

December's Guiding Principle is... "Kindness"



G From the Principal's Desk...

E Dear Genet Families!

N Happy Friday and December! The holiday season is upon us and our students are excited and eagerly awaiting everything that comes with our winter months. As the weather continues to change, I want to remind parents that if you have not opted in to the district's text notification system in the event of severe weather (i.e. Snow Days or Delays), you can by following the directions at the link: <https://egcsd.org/departments/safety-health-and-wellness/alert/>

E This is different from receiving emails from the district and requires additional authorization from you to join. I put this out to families just as a reminder for the winter season.

E Along with the winter months is the need for appropriate attire for students. Please remember to send your child to school with the necessary clothing for outdoor recess as we try to take students outside as much as possible. Warm jackets, hats, gloves and snow boots/appropriate foot attire is required.

T SAFETY

J We continue to practice safety drills required by NYS Education regulations. This year we have amended some aspects of our drills to be in compliance with NYSED's COVID-19 safety guidelines. During fire drills students maintain a line six feet apart while exiting the building and gathering outside. We have taken advantage of the warm weather this fall and have completed the four fire drills required before December 31. There will be two lockdown drills scheduled on December 10th and 11th, one on A day and another on B. The Lockdown drills will take place with adjustments as well. Rather than clustering as a group in the corner of the room and out of sight, students will remain seated at their desks while teachers explain and show the students where to gather in the event of a lockdown. Our local police agencies always assist during our lockdown drills which helps familiarize police with our building.

J DAILY COVID-19 SCREENING TOOL

O I would like to thank all parents for your diligence in filling out the daily COVID Screening tool. This must be filled out online every day for each of your children. Our staff members also complete the screening each day before entering the building. Please complete the form prior to 8:30 a.m. each morning. Our office staff will be calling or emailing parents if the screening form has not been received each morning. The COVID-19 Screening Tool link is: <https://entry.neric.org/egcsd>. Save the link on your phone for quick access each morning.

U HEALTH and SAFETY

R We are looking forward to continued health and wellness at school. As the winter months are upon us and students inevitably get colds, etc., we are hopeful that our mask wearing and frequent hand washing and sanitizing will minimize our cold and flu season. There have been many questions regarding what to do when your child is sick. I have attached the link to the district's guidance that was previously sent to all parents.

<https://egcsd.org/2020/10/02/new-york-state-updates-return-to-school-requirements/>

R If you have any questions regarding student illness or return to school procedures, please refer to this document or contact Mrs. Margret Condo, R.N., Genet Elementary School Nurse at (518) 207-2684.

N SCHOOL PICTURE

A School pictures were sent home with students last week. As a reminder to families, we have two retake days that are scheduled for Monday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 8. On those dates the picture crew will be here from 11:45 AM - 1:00 PM only.

L For families that are on Full Remote and had their child's picture taken at home or another place, you can send a digital picture and the release form to genetyearbookphotos@gmail.com. Please do so by December 11th. If there are any questions, please contact the PTO or myself.

L I wish you all the best and thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,


Wayne Grignon



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Math+Science Connection

Intermediate Edition

Building Understanding and Excitement for Children

December

Genet Elementary School
Wayne Grignon, Principal



INFO BITS

Math palindromes

A palindromic number reads the same forward and backward, such as 424 or 123,321. Your youngster can stretch her math thinking by creating math problems with palindromes as the answers. *Examples:* $2 \times 212 = 424$, and $1,000,000 - 876,679 = 123,321$.

Welcome, winter!

In the northern hemisphere, December 21 is the winter solstice—the first day of winter and the day with the fewest daylight hours of the year. Have your child look up sunrise and sunset times in the newspaper or online. What does he notice? (We get a little more sunlight each day after the winter solstice.)



Book picks

Your youngster will have fun calculating area in *The Original Area Mazes: 100 Addictive Puzzles to Solve with Simple Math—and Clever Logic!* (Naoki Inaba and Ryoichi Murakami).

In addition to stunning photographs, *A Drop of Water: A Book of Science and Wonder* (Walter Wick) provides experiments to teach your child about the properties of water.

Just for fun

First snake: I hope I'm not venomous.

Second snake: Why?

First snake: I just bit my tongue!



Word problems? No problem!

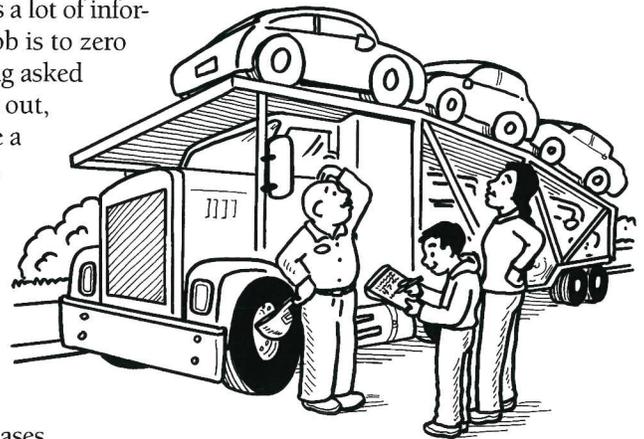
A word problem contains a lot of information. Your youngster's job is to zero in on what exactly he's being asked to do. Once he figures that out, solving the problem may be a snap. Share these strategies.

List key details

Have your child read the entire problem and list facts it tells him. Say he needs to figure out how many trophies can be displayed in a school lobby. He could write, "2 display cases, 5 shelves per case, 6 trophies per shelf." Then he can solve: $2 \times 5 \times 6 = 60$ trophies. *Variation:* Encourage him to draw a picture showing what he knows.

Use easier numbers

Suggest that your youngster replace larger numbers with smaller ones. He might use 35 and 7 for 3,540 and 789. Then he can focus on how to solve rather than on harder calculations. For instance, should he add, subtract, multiply, or divide? Once he understands the



steps involved, he can swap the original numbers back in and solve.

Check for reasonableness

If a car carrier holds 10 cars, how many trips must the driver take to transport 47 cars? Encourage your child to pay close attention to the context of a problem. That will help him decide whether his answer makes sense. He may realize that while $47 \div 10 = 4$, remainder 7, it isn't possible to take 4.7 trips. That means 5 trips are required. 

Code a snowman

No computer is required for this wintry coding activity. Your child will learn basic computer programming as the two of you write code for each other to draw a snowman on graph paper.

Make a key. List commands you'll use, such as \downarrow = move down 1 square, \rightarrow = move right 1 square, \blacksquare = shade in the square, and \bullet = draw a circle.

Write code. Direct each other to draw the outline of a snowman by writing strings of commands from your key. Now add commands for decorating the snowman. *Example:* $\bullet\downarrow\bullet\downarrow\bullet$ means make a column of three round buttons.

Follow. Trade codes and draw. Check each other's snowmen against your codes—do they match? 

