

GGUSD

Allen Elementary Mountaineer



January 2010

Principal Message

Greetings Mountaineers and Happy New Year! We hope that you all had a restful, wonderful winter recess, and that you are ready to begin the New Year with zest and vigor!

We have settled in to our winter schedule, and our students are making excellent academic progress. It is important that our children be in school, arrive at school on time and not miss any instructional minutes. We genuinely appreciate all the tremendous support we receive from home.

Lost and Found

Is your child missing a clothing item that he or she wore to school one day? If so, please be sure to check out the Lost and Found area in the Health Office. Now that students are bringing hats, mittens and scarves to school, the number of lost items is growing steadily. Please look for your child's lost items prior to the spring break because we will be donating the items that are not retrieved by the spring break.

Technology-Search Engines

Ask Kids <http://www.askkids.com/> is a search engine designed exclusively for young people ages 6 to 12. It's a free, safe, fun way for kids and their parents to quickly and easily research school topics like science, math, geography, language arts, and history in a search environment that's safer and more age-appropriate than traditional, adult search engines.



KidsClick! <http://www.kidsclick.org/> was created by a group of librarians at the Ramapo Catskill Library System, as a logical step in addressing concerns about the role of public libraries in guiding their young users to valuable and age appropriate web sites.

Yahoo! Kids <http://kids.yahoo.com/> is a browsable, searchable directory of Internet sites for kids. Each site has been carefully checked by an experienced educator to ensure the content and links are appropriate for kids aged 7-12. In addition to our directory, they also have a number of fun features, including Yahoo! Kids Games, Sports, and News pages, Movies, Animals, Science, and Dinosaurs, a Reference section, Parents' and Teachers' Guides, a Cool page, and lots more.

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Special points of interest:

- Allen Website www.ggusd.k12.ca.us/allen
- Student T-shirt and Sweatshirt have been ordered and will be arriving soon!
- No School on January 18th-MLK Holiday
- No school on February 5th- Non Student day
- No school On February 12th (Lincoln's Birthday).
- No school on February 15th (President's Day)

Tips for Parents

- Actions for All Students to Succeed!
1. Attendance at school is mandatory
 2. Tell your child "Do your best today!"
 3. Parents can help at home by expecting their children to listen, ask questions and follow the rules.

Joan Spiker, Ed.D

Fun with Writing! The Writing Process



Teaching writing to increase student achievement has been an area we have really focused on as a staff for the past several years. More and more we are realizing the benefits of this researched-based, teaching strategy.

Basically there are four major stages of the writing process: prewriting, writing, revising/editing, and publishing. Prewriting is the first stage of this process and it includes everything that takes place before the first draft of the composition. Prewriting stimulates and enlarges thought and moves writers from the stage of thinking about a writing task to the act of writing.

Writing, the second major stage in the writing process, is the act of completing a first draft. While prewriting leads the writer into a writing task, writing serves to narrow and refine the topic at hand. This first draft gives the writer a chance to find out exactly what he or she has to say, yet allows for a searching, tentative quality to remain in the writing. There is commitment in actually composing a first draft.

Publishing is the final phase of writing, where the writer shares his/her writing with an audience. The audience could be the teacher, his/her peer group, the state, and parents. As a child works through each stage of the writing process, specific instruction by the teacher is conducted through conferences. This is an ideal way to learn the writing standards,

Non Student Day

The next Non Student Day will be held Friday, February 5, 2010. This day is established for the purposes of providing professional development for our teachers, so that we are able to provide the best education for our students. We hope that our students are able to enjoy this extra day for fun and rest!

School Lunches

We have such wonderful parents at Allen School, many of whom surprise their children with special lunches, or who will bring children their lunches to school if the student forgets a lunch from home. In these cases, we have a white student lunch box in the health office where we direct our students to check automatically should they forget their lunch. This policy was established to reduce the amount of classroom interruptions, and we appreciate the cooperation of all our families.



Upcoming Events	
January 18	
No School	Martin Luther King's Birthday
January 28	
Family Night	Come and learn about Project G
February 5	
No School	Staff Development Day
February 12	
No School	Lincoln's Birthday
February 15	
No School	President's Day
February 19	
TET Celebration– Festival of Friendship	
March 25-April 1	
Minimum Day	Parent conferences
April 2	
No School	Good Friday
April 8	
Family Science Night	
April 9	
PTA Spring Walk-a-Thon	
April 12-16	
No School	Spring Recess