encourage you to become an active participant in our school. Studies have shown that children are far more successful when their parents/caregivers are actively involved within their education and school environment.

What does it mean to be a member?

That depends on you. You can be a member in name only, but we strongly encourage you to become an active participant in your child's education by joining the PTSO. Parents, grandparents, neighbors, and siblings, we need your help! Being an active participant and being involved does not mean hours upon hours of work. The level of involvement is up to you! Drop by one of our monthly meetings to learn more about how a small amount of time translates into a huge amount of involvement.

Why should I be a participating member?

Participation through volunteering allows you to be "hands on" with your child's education. Research indicates that when families are involved, a child is more apt to get higher grades, be more likely to graduate, and go on to college. Children become excited and motivated when they see those they love spending time within the environment where they spend much of their day. Additionally, active participation affords parents the opportunity to get to know their child's educators on a personal level, as well as their child's friends. Participation through attendance at PTSO meetings also gives you a voice. You help decide what we do as a group, and how to best meet the needs of the students at Galewood School. If you are new, our established families are available to answer questions and ease your transition into becoming a member. An added bonus is that you have the opportunity to meet wonderful people who can become great friends.

What are the benefits of membership? The benefits of membership are very rewarding. You have the knowledge that, with your participation and involvement, the educational and social experiences of all students at Galewood School have been greatly enhanced. That is in addition to the benefits listed above.

Isn't the PTSO only about fundraising? Our PTSO is more than just fundraising. It is our privilege that we are able to provide the supplies, equipment and activities that the school's budget may not be able to cover. We are only able to do that through each family's willingness to participate in our sponsored fundraisers (more to follow soon!). We are about women and men working together toward a common goal. That goal, simply stated, is creating a better school and a better educational experience for our children. We strive to create an atmosphere where students, teachers, administrators, and support staff can do their best work. There's so much more that can be done. We look forward to seeing all that can be and will be accomplished this school year when we come together, as a collective and dedicated group, to enhance and maximize the education of every child at Galewood.

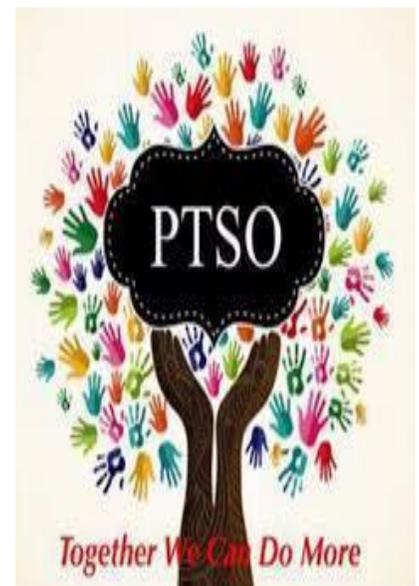
How do I get started?

Meetings are held the fourth Monday of the month (unless otherwise noted) from 6:00-7:00 PM. All meetings will be held in the gymnasium for the 2018-19 school year. Parking is available within the main lot, and entrance to the school is via the doors adjacent to the gymnasium (near the playground).

For convenience, dates are listed in Galewood's monthly newsletter, *GROWth Report*. Hard copies are sent home, and an electronic copy can be viewed on the school's website. The next meeting will be Monday, October 22nd. Join us, won't you?

Additional information can be obtained by emailing our PTSO President, Megan Gleason, at mgleason2010@gmail.com.

See you on Monday, October 22nd at 6:00 PM!



Medication Policy & Guidelines

In the event that your child should need medication during the school day, please follow the guidelines below, as well as within the Student Handbook. Approved staff members will dispense all medications.

- A Medication Request and Authorization form must be signed by the student's doctor and filed with the Main Office before the student will be allowed to begin taking the medication.



- A parent/adult must deliver the medication directly to the school office. STUDENTS ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TRANSPORT ANY MEDICATION THEMSELVES!
- Prescription medications must be in the original container and with a pharmacy label that states the student's name, name of medication, dosage and frequency. Please ask your pharmacist to dispense the medication in two containers, one for the school and one for home. Students will not be allowed to transport medication daily for evening or weekend dosages.
- The office must have written instructions from the parent for over-the-counter medications. All non-prescription medications must also be in their original package/container.

Visitors/Guests & Security



We welcome families and community members to visit our building and volunteer their time. However, all visitors/guests are required to have a background check performed and clearance obtained. Once done, visitors and guests must sign-in at the Main Office, as well as wear a visitor badge provided by the office.

For the safety of our students and staff, perimeter doors will be locked during school hours. To gain entry, please enter via the Main Entrance and proceed to the Office. Your cooperation will help to ensure that all adults in the building are properly identified, increasing the safety of all children and staff.

Required Background Checks

Please be advised that it is District policy that all persons wishing to enter the building, work with our students, join us for field trips and/or classroom functions, etc. must complete a Background Check (and receive clearance) prior to doing so. **Background Checks take several weeks to complete,** so persons are encouraged to start the process as soon as possible. Forms may be obtained by visiting the Main Office. When submitting your form, please be prepared to sign it in person and to present your Driver's License.

We're GROWing at Galewood!

Our Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) program is off to a fantastic start and outlines expectations for behavior within each classroom and throughout the building. Each day our students and staff are committed to being: Safe, Respectful, and Responsible. More importantly, Galewood students and staff GROW by:

G: Following the Golden Rule

R: (being) Ready to make positive choices

O: Owning our actions

W: When we do these things, WE ALL SUCCEED!

Through the implementation of clear expectations, hands-on modeling, and direct classroom instruction, Galewood students and staff thrive within a learning environment that is safe and orderly.

To promote this culture, staff members provide students with "Golden Tickets" when they have exhibited behaviors (refer to the chart on our school website by clicking the tab labeled "Positive Behaviors and Interventions) related to our expectations. Tickets are collected by classroom teachers and when ten are received, an acorn icon is placed on the building-wide bulletin board located near the Media Center. Classrooms compete for the most icons, and are rewarded for their efforts every few months.



Please encourage your child show his or her Galewood pride by GROWing each day!