



Tiger Tracks

Be Respectful, Be Ready, Be Safe



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

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2017, Issue 3

www.d105.net

School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

November

17 End Trimester 1
17 PTO TGIF 3:25p.m-5:00p.m
21 Gurrie Feast
22 Non Attendance Day
23 Thanksgiving Day
24 Thanksgiving Holiday
28 LT Future Freshman Night
LT South, 7p.m

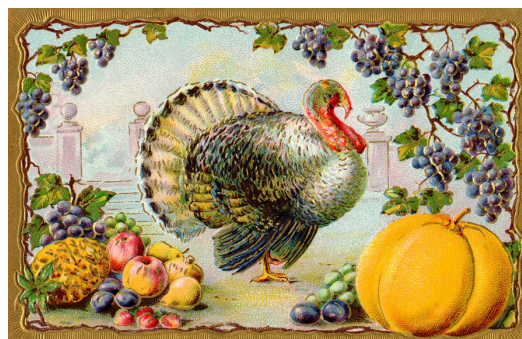


December

1 First Trimester Honor Roll Breakfast
5 Holiday Band Concert, 7pm
7 Holiday Orchestra Concert, 7p.m.
8 Project Linus, 2:30p.m.
12 Holiday Choir Concert, Gurrie Gym,
7p.m
15 Next *Tiger Tracks*



*The Staff and Students of
Gurrie Middle School wish you all a
Happy Thanksgiving*



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie!

Trimester 1 has come to an end and we are one-third of the way through the school year!

One of our favorite activities here at Gurrie is the annual Feast. This event began 20 years ago and continues on this year. We will have over 400 people attend and it is an opportunity for our students and staff to sit down and celebrate our Gurrie family with a wonderful meal. Meals are developed and planned in each advisory and students bring in their own portion of the meal to share. We sit down at noon and enjoy the many wonderful and varied dishes that our students bring. We also invite retired school and district staff, local first responders and community leaders. Tables stretch from the cafeteria all the way to Spring Avenue School and are a great representation of our community and sense of family here at Gurrie. You will receive more information about this event from your child (if you already have not). If you have questions, please contact your student's advisor(s).

Looking ahead, 8th grade parents will be more and more involved with the transition process to high school. On Tuesday, November 28th at 7pm, Lyons Township High School will be hosting Future Freshman Night at LT South Campus. This is something all incoming freshman and their families should attend as it provides important information about the transition to high school and the many opportunities that are available for students at LT. LT South campus is located at 4900 Willow Springs Road in Western Springs.

On January 11th, our 8th graders will meet as a group (here at Gurrie) with LT for another portion of the freshman orientation process. At this meeting students will receive information about registration and freshman year courses. That evening at 7pm, LT will return to meet with parents of incoming freshman to discuss placement and registration. Please plan on attending this opportunity. Even if you have already had a student attend LT, it is important to attend as each year there are changes and new information. Families will receive initial placement / schedule recommendations from LT in late January/early February.

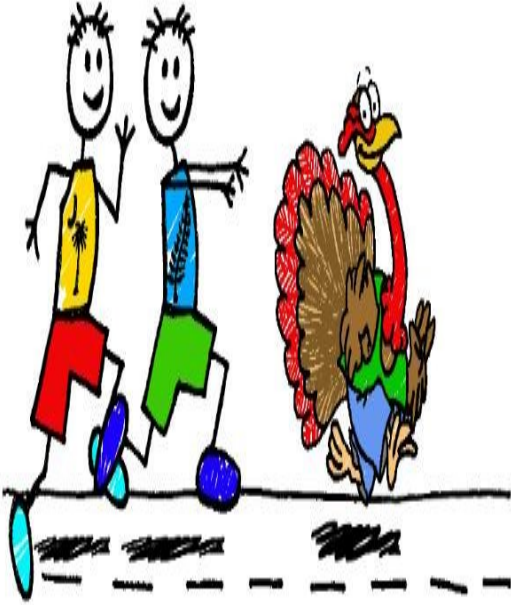
During the last full week of October students participated in the Signs of Suicide program which provides important information regarding depression and how to help a friend (or themselves) who may be struggling. Each student learned about the ACT acronym (acknowledge, care, tell). In the event that a friend is struggling students were taught to ACT. Acknowledge - acknowledge that their friend has a problem. Care - let their friend know that they care about them and are supportive. Tell - tell a trusted adult about their friend's struggle to get any needed help and support. Students also learned that depression is a treatable illness and that suicide is a preventable tragedy that can occur as a result of untreated depression. In addition, students learned the signs of serious depression or possible suicide in themselves or a friend and how to help themselves or others by taking the simple step to ACT. These discussions are not easy ones to have but students were engaged and attentive to the content and instruction, asking great questions and participating in discussions with the presenter. According to a report in 2015 by NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) suicide is the third leading cause of death in youth ages 10-24 while 90% of those who died by suicide had an underlying mental illness, typically depression. In 2014, a World Health Organization study found depression to be the number one cause of illness and disability in adolescents worldwide. We are grateful to Elyssa's Mission for bringing this important program to Gurrie and providing factual and useful information to students, staff, and parents. Students took a pre and post assessment on the program's objectives and on the post-test, 7th graders scored 95% correct and 8th graders also scored 95% correct. This was up from a pre-test result of 82% at each grade level. In addition, 95% of students could correctly define the ACT acronym- acknowledge, care, tell.

As we head into the Thanksgiving break, I want to wish all of our families a safe and happy holiday and as always, let you know how much I am thankful to be a part of the Gurrie and District 105 community.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Ed Hood

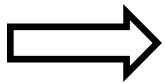
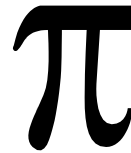
Early Act News



Attention runners! The Rotary Club of LaGrange is having its annual “Run for Pi” on Thanksgiving morning. The course is (of course) 3.14 miles and starts at 7:30 in the morning on Thanksgiving Day. And yes, you could win pie for dessert after the race! Students, faculty, and other Gurrie family are invited to join in the fun. For more information please see Mrs. Rupert in room 109 or go to:

<http://run314pie.com/>

Rotary is also looking for volunteers to hand out water or help on the course. See Mrs. Rupert if you would like to earn some service hours.



Important Announcement for Families with Students with Food Allergies

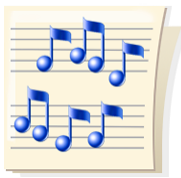
Some food at school sponsored special occasions may not be nut free. Parents/guardians may call the school to gather more information regarding foods that may be served at a specific event, or they may send an alternative food item with their child to eat.

A copy of the food allergy policy is available on the District website.

Books Make Great Holiday Gifts...

During the upcoming holiday season, remember books as gifts to children. Books last longer than most toys and games and they benefit the child. Studies show that children improve their reading ability by reading a lot. The gift of a book to a child tells that child that you value books and reading, and helps to create a lifelong appreciation of reading.





Music Notes



Holiday Music Concerts

The Orchestra Holiday Concert will be held on Thursday, December 7th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium, featuring all orchestras. The Choir Holiday concert will be held on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium, featuring the Elementary and Gurrie Tiger Choirs.

This year's Holiday Band concert will be held on Tuesday, December 5th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium. Cadet, Symphonic, and Concert Band will all be performing alongside the 3:00 Jazz Band, GMS Jazz Ensemble, and the GMS Percussion Ensemble. All Concert Band Members are to report to the Gurrie Cafeteria in Concert Dress by 6:15 p.m.

Please continue to encourage your child to practice regularly and attend all rehearsals on time. The band, orchestras and choirs always look forward to performing for family and friends. This is a great way to start the holiday season.



Music Association Fundraiser a Great Success!

The Music Parents Association (MPA) again sponsored the annual District 105 Century Resources Music Fundraiser this year. The MPA and the directors send their thanks to all of the band, orchestra and choir members for their cooperation and contribution to another great fundraiser. All items will be delivered and ready for pickup on Tuesday, November 14th from 3:00p.m. to 5:00 at each student's home school. MPA uses these proceeds to provide for your students beyond our fine district's financial obligation to the music programs. Examples include instruments, supplies, food for activities, music education software, guest conductors and so much more! We would also like to remind you that if you did not participate, we would greatly appreciate your submitting your \$30.00, to be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you!

Mrs. Cherry, MPA President
Mr. Schwarz, Band Director
Mrs. Kay, Choir Director
Mr. Valdez, Orchestra Director



LT Solo and Ensemble Contest



This is just a reminder that the Lyons Township High School Solo and Ensemble contest will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2018, at Lyons Township South Campus. Information and registration forms will be passed out to band and orchestra members during the first week of December. Completed registration forms will be due early in January. This is a requirement for Symphony Orchestra and Concert Band students. It is encouraged that all students participate.

District 105 Music Program Dress Code

Information was distributed at the parent meetings in September explaining the dress code all Fine Arts students at performances. Please be sure this form has been returned to your child's director and that you have discussed/made arrangements for your child to adhere to this policy.

Health Notes....

Reminders

Winter is coming and so are seasonal illnesses. Parents are reminded to be watchful for flu symptoms in their children. Parents of children with asthma or chronic disease should have already consulted with their doctors regarding their need for flu vaccine.

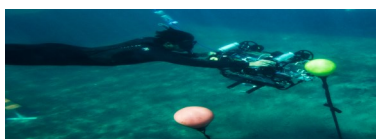
Remember, sometimes we feel “less than great” but we are still able to do our job. A student may attend school with a cold, but needs to follow good hygiene practices. Cough drops are allowed at school as they do not fall under our medication policy. A cough lasting more than two weeks should be checked.

Remember to avoid giving aspirin for the flu due to its correlation to Reye’s Syndrome. Other reasons to keep a child home

are fever, vomiting, diarrhea, strep throat (must have completed at least 24 hours of medication before returning), conjunctivitis (pink eye), and ear infections. **Please do not send a sick child to school and endanger him or the welfare of others.** Remember that if your child has shown symptoms of any of these illnesses in the morning, chances are that they will not improve as the day goes on. Please keep your child home in those cases. If your child becomes ill at school, or has come to school ill, you must make arrangements to either pick them up or have someone pick them up. Sick children cannot be cared for in the nurse’s office for an entire day and then sent home on the bus. This jeopardizes the health of the entire school community.

STEM CLUB

Congrats to the 2017-2018 Underwater Robotics STEM club. 8th grade Katie Morris, Ana Babnigg, Lauren Elliott, Grant Dixon, Cole Kostrzewa, Dryden Hall, Erika Betancourt, Keira Hernandez, Beau Brown. 7th grade Ethan Rosencranz, Evan Konkey, Calum Rogers, Margaret Pacholski, Malia Fink, Olivia Sawickis, Mia Sekulovski. Underwater Robotics STEM club will begin building their underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to compete in the regional event in the Spring of 2018 to the theme of “Jet City: Aircraft, Earthquakes, and Energy” based off of Seattle, Washington and its booming airplane economy. Robotics and connections in action!



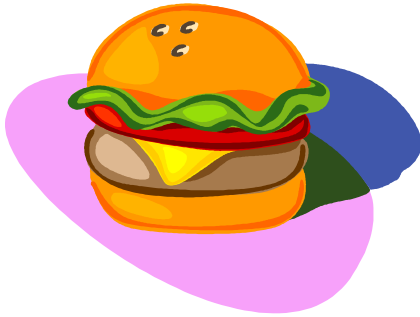
PTO NEWS

Box Tops Update

Gurrie Middle School PTO is thankful for Box Tops for Education! Please continue collecting box tops and send them to your student’s advisor. Remember, all proceeds from the box tops program help to provide the many wonderful programs and events the PTO brings to our students.

Friends and neighbors can collect box tops too! There is a collection receptacle in the entry way to the Gurrie office. Any one can come in and drop off their box tops. Remind your friends and neighbors that if they choose to do so, they should put your student’s name on the envelope so he or she can receive credit for the box tops.





Student ID Cards ... Hot Lunch Program ...Hot Lunch Pre-Pay

Gurrie students are issued student ID cards within the first week or two of school. These ID cards serve as school library cards, bus passes, and breakfast/lunch debit cards. Students are also issued a lanyard to attach their ID cards to so they can keep their ID cards readily available and safe. Students should carry their ID with them at all times. The replacement cost for a lost ID card is \$2.00, and students must have their ID cards replaced if they lose or break them. Breakage due to wear is considered on a case to case basis.

Gurrie students pay for their breakfast and/or hot lunches by swiping their ID card in the cafeteria. The breakfast is a “grab and go” breakfast (nothing is cooked/no hot breakfast is provided). The cost of the breakfast this year is \$2.00. Students can grab their breakfast starting at 7:55a.m. Only breakfast and/or hot lunches or milk may be paid for by swiping the ID card, and breakfast and/or hot lunches may only be paid for by using the ID card. Other lunch foods available in the cafeteria must be paid for using cash. Students on the free and reduced lunch program also swipe their ID cards when picking up their breakfast and/or hot lunches. If those students on the free and reduced lunch program choose to eat other food available in the cafeteria at lunch, or take an extra milk, they must pay cash. The free and reduced hot lunch program as determined by the state only covers one breakfast and/or hot lunch (which includes milk) each day. If a student on the free and reduced program only wishes milk or would like and extra milk, they must pay for it. This is according to the state program’s rules.

Parents are asked at registration to prepay \$57.00 (20 hot lunches at \$2.85 each) if their student will be generally ordering a hot lunch or eating breakfast at school. A lesser amount can be prepaid if the student will only be purchasing milk. Parents are asked to monitor their student’s lunch account throughout the year, and send money in to apply to the student’s card as funds run low. Parents can monitor their students’ accounts by logging in to their PowerSchool account. Parents who do not have computer access can call the school office for an update on their students’ lunch balances.

Parents whose students’ lunch balances fall in arrears by more than \$12.50 will receive automated phone calls from the District office weekly until the balance is paid. In addition, lunch balances appear on progress reports and report cards. Negative balances will be highlighted. Parents whose student’s lunch balances fall seriously in arrears will be contacted personally by the District office. Although the school will try to help parents keep on top of the students’ balances, *it is ultimately a parent’s responsibility to monitor their student’s lunch balance.*

Parents may send checks (made out to School District 105) or cash to the Gurrie office when their students’ lunch balances fall low. Parents may also pay online with a credit card. If parents send cash, their students will receive a receipt. Please check your student’s lunch account when you have sent in money to be sure that they have turned payment in to the office. As with so many things, lunch payments can be forgotten in lockers and back packs. When paying with cash, please send your student with the exact amount you wish applied to their lunch account. The office cannot make change. Please check your student’s lunch balance when you have sent in cash to be sure the amount turned in to the office matches the amount you sent.



Don't miss out on all the memories...order your Gurrie Middle School Yearbook today for only \$20.00!

Gurrie students will soon receive a yearbook order form in their Wednesday envelope. Please return the completed form with cash or check made out to Gurrie Middle School to Mrs. McGovern in room 112. If you pay with cash or check you will receive a receipt (delivered to your advisory) to confirm your order. If you need another copy of the order form, look for the link on the Gurrie website. If you prefer you may also *ORDER ONLINE* with a credit card at jostensyearbook.com. Just click "**BUY YOUR YEARBOOK**" and then search for **Gurrie Middle School**. Yearbooks must be ordered by Thursday, March 15, 2018 and they will be distributed during our school yearbook signing party at the end of May.

You can also upload photos to be considered for our Gurrie Yearbook! Go to www.replayit.com and click on "FIND YOUR SCHOOL TO REGISTER", type in "Gurrie" and then enter your information to register and create an account to upload your photos. We'll select the best for use in our 2017-2018 Gurrie Yearbook.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mrs. McGovern, Gurrie yearbook moderator, by email at jmcgovern@d105.net or call 708-482-2720, ext. 1212.

Cheerleading

Congrats to the 2017-2018 Gurrie Cheerleading team. Our 2017-2018 cheerleaders are:



7th Grade:

Natalia Gonzalez-Espinoza, Sonia Gjorgjevska, Lindsey Hammond, Emma Kallal, Paige Klun, Caroline LaVoie, Karen Martinez, Gianna Pigatto, Lillian Prendergast, Bella Ries-Salinas, Grace Sneed, Chrissy Thorpe, David Valenzuela.

8th Grade:

Jade Babb, Angelica Borrego, Sofia Cabrera, Maggie Cavanaugh, Diliah Naim Cortez, Juliet Duarte, Rolando Garcia, Megan Gardner, Posey Graber, Lily Henning, Gaby Quintana, Gianna Trombello, Katie Young.

The cheerleaders are off to a great start and are excited to cheer on the Boys Basketball Team this year!

2017-2018 Boys' Basketball Begins



Tryouts for the 7th grade boys' basketball team took place during the week of October 23rd. The following boys were named to this year's team: Aidan Collins, Devell Brittmon, Dylan Colbert, Grant Kostrzewa, Jake Warkentien, Liam Carolan, Mathew Meehan, Nick Polonowski, Patrick Engels, Patrick Wenstrup, Thomas Tobolski.

Tryouts for the 8th grade boys' basketball team were also held during the week of October 23rd. Members of this year's team are: Aidan Wirtz, Antonio Ruiz, Billy Bach, Conner Crowe, Dryden Hall, Diego Lopez, Jack Bradbury, Jack Nutting, Luke Whelton, Michael Springer, Owen Cherry, Shane Curtin.

The teams are coached by Mr. Alvarez and Mr. Pontrelli.



SPORTS CALENDAR

November

- 14 Boys' Basketball home vs. Washington Red
- 27 Boys' Basketball home vs. McClure Red
- 28 Boys' Basketball at Pleasantdale
- 30 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Blue

December

- 4 Boys' Basketball vs. Westchester
- 5 Boys' Basketball at Park Blue
- 12 Boys' Basketball at McClure White
- 18 Boys' Basketball home vs. Highlands
- 19 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red
- 21 Boys' Basketball at Willow Springs

Boys' Softball Season Ends

The 7th and 8th grade boys softball teams were a great group of boys learning to work together! They showed amazing spirit and great defensive talent!

Members of the 8th grade team are: Jack Bradbury, Conner Crowe, Shane Curtin, Alejandro Delarosa, Emiliano Esquivel, Elias Lopez, Salvador Lopez, Colin Meehan, Jack Nutting, Victor Ramos, Jesus Ramos, Antonio Ruiz, Luka Tomich, Rogelio Vargas, Ivan Villalobos.

Members of the 7th grade team are: Jackson Garelli, Victor Herrejon, Roberto Llanes, David McKay, Kody Kubina, Jackson Kirk.



Girls' Basketball Season Ends 7th Grade

7th grade improved leaps and bounds as the season wore on.

The 7th grade team beat many teams throughout the season including the likes of Westchester, Highlands, Willow Springs and McClure. The girls were able to improve their skills in passing, dribbling, and shooting skills and showed a true commitment through the whole season. The willingness to get better was evident as there was always positive attitudes win or loss. The 7th grade Tigers finished the season with 6 wins overall! This young squad came a long way in a short time, and will look to take home the first place trophy in 2018. Members of the team include Hannah Eskra, Natalie Gonzales, Emma Kallal, Karman Kapsa, Kyle Kirby, Karen Martinez, Margaret Pacholski, Lily Prendergast, Lauren Robinson, Mercedes Sanchez, and Grace Sneed.



8th Grade

Our 8th grade girls basketball team returned to the court this fall ready to get better each day and improve as a team while building off their success in 7th grade. The team returned eight girls from previous year including Erika Betancourt, Hailey Brudd, Xenia Bizarro, Sofia Cabrera, Juliet Duarte, Megan Gardner, Erin Herndon, and Gabby Sanchez, while adding new players to the squad that included Sam Basquez, Lily Henning, Leslie Mendoza, Gianna Trombello, and Susan Yeager. The team gelled right away and embodied the idea of a team as all girls supported each other with a positive attitude every day. The team built upon their skills and continued to develop throughout the season. Even though some games did not go our way, the team showed great determination and played each game to the final buzzer.

Coaches Olson and Yena



Gurrie Cross Country



2017 Gurrie Cross Country

In spite of occasional oppressive heat, lockdown cancellations, off-season injuries and a late calendar start to the season, the Gurrie Cross Country team logged one of the most successful seasons to date. We finished as the 3rd place overall team in the LTESAC Conference Championships behind only McClure and Highlands with impressive showings at the IESA championships, as well.

Our girls team finished 2nd place and only 8 points behind Highlands for the championship. 7th grader Charlotte Lange was a beast all season and led Gurrie with a 3rd place overall finish out of 244 runners. Only 25 seconds behind Charlotte was 6th grader Roz Pagnarelli with an incredible 6th place overall finish (2nd overall 6th grader). Gurrie's top 5 (the top five score points for each team in cross country) was rounded out by 6th grader Anna Bylsma (10th), 7th grader Allyssa Wong (14th), and 8th grader Ella Bylsma (22nd). With a deep arsenal of returning 6th and 7th graders, the girls are primed for a big year in 2018.

The boys finished 4th overall in a tight race behind McClure, Park, and Highlands. While McClure dominated the front end of the race, Gurrie's pack of five was impressive. 6th grader Maks Washchuk led the charge with 16th place overall finish followed immediately by 8th grader Beau Brown in 17th, 7th grader Aidan Collins in 18th, and 6th graders Jimmy Brechja and John Barrette in 20th and 21st. A special congratulations to Maks, Jimmy B and John B for being the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th sixth grade finishers in the conference. With this core of returning runners (and injured 7th grader Michael Rocha), the boys will be tough to beat next year, too.

The coaching staff, particularly Coach Joe Pontrelli, has also been recognized within the running community and will present at the annual ITCCA Conference this January. Coach Pontrelli's distance program, a middle-school adaptation of LT distance running, is focused on safe development of adolescent runners with gender-specific adjustments for safety, recovery, and foot-speed. Our runners will continue to benefit from this training, particularly those that start early. Our team practices for 2018 will begin the first week of August, so keep an eye out for information regarding off-season training and meeting dates.

Thank you to all runners, parents, and coaches that made this year a success. It's always a challenge to compete in a growing sport in one of the most competitive areas of the state. Our kids continue to benefit and lead the pack with class, hard work, and dedication. We appreciate everyone who contributes to that culture. Congrats to all of our runners and we'll see you in August!