



Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



Gurrie Middle School
1001 S. Spring Avenue
La Grange, IL 60525
708-482-2720

December 21, 2018

2018, Issue 4

www.d105/gurrie.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

Inside this Issue:

From the Principal
Page 2

Social Worker FYI
Page 3, 4

Nurse's Notes
Page 4

Music Notes
Page 6

Don't Miss:

Honor Rolls
Page 5

T1 Perfect Attendance
Page 7

Gurrie 8th Grade
Awards
Page 8

CALENDAR

December

22 Winter Break Begins

January

- 7 Classes resume
- 10 LT Student Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 11:00 a.m.
- 10 LT Parent Orientation Meeting
Gurrie, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Midterm, Trimester 2
- 14 PTO Meeting
- 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
No School
- 25 8th Grade Graduation Picture &
Gown Measurement
- 25 PTO: TGIF 3:25p.m.
- 28 Board of Education Meeting
7:00 p.m.

SPORTS CALENDAR

December

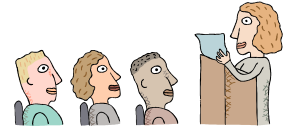
- 17 Boys' Basketball at Washington
- 18 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Red

January

- 8 Boys' Basketball vs. Highlands
- 10 Boys' Basketball vs. Pleasantdale
- 15 Boys' Basketball at Park Red
- 17 Boys' Basketball vs. Willow Springs
- 24 Wrestling vs. Brookwood
- 29 Wrestling at Northbrook Maple



**Attention!!
8th Grade Parents
LT Parent Orientation Meeting**



On Thursday, January 10th, at 7:00 p.m. representatives from Lyons Township High School will be here at Gurrie Middle School to speak to parents about the high school experience.

This informative evening will be of great value to all parents, particularly those whose 8th graders plan on attending at Lyons Township High School. Please mark your calendars now and plan to attend. This evening is designed for parents only. Students will have an orientation with LT representatives earlier that same day.

From the Principal's Desk



Happy Holidays!

This is such a busy time of year and life at Gurrie has been no exception.

Our Gurrie family sat down together for the 21st annual Thanksgiving Feast on November 20th. This year we had over 400 people attend with tables stretching from the cafeteria to Spring Avenue. We welcomed many special guests including former district and Gurrie staff, LaGrange fire fighters, local police, business and government leaders and others who we are thankful for. Serving Thanksgiving dinner for four hundred plus is no easy task and the planning and preparation that goes into making the event possible is tremendous. Despite the amount of work that it takes to hold such an event, when everyone is seated, and all are enjoying an opportunity to share a meal and conversation with each other, it is well worth the effort. I want to thank the parent volunteers who took the time to come in and help make the event a success. Thanks to all the families who took the time to prepare food, everything was delicious! Thanks to our staff who worked so hard organizing and preparing for the event.

A few weeks ago, eighth graders from across the township had the opportunity to visit Lyons Township High School on Future Freshman Night and learn about the many opportunities that await them at LT.

Starting in January, the transition process for our eighth graders begins to move more rapidly. On the morning of Thursday, January 10th, our eighth grade students will meet with representatives from LT here at Gurrie as part of a student orientation. That evening, parents are invited to attend a parent orientation at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie gym. Representatives from LT will be available including their Principal, Dr. Brian Waterman, and many of the Division Chairs. Please plan on attending the evening orientation. It is a great opportunity to hear about the programs that are offered at LT and ask questions you may have.

We will again be using our student history of MAP scores and their December assessment results (along with other data and teacher recommendations) to make recommendations for initial placement freshman year. On Thursday, February 7th, LT counselors will come to Gurrie to meet with students and discuss elective course selection. Final placement decisions will be made with course placements mailed to parents in February. Please note that parent input regarding course selection is encouraged and if you have any concerns or questions about your child's placement, you should call the appropriate department chair at LT and discuss those concerns. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss those placement decisions with LT after the initial placements have been sent home.

I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable winter break. Happy New Year!

Respectfully,

Ed Hood



Social Worker FYI

Jeannette Pedersen, 708-482-2720 ext. 1221
jpedersen@d105.net



Top 8 Ways for Families to Reconnect this Holiday Season from Robin McClure, former About.com Guide

Between the frenzy of school and holiday parties, shopping, cooking, and spending, sometimes the spirit of the season seems anything but happy. Stress, over-extended schedules, and concerns over how the money just seems to be flying out of the wallet can turn the season of joy to that of anxiety and hassle. But parents CAN turn the holidays into a time of family and cherished quality time. How? Here are eight ways to help families reconnect and enjoy the season.

1. Ways to Strengthen the Relationship Between Parent and Child

It's better to give than to receive, right? Then turn the saying into a true practice by volunteering TOGETHER as a family. Where? How? The options are endless. A best bet is to choose as a family. Here are some options to get the brainstorming started: Salvation Army bell ringers, helping to sort and inventory items at a local food bank or clothing collection agency, or helping to groom and care for animals at a local shelter.

2. Emphasize Gifts from the Hearts and Hands

Why would anyone want a homemade gift when money can buy the latest and greatest on the market? If your child thinks like this, then this is a value that really should be stressed this season. The holidays are the time to celebrate families and to show love and appreciation to those they love, and not just for the gifts. And what better gesture than a gift made by the hands and from the heart? Gifts can be as simple as a cherished handprint, a scrapbook, or a service such as housecleaning.

3. Help Kids Learn about Dollars and Sense

Children can start learning about the value of money at a young age, and a good time to teach about budgeting and finances is around the holidays. Letting children shop for an inexpensive gift is a great way to teach how far—or not—a buck will go. It's okay for parents to talk about how much things cost. Educate kids that spending is a choice, and that there a difference between a "want" and a "need".

4. The Gift of Time

Many parents try to force holiday spirit on their families through movies, shopping, and extra activities, often with the result of overload. The best gift a parent can give is time! Kids love evenings by a fire with hot cocoa and reading holiday books, and may prefer a holiday video watched together as a family than waiting in line at a busy movie theater. Family games, walks in the park, and even looking at holiday lights while listening to seasonal tunes are what memories are made of.

Cont. next page

5. Making Memories and Establishing Traditions

Does your family have a special holiday tradition? If not, add one, and enjoy how it adds to the sense of family tradition and togetherness. How about sharing memories during a special meal. Decorating the tree as a family? Opening one special gift with just your family that has special meaning? Starting a journal with contributions by each member? Having a family PJ night? Building traditions can add to the holiday joy and strengthen families.

6. Reflection and Goal Setting Made Easy

Regardless of the holidays on the calendar, families should embrace the end of the year and the new year that lies ahead by setting a direction for the future. Family members can brainstorm together and develop common goals, or at least share personal goals and ask for members' support. Whether it is to eat together more often, to make healthier choices, to limit extracurricular activities, or to work smarter, share your dreams and focus for the new year!

7. Let There Be Too Many Cooks in the Kitchen

Stir up some fun in the kitchen this season for family togetherness. Make a gingerbread village each year, with each member crafting an individual cottage. Or bake up sugar cookie cut outs and use imagination with the decorations. Consider stringing popcorn and cranberries while enjoying some home-cooked soup and bread around the fire at the same time. Cooking together brings family members together, and is a great way to combine food, fellowship and fun!

8. Learning Thank You's From The Heart

Kids don't just "know" how to be grateful. It's a taught behavior from parents and other adults. A child's natural tendency is to think selfishly, but parents should emphasize an equal amount of selflessness. While it's natural for children to possess a case of the "greeds" around the holidays, parents should use the season to teach manners, respect for elders, grace, giving, and gratitude.

Nurse's Notes

Dear Parents and Teachers:

Vision and hearing screenings have been done on all 8th graders, all new students, and those receiving special services.

If you have a 7th grade student and you have concerns about your child's hearing and /or vision, please send a note to the school nurse, and your student will be screened within the next few weeks.

District Nurses



The students and staff of Gurrie Middle School wish to thank the PTO for all of their generosity in time and talent during this school year.

Happy Holidays!

First Trimester All A's Honor Roll

7th Grade

Rayna Aaronson
Melanie Almeida
Michael Badrov
John Barrette
Brandon Betancourt
James Brejcha
William Brown
Lydia Busker
Thomas Butters
Anna Bylsma
Sean Cherry
Claire Collins
Nataly Contreras
Samuel Costello
Caitlin Crowe
Sarah Crowe
Thomas Culver
Lillian Davis
Aidan Diaz
Aidan Dill
Mckayla Duran
Kaitlyn Filkins
Bianna Flores

Alita Folkening
Michael Frankhauser
Caroline Fuller
Gunnar Garelli
Thomas Goryl
Poppy Graber
Ashlyn Grelewicz
Andrew Guerrero
Olivia Hill
Sophia Imielski
Avery Jasinski
Diego Jauregui
Katarina Jecmenic
Minna Johnson
Hannah Kallal
Brennan Kirby
Jacqueline Kogen
Sarah Kutlich
Alex Lonsway
John McLane
Abisai Medina
Reese Metz
Abigail Michaelson
Dean O'Bryan

Lizet Ojeda-Acuna
Milana Pacholski
Celestine Perusich
Andrew Peto
Aleksia Petrovich
Caroline Pooler
Annie Price
Katherine Prystalski
Dylan Rickman
Oscar Rojo
Madeline Rowen
Gabrielle Sanchez
Charlotte Schulz
Campbell Schumacher
Jude Short
Emily Spelson
Caden Strack
Sophia Szymanski
Ilija Tomich
Carson Turner
Jurnee Warkentien
Maksymilian Washchuk
Nikolette Weiss
Isabel Wirtz

Austen Wisniewski
Camille Woods

8th Grade

Emilija Bozovic
Connor Deneen
Sophia Dike
Malia Fink
Andrew Follenweider
Julia Fulgencio
Cynthia Garcia
Sara Gjorgievska
Tristan Hall
Alexa Hoffenberg
Karman Kapsa
Paige Klun
Samuel Kogen
Evan Konkey
Charlotte Lange
Caroline LaVoie
Gabriella Luburic
Jeanne Mardegan
Sophia Morrissey
Monica Nunez

Piper Oldenburg
Margaret Pacholski
Matthew Pierpaoli
Gianna Pigatto
Margot Pooler
Lillian Prendergast
Lillian Renick
Lindsey Rickman
Samantha Shanahan
Grace Sneed
Nikolas Soofi
Daniel Walsh
Patrick Wenstrup
Alyssa Wong



First Trimester High Honor Roll

7th Grade

Mario Aleksandrovski
Anson Babb II
Angelique Balderrama
Samuel Burcal
Danyela Cahue
Colin Cartwright
Samantha Cervantes
Yahir Contreras
David Diaz
Ryan Dowling
Sebastian Escobedo
Aldair Garcia
Angelina Garcia
Ryan Huynh
Jakob Kawczynski
Jackson Koos
Madison Kosenesky
Shelby Lawrence

Emilio Lopez
Alexis Machay
Maxwell Marquardt
Ethan Mason
William May
Dwayne Morrow
Nathanael Mukite
Katarina Neskovic
Landon Nill
David Paulus
Montserrat Pelayo-Valadez
Rozlyn Piagnarelli
Claudio Rodriguez
Raymond Rosenbach
Junior Rubalcaba
Samantha Santana
Thomas Shishman
Daniel Torres
Grace Turner

Ava Wisniewski

8th Grade

Santos Anda
Nikki Avizius
Luis Belasquez-Dominguez
Emmett Driscoll
Patrick Engels
Jonathan Flores
Angel Garcia
Eric Gonzalez
Madeline Gonzalez
Olivia Guerra
Lindsay Hammond
Adam Koppel
Grant Kostrzewa
Adam Kwak
Emma Kwak
Daniel Lee

Rosa Lopez
David McKay
Jacklyn Pedroza
Niklas Polonowski
Carlos Rangel Gonzalez
Yazmin Rangel
Lauren Robinson
Peter Sanchez
Conor Schmitt
Mia Sekulovski
Ian Stortz
Christiauna Thorpe
Kevyn Vital
Emily Walsh
Sophie Zielinski



First Trimester Honor Roll

7th Grade

Nicholas Aguilar
Angel Alvarez
Henry Alvarez
Ryan Blumberg
Maria DePierre Rodriguez
Yanira Flores
Angel Garcia Martinez
Jonathan Garcia
Yasir Garcia
Alondra Gaytan Molina
Angelina Geronimo
Shawn Jenkins
David Jovcevski
Brian Kloes
Adam Kreczko
Doryan Kubik
Xavier Leverette
Benjamin Lockley
Oliver Maksimovic
Grant Maloney

Alexander Mata
Kendahl Payton
Ilija Randjelovic
Juan Ries-Salinas
Allison Rodriguez
Meraly Rubio
Yanelly Solis
Matija Stojmenovic
Laine Tegan
Samantha Urbina Medina
Kevin Zapata

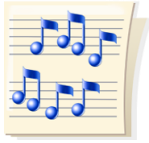
8th Grade

Julia Alvarado
Scott Beery
Brady Brantner
Devell Britton Jr.
Jacob Campbell
Liam Carolan
Aidan Collins
Roland Connelly
Lucas Cuchran
Peri Deroche
Denisse Elizondo
Hannah Eskra
Alyse Follenweider
Kaleb Garcia
Jackson Garelli
Grace Gonzales
Natalia Gonzalez-Espinoza
Victor Herrejon
Emma Kallal
Jackson Kirk
Brandon Linhart

Robert Llanes Aguilera
Christian Marcial
Fatima Martinez Gallegos
Karen Martinez
Matthew Meehan
Jessica Navarro
Aidan Nill
Krupali Patel
Jahari Pittman
Charles Reagan
Isabella Ries-Salinas
Anthony Rivera
Michael Rocha
Calum Rogers
Ethan Rosenkranz
Raiel Ruiz
Luis Salinas
Johan Santos-Sacramento
Olivia Sawickis
Thania Silverio
Connor Spellman
Kyle Timmerman

Thomas Tobolaski
Marco Toledo
Alexis Toledo-Miguel
Michelle Torres
Jake Warkentien





Music Notes



Once again, thank you to all students and families for making the first semester of the 2018-2019 school year a success! Students, families, and community members all helped, and our fundraiser profit came in far over budget! Our Music Parents Association, along with our food sorters, chaperones, and fundraising chairs cannot be thanked enough for their tireless efforts.

The LTHS Solo and Ensemble Contest will be held at LT's South Campus on March 9th, 2019. All 5th-8th grade band and orchestra students are highly encouraged to participate in this wonderful event! Students will be receiving music after break. The registration forms are due on January 18th, 2019. Students should consider using an accompanist this year. Please contact Mr. Valdez or Mr. Schwartz with any additional questions.

The GMS Jazz Ensemble will be performing at the Lyons Township Jazz Band Festival on February 27th at LTHS South Campus. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to meet their future LT directors and get to know the program!

There will be no Concert Band, Symphony Orchestra, or Gurrie Choir morning rehearsals the week of 12/17-12/21. We will be back to our regular schedule after break!

The 7th grade orchestra students will be going to Lyons Township High School on Monday, January 28th this year for a day of workshops. More information coming soon!



Time to Replenish School Supplies!

The middle of the school year is a good time to replenish your child's school supplies. Students need a supply of pens and pencils in their lockers. Individual classes may also need new binders, folders, or spirals. Math classes require calculators and rulers. Check with your child to see that he/she has the proper supplies to work successfully in classes and meet the Gurrie expectation of being prepared.

Trimester 1 Perfect Attendance

7th Grade

Nicholas Aguilar
Mario Aleksandrovski
Melanie Almeida
John Barrett
Brandon Betancourt
James Brejcha
Samuel Burcal
Anna Bylsma
Danyela Cahue
Colin Cartwright
Anthony Chavez Gonzalez
Sean Cherry
Nataly Contreras
Caitlin Crowe
Thomas Culver
Lillian Davis
David Diaz
Aidan Dill
Michael Frankhauser
Jonathan Garcia
Alondra Gaytan Molina
Thomas Goryl
Olivia Hill
Ryan Huynh
Avery Jasinski
Diego Jauregui
Shawn Jenkins
Hannah Kallal
Kellan Knop
Jackson Koos
Sarah Kutlich
Benjamin Lockley
Maxwell Marquardt
Ethan Mason
William May
Lizet Ojeda-Acuna
Milana Pacholski
Montserrat Pelayo-Valadez
Christopher Phipps Jr.
Annie Price
Katherine Prystalski
Claudio Rodriguez
Madeline Rowen
Meraly Rubio
Gabrielle Sanchez
Jude Short
Eliezer Soto Gracia
Caden Strack
Laine Tegan
Jurnee Warkentien
Nikolette Weiss
Isabel Wirtz
Austen Wisniewski
Camille Woods

8th Grade

Hussein Bato
Luis Belasquez-Dominguez
Brady Brantner
Devell Brittmon Jr.
Liam Carolan
Aidan Collins
Sophia Dike
Denisse Elizondo
Patrick Engels
Jonathan Flores
Kaleb Garcia
Jackson Garelli
Lindsay Hammond
Victor Herrejon
Alexa Hoffenberg
Jackson Kirk
Roberto Llanes Aguilera
Aidan Nill
Fernando Peralta Alvarado
Niklas Polonowski
Jocelyn Ramirez
Carlos Rangel Gonzalez
Osvaldo Rojo
Raiel Ruiz
Peter Sanchez
Johan Santos-Sacramento
Connor Schmitt
Mia Sekulovski
Benicio Silva
Grace Sneed
Ian Stortz
Christiauna Thorpe
Thomas Tobolaski
David Valenzuela
Daniel Walsh
Emily Walsh
Jake Warkentien



Attention Parents of 8th Grade Students:

Graduation photos will be taken on Friday, January 25th, in the morning. Photos will be taken in graduation gown (no caps) and in dress street clothes. Girls should not wear high necked sweaters or dresses. Boys should wear collared shirts and ties.

Gown measurement will be done on Friday morning, January 25th. This year students will rent their graduation gown (no caps) and purchase a medallion. The combined cost for the rental and purchase will be \$25.00.



Gurrie 8th Grade Awards—Something Worth the Effort!

For those new to Gurrie, the following are special awards presented at either the year end awards programs or at the graduation ceremony.

Doreen Duncan Award

This award is presented to a female graduate who most closely demonstrates the student performance and qualities of Doreen Duncan, a 1982 graduate who died in a skiing accident during the winter of 1984. The award seeks to identify an outstanding graduate in scholarship, citizenship, extracurricular activities, school service, leadership, and personal character.

Duane Caylor Award

This award is presented to a male graduate who most closely demonstrates the qualities promoted and exemplified by Duane Caylor, a beloved teacher here at Gurrie, who lost a courageous battle with cancer in 1999. The award seeks to identify an outstanding graduate in scholarship, citizenship, extracurricular activities, school service, leadership and personal character. With the Doreen Duncan Award, this is considered Gurrie's highest honor.

Faculty Award for Academic Excellence

This award is presented to graduates who achieve a cumulative 3.95 average for their entire 7th and 8th grade years at Gurrie.

American Legion Award

This award is presented annually to a boy and girl in the graduating class. The American Legion Award is based on these qualities: honor, scholarship, character, courage, companionship, and leadership.

Daughters of the American Revolution

This award is presented annually to a boy and girl in the graduating class. The D.A.R. Award is given for outstanding accomplishment in the studies of American History and Civic Education, and for outstanding citizenship.

Presidential Award for Educational Excellence

This award is present to graduates who achieve a 3.5 grade point average for two years of study at Gurrie and a standing in the 85th percentile or higher on a standardized achievement test.

Honor Roll

This award is presented to any student who achieves a 3.0 (B) average or better during a trimester.

3 B Gold Award

The 3B Gold Award is presented to students who, in their two years at Gurrie, have never received any disciplinary referrals. Students who earn this award have worked very hard and consistently met and modeled our three building wide expectations of Be Ready, Be Respectful, and Be Safe.

