



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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2018, Issue 3

www.d105/gurrie.net
School Closing Hotline: 708-482-2722

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CALENDAR

November

- 20 Gurrie Feast
- 20 Project Linus, 2:30p.m.
- 21 Non Attendance Day
- 22 Thanksgiving Day
- 23 Thanksgiving Holiday
- 26 Board of Ed. Meeting 7:30p.m.
- 27 LT Future Freshman Night
LT South, 7p.m

December

- 4 Holiday Band Concert 7:00p.m.
- 6 Holiday Orchestra Concert, 7:00p.m
- 11 Holiday Choir Concert, 7:00p.m.
- 14 Trimester 1 Honor Roll Breakfast 7:45a



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



From the Principal's Desk



Greetings from Gurrie!

Trimester I 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 21 years ago and continues on. On Tuesday, November 20th, 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 students and parents will be more and more involved with the transition process to high school. On Tuesday, November 27th 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 Thursday, 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.

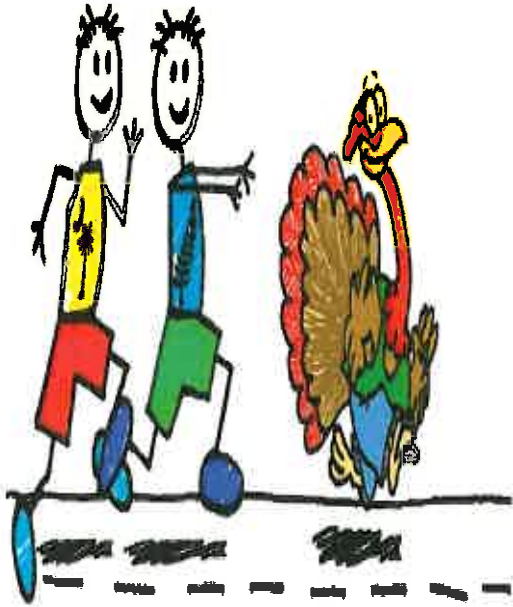
During Red Ribbon Week in October students participated in the Signs of Suicide program which provides important information regarding depression and how to help a friend (or themselves) who may be struggling. Each student learned about the ACT acronym (acknowledge, care, tell). In the event that a friend 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.

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 6th at 7:00 p.m. in the Gurrie Gymnasium, featuring all orchestras.

This year's Holiday Band concert will be held on Tuesday, December 4th 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.

LTHS Jazz Festival

The GMS Jazz Ensemble will be performing in the LT Jazz Festival on February 27th, 2019. The students will be attending an all-day clinic featuring one of the top jazz musicians in the Chicago area, as well as performing for the LT directors and students. More details to follow!



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 13th from 3:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. in the cafeteria at Gurrie Middle 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 you considering a \$35.00 buyout, to be submitted as soon as possible. Thank you!



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 9th 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. It is encouraged that all students participate.

We will also be holding our annual District 105 Pre-Solo and Ensemble Showcase on Tuesday, March 5th. This is a requirement for all 4th-8th grade orchestra and 5th-8th grade band students. More details will be distributed after winter break.

District 105 Music Program Dress Code

Information was distributed at the parent's 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 2018-2019 Underwater Robotics STEM club. 8th graders are Margaret Pacholski, Malia Fink, Ethan Rosenkranz Evan Konkey, Olivia Sawickis and 7th graders are Olivia Hill, Montserrat Pelayo, Kevin Zapata, Josh Connolly, Caden Strack, Ethan Mason, Alita Folkening, Brandon Betancourt, Poppy Graber, Tommy Goryl. Underwater Robotics STEM club will begin building their underwater Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to compete in the regional event in the Spring of 2019 to the theme of "ROV OPERATIONS IN RIVERS, LAKES, AND DAM" based off of Tennessee's Boone Dam Project. Robotics and real world application 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 \$2.07. 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 \$58.40 (20 hot lunches at \$2.92 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 14, 2019 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 2018-2019 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 2018-2019 Gurrie Cheerleading team. Our 2018-2019 cheerleaders are:



7th Grade:

Lillian Davis, McKayla Duran, Brianna Flores, Hannah Kallal, Jackie Kogen, Katarina Neskovic, Kendahl Payton, Meraly Rubio, Gabby Sanchez, Camille Woods, Emma Yawn.

8th Grade:

Bella Adkins, Nikki Avizius, Sara Gjorgjevska, Grace Gonzales, Lindsey Hammond, Emma Kallal, Paige Klun, Caroline LaVoie, Karen Martinez, Lillian Prendergast, Chrissy Thorpe, David Valenzuela.

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

2018-2019 Boys' Basketball Begins



Tryouts for the 7th grade boys' basketball team took place during the week of October 22nd. The following boys were named to this year's team: Michael Badrov, Jimmy Brechja, Sean Cherry, Johnny Garcia, Shawn Jenkins, Jacob Kawczynski, Xavier Leverette, Emilio Lopez, Jack McLane, Andrew Peto, Eliezer Soto-Gracia.

Tryouts for the 8th grade boys' basketball team were also held during the week of October 22nd. Members of this year's team are: Devell Brittmon, Liam Carolan, Aidan Collins, Patrick Engels, Grant Kostrzewa, Matthew Meehan, Niklas Polonowski, Michael Rocha, Thomas Tobolski, Patrick Wenstrup.

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



SPORTS CALENDAR

November

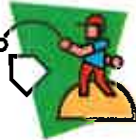
- 27 Boys' Basketball at Pleasantdale
- 29 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Red

December

- 10 Boys' Basketball vs. Park Blue
- 11 Boys' Basketball at Westchester
- 13 Boys' Basketball vs. McClure
- 17 Boys' Basketball at Washington Blue
- 18 Boys' Basketball vs. Washington Red

Boys' Softball Season Ends

The members of the 8th Grade Gurrie Boys Softball Team started the season with great energy and improvement. They had developed their fielding and hitting from last year, and showed off their new skills. The team had many new faces and each player was willing to play any position. The members of the 8th grade team were: Hussein Bato, Jackson Garelli, Victor Herrejon, Moses Kimble, Jackson Kirk, David McKay, Matthew Pierpaoli, Jahari Pittmon, Charlie Regan, Juan Rios, Nick Stukalo-Stolte, and Armando Soto.



The members of the 7th Grade Gurrie Boys Softball Team started the season with such great teamwork! The team was getting to know each other and ended up creating a great bond with one another. The team dominated the field and were able to make stellar plays. The team also had great at-bats showing off their swing. The members of the 7th grade team were: Anson Babb, Erick Cerda, Tommy Goryl, Michael Ojeda, Isaiah Ramos, Junior Rubalcaba, Caden Strack, Ilija Tomich, and Sam Burcal. The team was managed by Jovany Garcia.

Thanks to all our parents who provided water, rides, and excellent fan support. Coach Quinn and Coach Gjoni want to thank our awesome players who made it a fun season to coach softball! See you next season! GO TIGERS!

Girls' Basketball Season Ends 7th Grade



7th Grade had a very nice season as the squad came together to win games, participate in a service project and have fun. The 7th grade had many close fought games against the likes of McClure, Park, Pleasantdale and Willow Springs while prevailing to win multiple games! The girls were able to improve their skills in passing, dribbling, and shooting skills and showed a true commitment through the whole season. During the middle of the season, the team baked corn muffins and made PB&J sandwiches which were later passed out to homeless people in Downtown Chicago! This young squad came a long way in a short time, and did some awesome things both on and off the basketball court. Members of the team include Rana Aaronson (Manager), Claire Collins, McKayla Duran, Kaitlyn Filkins, Brianna Flores, Poppy Graber, Hannah Kallal, Maddie Rowen, Nikolette Weiss, Journie Wickert, and Izzi Wirtz.

8th Grade

Our 8th grade Gurrie girls basketball team, entered the 2018 season with a strong foundation from last year, adding some newcomers to the team this year, they quickly meshed to play strong and competitive in each game. They finished the regular season with a 5-6 record and moved on to the tournament to face Park in the first round and avenged a mid season loss to move on to the 2nd round and held McClure to a close game before finally bowing out to the eventual tournament champions. This year's team included: Hannah Eskra, Natalia Gonzales, Lindsey Hammond (Manager), Emma Kallal, Karman Kapsa, Kyla Kirby, Karen Martinez, Lilly Prendergast, Grace Sneed, Chrissy Thorpe, and Angie Townsend.

Coaches Olson and Yena



Gurrie Cross Country



2018 Gurrie Cross Country

The results are in and the Gurrie cross country team is officially back on top! On Monday, October 15th, our boys and girls teams won their respective races at the LT Conference Championships against McClure, Highlands, Park, Pleasantdale, Washington, Willow Springs, and Forest Park. That also locked down the "Best Overall Team" trophy and we became the first school to have a "clean sweep" of all three championship crowns. A huge congratulations to 8th grader Charlotte Lange that started the night off with the toughest race to date. She stayed with the leader every step of the way and took it down during the final sprint. Charlotte's first place finish was followed closely by Roz Pagnarelli in 5th, Reese Metz in 6th, Gabi Sanchez in 9th and Anna Bylsma in 10th. Alyssa Wong rounded out the pack with a 15th place finish.

The boys were led by a strong 1-2 punch of 8th graders Nik Polonowski and Aidan Collins who dominated the race with a 1st and 2nd place finish. They led the whole way and were followed closely by the strongest pack of the year. 7th graders John Barrette and Maks Washchuk finished 4th and 5th overall with 8th grader Calum Rogers running the race of his career with an incredible 8th place overall finish. The boys total points of 20 is the lowest total in conference history. With two individual champions, two team championships and "best overall team" trophy, it was truly a season for the record books.

Gurrie was also represented well at the IESA Sectionals at Lewis University. Both teams recorded the fastest individual and team times in Gurrie history. The girls finished 4th place as a team out of 12 with Charlotte Lange and Roz Pagnarelli leading the charge with a 12th and 13th place finish. Their times of 12:25 for the two-mile race are the 2nd and 3rd fastest times for a Gurrie runner ever. Reese Metz, Anna Bylsma, Gabi Sanchez, Allyssa Wong, and Olivia Hill all finished the race under 14 minutes. For the record, that's really really fast.

Our boys team that became the first boys team to qualify for the IESA State Finals! Nik Polonowski led the charge with an incredible 4th place overall finish. His two-mile time of 10 minutes and 36 seconds is the single fastest time in Gurrie's history. Aidan Collins rocked a 10th place overall finish with the second fastest time in Gurrie's history at 10:53. That means those two are the two fastest runners we've ever had. Max Washchuk finished at 10:59 and John Barrette, Carson Turner, Dean O'Bryan, and Peter Sanchez all finished under 13 minutes. That's Bananas.

The boys team then finished 13th in the state IESA State Finals. The boys narrowly missed a top 10 finish and ran their butts off in the muddy, 38 degree course. They battled hills, high winds, muddy falls, elbows, and spikes to finish the race as a top team in the state. Congratulations to Aidan Collins, Maks Washchuk, John Barrette, Carson Turner, Dean O'Bryan, Peter Sanchez, Liam Carolan, Calum Rogers, and Claudio Rodriguez for representing Gurrie so well. A special congratulations is in order for 8th grader Niklas Polonowski for posting the single best State Finals performance by a Gurrie runner. Nik earned "All-State" honors with his 21st place finish in a time of 11 minutes and 8 seconds. He passed Gurrie running legends Carlos and Eduardo Molina as the top finisher of all time.

The coaches would also like to thank the following 8th graders for dedicating three years of training, racing, and fun to the Gurrie cross country program: Nikki Avizius, Charlotte Lange, Sammie Shanahan, Emily Walsh, Allyssa Wong, Aidan Collins, Jonathan Flores, Daniel Lee, Peter Sanchez, and Dan "The Man" Walsh.

Congrats to all runners for a truly memorable season. Your coaching staff appreciates everything that went into this year and can't wait for next season. Stay tuned for spring and summer updates!