Dear Meadow Glens Families,

This past Friday, Home and School sponsored our biannual International Night. This is one of my favorite events at Meadow Glens. The evening started with a parade of students representing the countries at our awesome school. Parents and students set up booths with cultural food and information about their cultural heritage and the Home & School committee chairs organized entertainment from countries around the world. Not only is this event a celebration of diversity, tolerance, and cultural acceptance, it is a fun evening for our past, current, and future families at Meadow Glens.

America is the great "melting pot," a rich blend of cultural traditions from all over the world. Many American families can trace their histories to immigrant ancestors who traveled great distances, enduring risk and hardship, to make a home where they would be guaranteed basic freedoms. For many American families these freedoms came with a struggle. Their parents and grandparents were denied the basic rights we value. American society was founded on freedom from religious persecution and on tolerance of differences in beliefs and cultural heritage. The diversity that comes from people from all over the world enrich our culture, bringing new ideas and energy. Today, more than ever, kids interact with people of differing ethnicities, religions, and cultures. Classrooms are increasingly diverse, reflecting the communities where families live and work.

Parents can help their kids prepare to live, learn, and work in communities that will become even more diverse. Teaching tolerance is important not just because it is part of our American heritage, but because the person who learns to be open to differences will have more opportunities in education, business, and many other aspects of life. In short, your child’s success depends on it. Success in today’s world — and tomorrow’s — depends on being able to understand, appreciate, and work with others.

But does tolerance mean that all behaviors have to be accepted? Of course not. Behaviors that disrespect or hurt others, like being mean or bullying, or behaviors that break social rules, like lying or stealing, should not be tolerated. Tolerance is about accepting people for who they are — not about accepting bad behavior. Tolerance also means treating others the way you would like to be treated.

Like all attitudes, tolerance is often taught in subtle ways. Even before they can speak, children closely watch — and imitate — their parents. Kids of all ages develop their own values, in great part, by mirroring the values and attitudes of those they care about. Parents who demonstrate (or model) tolerance in their everyday lives send a powerful message. As a result, their kids learn to appreciate differences, too. When parents encourage a tolerant attitude in their children, talk about their values, and model the behavior they would like to see by treating others well, kids will follow in their footsteps. At Meadow Glens, we look for opportunities to teach tolerance, empathy and cultural acceptance. Please help us create a community of acceptance, tolerance, and love. ~Katy Lynch

"No man can know where he is going unless he knows exactly where he has been and exactly how he arrived at his present place." - Maya Angelou

Safety, safety, safety!

Arrival and dismissal are very busy times for every member of Meadow Glens School. Increased traffic volume and colder weather conditions can cause a great deal of congestion in the drop-off and pick-up traffic circles. On page 8 of the Parent/Student Handbook (green section) there is a diagram of the traffic flow for both Lot A and Lot B and procedures during drop-off and pick-up times. The third bullet at the bottom of the page says, “Vehicles will not be allowed to turn left from Muirhead into Lot A during drop-off/pick-up times”. The arrival and dismissal traffic patterns and procedures were reviewed by the City of Naperville, Naperville 203 Building and Grounds, and parents of students attending Meadow Glens just a few years ago. The safety of our students is of the utmost importance and we need your support to ensure a safe and efficient arrival and dismissal of students.

Other arrival and dismissal reminders:
• Please remember to display your last name during dismissal by using the rear view mirror tags sent home at the beginning of the school year
• Discuss safe walking/biking routes with your child
• Please do not drop off your child before 8:00AM when supervision begins. The Champions program does have openings in the morning if you need supervision for your child before 8:00AM.
• Only students in 3rd grade and up can ride their bikes, scooters, etc. to school without a parent or guardian
• Observe the drop-off/pick-up directions when you drive to school and obey all traffic signs

Parent Teacher Conferences
Recently, you received a Talk 203 message from the District about scheduling your parent/teacher conferences. Research and experience tell us that a strong partnership between home and school is important to student success. Parent-Teacher Conferences are a great way to strengthen this partnership. We look forward to this opportunity to sit down and talk with us about your student.

We strive to meet with all families in person during Parent-Teacher Conferences. However, at times family travel or work arrangements hinder such face-to-face conversations. As a school, we honor the time the district has set aside for conferences and look forward to meeting and/or speaking with you during the scheduled conference window. If you are unavailable to meet in person during the scheduled conference days of March 5th and 6th, please schedule a phone conference during these two days using the PTC Wizard website. Your flexibility is appreciated in arranging a conference during the district planned times.

Empower 2020- Intro to Computer Programming and STEM - Calling all 4th and 5th grade girls!
The Empower Club is returning this year at Meadow Glens, available to all girls in 4th and 5th grade. Its mission is to introduce young girls to the art of computer programming in a discovery-centered curriculum which lets girls learn on their own after participating in hands-on, collaborative activities. The main focus is to cultivate an interest in the STEM field by having the girls attack problems head-on and learn to solve them which will teach them to become positive-risk takers. Students will learn Scratch; a basic drag-and-drop language that will open doors to explore more complex languages such as Python and HTML. Other hands-on STEM activities will be provided as well.

Programming is an essential skill in today's day and age. Whether you go into the arts, the STEM field, or even the military, technology is everywhere, and students need to know how to interact with it. Not only does programming prepare your child for their future, but learning it develops a focused mindset that can be applied anywhere, in college, in sports, and even in hobbies. In order to succeed in a career in tech where the gender gap is enormous, girls need to be exposed to the STEM field at an early age which will guarantee creativity, independence, logic, motivation, and other life skills. In this class, girls will also be taught other aspects of the STEM field including mathematics. This opportunity is also first-come-first-serve, so only the first 20 - 4th and 5th grade girls to apply will be entered. Previous Empower Club participants will not be accepted.

The Empower Club is taught by sophomore Ria B. and assisting senior Clara N. Ria has successfully launched the Empower program at Meadow Glen last year and is joined this year by Clara N, a proficient coder, and budding teacher. Ria currently participates in Girls Who Code @ UIC and runs Empower Club, a program to expand Meadow Glens’ 2019 Empower curriculum to other participating elementary schools. Clara is a motivated member of Empower Club and hopes to bring new life to the program with her innovation in science, and knowledge about internet safety. They are both ready and excited to continue to teach girls and spread awareness!

Empower Club takes place the following Wednesday mornings from 7:15-8:00 in the Learning Commons (March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th; April 8th, 22nd, 29th; May 6th, 13th) - 9 sessions total. Registration information will be coming.
Elementary Science Olympiad (ESO) Tournament

Meadow Glens’ 5th ESO tournament is in the books. This was among the most competitive ESO tournaments so far. Meadow Glens had two of 13 teams, and all of the teams came prepared. Meadow Glens’ ESO medaled in 10 of 12 events, and our 45 students did an awesome job of representing Meadow Glens. Congratulations!

A is for Anatomy: 3rd (Blue)
Build a Barge: No medals
Backyard Biologist: 1st (Blue), 4th (Gray)
Circuit Wizardry: 2nd (Gray), 5th (Blue)
Crimebusters: No medals
Experimental Design: 4th (Blue)
Fossil Frenzy: 1st (Gray), 3rd (Blue)
Ready, Aim, Fire: 5th (Blue)
Tower of Terror: 2nd (Gray)
Trajectory: 3rd (Gray), 4th (Blue)
Weather Forecasting: 2nd (Gray), 3rd (Blue)
Write It, Do It: 1st (Gray), 4th (Blue)

Home & School Happenings

Home & School Meeting
All parents are invited to the Meadow Glens Home & School meeting tonight, Tuesday, February 11th, 7:00 p.m., in the Learning Commons. The main focus of the meeting will be all about the 25 Meadow Glens H&S committees! Do you have questions about H&S committees: What are the committees? What are their budgets? Where do all those fundraising monies go? Find out what NEW committee is being considered for next year and what committees are being considered to be taken off the list. All parent feedback is welcome! Special guest speaker, Linda Smith, will be talking about social and emotional learning at Meadow Glens and how parents can support their children at home and school.

Think Spring and Flowers!
One of our biggest Home & School fundraisers, Meadow Glens’ Flower Sale, is coming soon! You can order all of your spring and summer flowers online www.mghs203.org starting soon. More information coming.

Have you ever flown a DRONE before?
Both you and your child can learn to fly a drone and write the code to make it lift, hover, and land on target! Come support H&S Code Ninjas on February 21, 2020, 6:30pm and 7:30pm time slots. $20 per parent/child couple (with 50% going back to support your school!) Please click the attached flier on the Talk203 (electronic) version of the newsletter for more information. Spots may fill up, so please click the bit link provided in the flier to reserve your spot- Hope to see you there!

Sky Zone Aurora
H&S Fundraiser and Social on Thursday, March 5th from 10am-12pm. $20 per child for 2 full hours of non-stop action! This is a NO SCHOOL DAY for District 203 students. Come any time between these hours and stay for 2 hours of jumping! 20% of proceeds will go back to our school. Bring a few friends and have a blast!

COMING ATTRACTIONS

February 25  Band Concert 6:00-6:30 and Orchestra Concert 7:00-7:30 in the gymnasium
February 28  No School - County-wide Institute Day
March 5  Parent-Teacher Conferences/Book Fair (5-8:30pm)
March 6  Parent-Teacher Conferences/Book Fair (8am-12pm)
March 9  Kindergarten Preview at Meadow Glens - No School for current KDG ONLY
March 20  Bark-Fast 7:15-8:00 am
March 26  STEM Discovery Night  6:00-8:00PM
March 30-April 3  Spring Break