WACOUSTA WEEKLY

Chris Groves, **Principal** – grovesc@glcomets.net

9135 Herbison Rd, Eagle, MI 48822 | glcomets.net| Phone: 925-5940 Fax: 925-5970 Attendance: 925-5971

Lunch Menu

Mon. 1-14: Cereal Fun Lunch or Soft Shell Chicken Taco

Tues. 1-15: Chicken Nuggets or Goldfish Bread Fun Lunch

Wed. 1-16: Bosco Sticks or Sweet and Sour Chicken

Thur. 1-17: Cheese French Bread Pizza or Chicken Caesar Salad

Fri. 1-18: Grilled Cheese or Cheeseburger

Upcoming Dates

Jan 21 - **No School**
Jan 31 - Popcorn Day
Feb 12 - PTIA Meeting 6pm
Feb 13 - Count Day
Feb 15 - **1/2 Day**
Feb 18 - **No School**
Feb 26-28 - Conferences
Mar 1 - 1**/2 Day**
Mar 12 - PTIA Meeting 6pm
Mar 29-Apr 5 - **Spring Break, No School**
Apr 9 - Classes Resume
Apr 19 - **1/2 Day**
May 24 - **1/2 Day**
May 27 - **No School**

December Encouraging Awards

During the month of December we concentrated on how we can be **Encouraging** students. Each classroom teacher chose a student from their room who best exemplified this trait. We are so very proud of these students for being encouraging friends at school! Congrats to the following students:

Clayton Barker
Lydia Bussis
Christine Brown
Serenity Grimes
Brooke Higbee
Nolan Schafer
Ryan Carl
Jaiyden McCormick
Kaitlyn Blossey
Violet Detmers
Jacob Vereeke
Connor Szczepanek
Simone Barber
Emma Chapman
May Starin
Corinne Taylor
Madison Wohlscheid
Iris Mederos-Moon
Hunter Thomas
Arnie Hobart
Jake Southworth
Brady Booher

We would also like to recognize the following staff for being Encouraging to our Wacousta Family:

Devon Detmers
Trudy Strouse
Nancy Coleman
Kelly Nevison
Becky Porter
Chris Chapman
Jamie Lewis

Fundraisers

Coca Cola Fundraiser

The Coca Cola Gives program will donate 5 cents for every bottle top you scan at us.coca-cola.com/give/school-profile/?institutionid=482329

Hungry Howie's Fundraiser

Hungry Howie's has graciously offered to host a fundraiser for Wacousta Elementary again this year. On the following Tuesdays, Hungry Howie's will donate 10% of sales with a coupon on: **January 8**, February 12, March 12, April 9 and May 14. Thank you Hungry Howie's!

Popcorn Days

January 31st!

Box Tops

Please keep sending in your Box Tops for Education! Our Contest is over but we can still collect them all year long!

Recess Beverage

The second period of the Recess Beverage program will start January 21st. If you paid for only the first period of the program, an envelope came home with your child this week. You can return it to school with the payment included if you'd like to continue receiving recess beverage.

If you have not signed up but would like to do so, information is coming home this week. Your student will have to pick up an envelope in the office if you'd like them to participate.

Girl's VIP Out of This World Dance Party

Each Wacousta Elementary Girl is cordially invited to a magical evening with their escort of choice on Friday, February 8th, 2019 from 6:30 till 8:30 in the Wacousta Elementary Gym. Pizza, Punch and Desert will be provided along with Dancing. Fliers will be coming home with each girl with additional information.

We are also in need of volunteers. Please use the attached link to sign up: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090c45acaa2da7fe3-girls

Music Notes from Ms. Fox

Choir

Boy's and Girl's Choir will be starting in January for all interested 5th and 6th graders. Every singer is welcome. Choirs will rehearse once a week at lunch recess for 4-5 weeks. We will prepare one song to perform with the MS and HS vocal groups at Grand Ledge High School. Add this date to your calendar if your student is interested:

Girls: Wednesday, February 6th at 6:30 pm

Boys: Thursday, February 21st at 6:30 pm

Family Dance Night

First and Second graders and their families are invited to the very first Family Dance Night on **Wednesday, March 13** in the Wacousta Gym. Come with your child and participate in the dances we've learned in music class. All are welcome.

First Grade: 6-6:30 pm

Second Grade: 7-7:30 pm

Mini Pom Camp

Grand Ledge Varsity Pompon is hosting a mini camp for students in grades 2-11. On 2/15 and 2/16, kids will learn a pom routine and have sessions focused on pom skills like jumps, kicks and form. On 2/19, the campers will perform the routine at halftime of the boys JV and varsity basketball games! Registration fee is $50 which includes a T-shirt, poms, hair bow and dinner. Please register using this link https://goo.gl/forms/Gi7wuAkPwm8dM57o2 by January 25. A flyer with more information can be found attached to this newsletter.

Starting and Dismissal Times

Wacousta Elementary School hours are 8:55 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Students who arrive after the 8:55 bell MUST be signed into the office by an adult. If your child is going to arrive late, please call the school office at 517-925-5940 or the attendance line at 517-925-5971. Also, please let us know if your child will need to order a hot lunch. If your child is going to be absent, please let us know your child's name and the reason for the absence.

Are you picking up your child at the end of the day?

Please contact the school office by 2:30 p.m. if you plan to pick up your student. We send pick up lists to the classrooms in the afternoon, so it is helpful to have that information by 1:00. We do our best to expedite the dismissal process and it's difficult with late contacts. Thank you to those parents that follow the traffic pattern during the end of day pick up process. It is our goal to keep our student's safety at the forefront!

6th Grade Rollercoaster Madness

Lost And Found

In an effort to eliminate the amount of clothing that accumulates on our Lost and Found Table, after next week, we will begin clearing the table every Monday afternoon. Please remember to label your child's sweatshirts, jackets, lunch boxes, hats, etc. We have so many sweatshirts and articles of clothing along with lunch boxes, etc., on the table at this time with no names.

It's that time of the year

We are having reports of communicable diseases including (influenza, colds, etc). This is a reminder of the following to reduce exposure to illness:

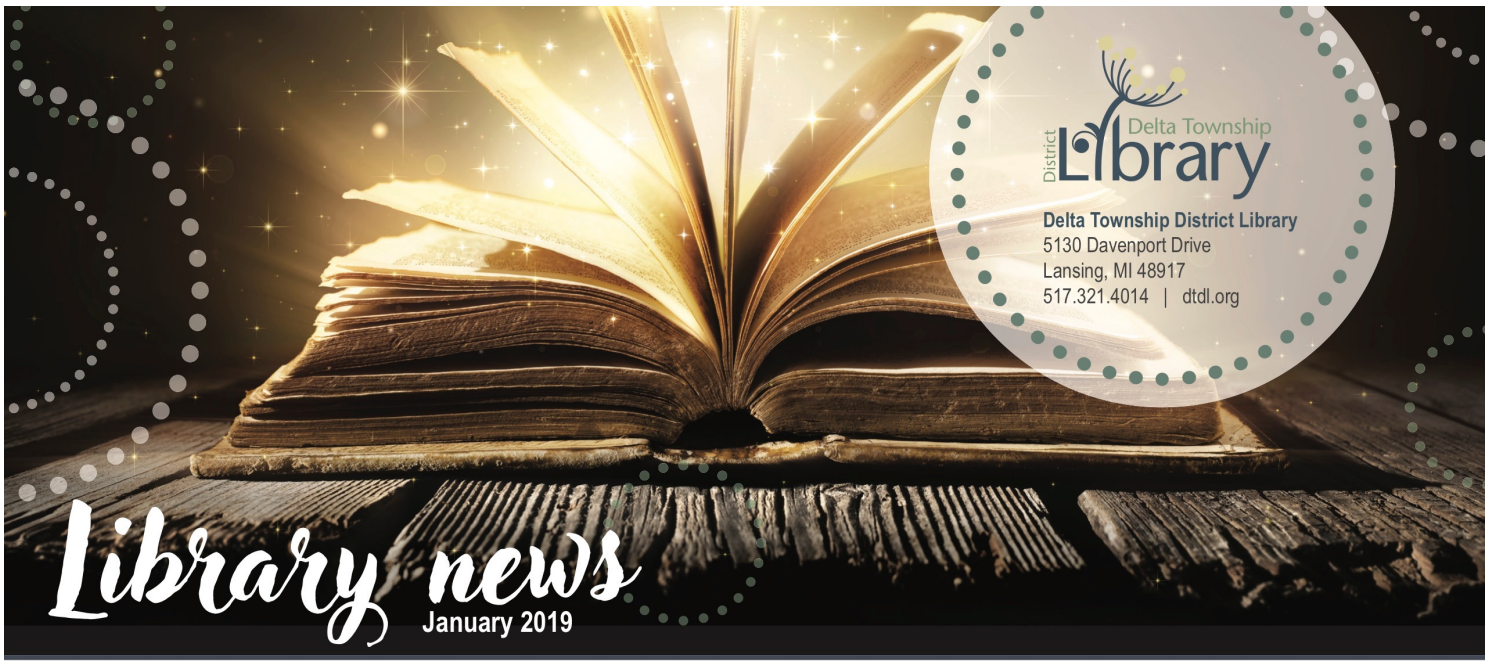
-washing your hands often with soap and water

-covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze

-not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

-avoiding close contact with people who are sick

-keeping your child home when ill



Holiday Hours

The Library will be closed **January 19-21**.

Storytimes (begin Jan 8)

Stories & Crafts		
Tue	10:30 a.m.	Ages 3-5
Baby Time		
Wed	10:30 a.m.	Birth-24 mo.
Toddler Storytime		
Thu	10:30 a.m.	18-36 mo.
Music & Movement Storytime		
Fri	10:30 a.m.	All ages
PJ Storytime		
Thu, Jan 10	6 p.m.	All ages

Youth Programs

Paws for Reading*

Sat, Jan 5 **11 a.m. – 12 p.m.**
Mon, Jan 14 **4 p.m. – 5 p.m.**
Thu, Jan 17 **6 – 7 p.m.**

Tween Book Club*

Wed, Jan 9 **4:15 – 5:15 p.m.**
Ages 9-12. January's book is *The Adventurer's Guide to Successful Escapes* by Wade Albert White.

Sensory Storytime*

Sat, Jan 12 **10:30 – 11:30 a.m.**
Ages 3-10. This sensory storytime is geared to children who have a hard time in large groups, are on the autism spectrum or have other developmental delays and/or sensitivity to sensory overload. Visuals, rhythmic preschool-level stories, and sensory activities will be included in this interactive storytime. Siblings are welcome!

STEAM Saturday*

Sat, Jan 12 **1:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.**
For kids in Kindergarten through third grade. January's theme is ice cream science.

Homeschool Connect

Mon, Jan 28 **1 – 2:30 p.m.**
All ages. Educational and fun activities for kids while parents connect. Jan: musical instruments and their history.

Gaming

Game On! (starts Jan 8)

Tuesdays **3 – 5 p.m.**
Ages 8-18. Visit us at the library after school for game time and more!

Minecraft Game Night*

Fri, Jan 11 **5:45 – 7:30 p.m.**
Ages 7-15. This after-hours event is open to all skill levels and you do not need an account to play.

Teens

Anime Fest

Thu, Jan 17 **5:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
Ages 13-18. Delve into the world of Japanese-inspired animation. Do some crafty projects while you watch, make candy sushi, and try out some authentic Japanese snacks!

*To register for Youth events, please call 517-321-4014 x3 or visit dtdl.org/events. To register for Adult events, please call 517-321-4014 x4 or visit dtdl.org/events.

Grand Ledge Area District Library

Library News and Events

BLIND DATE WITH A BOOK

January 28 - February 13

Check out one of the wrapped books for a date! Rate your date to get a treat, and become entered for prizes.

BIRD FEEDER MAKE-N-TAKE

Feb. 6th 6:30pm -7:30pm

Learn more about winter birds with ECP/Naturalist Jackie Blanc, and make a tasty treat for your feathered friends! Registration is required.

STORY SHAPING

Feb. 4th 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Kevin Fitton conducts a writers workshop for beginning, struggling or advanced writers looking for a refresher. Registration is required.

CRAFTING FOR A CAUSE

Feb. 7th & 21st 4pm -5:30pm

Put your knitting skills to work to help our community through crafting. The donations will benefit the Grand Ledge Food & Clothing Pantry, and Hannah's House. All skill levels are welcome.

PAWS FOR READING

Feb. 5th & 19th 6pm -7pm

Dogs love stories too! Come and read to a therapy dog! Call the library and sign up for a 10 minute reading time with a certified therapy dog!

SWEET TREATS
CUPCAKE DECORATING

Feb. 11th 6pm - 7pm

Decorate and take home cupcakes for Valentines Day! We supply the cupcakes, frosting, and sweet trimmings for you! Registration is required.

EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS

Preschool Storytime	Saturday Storytime	Sing, Dance, and Move Storytime
Tuesdays @ 11am	11am - 11:45am	6pm - 6:45pm
Jan. 22 & 29	Feb. 9th	Feb. 7 & 21
Feb. 5, 12, 19, & 26		

Registration for programs can be completed by calling the library at 517.627.7014 during library hours.

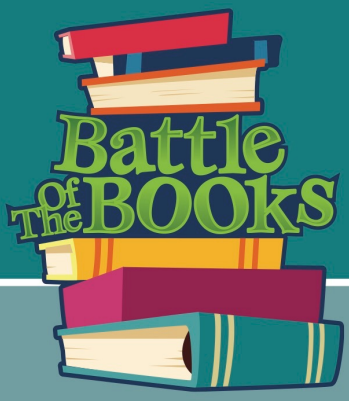
grandledge.lib.mi.us 517.627.7014

131 E. Jefferson St., Grand Ledge MI 48837

Monday - Thursday 10am - 9pm, Friday & Saturday 10am - 5pm, Sunday 1 -5 pm

11th annnual

Battle of the Books



Battle of the Books Kick-Off
Tuesday, January 15 (DTDL)
Delta Township District Library
6:30 p.m.

Deadline to register
Saturday, January 26

The Delta Township District Library will be holding its 11th annual Battle of the Books this winter, partnering with the Grand Ledge Area District Library to host the events.

Battle of the Books is a fun trivia competition that tests participants' book knowledge. Teams of four to five read the five selected Battle books in January and February. Adults, teens, and kids (4th grade and up) are all welcome, and teams can be made up of participants of all ages.

Programs will take place throughout January and February, including Team Spirit Events and a Battle Book Night featuring a Skype visit with one of this year's Battle authors. Preliminary battles for all teams will take place on Thursday, February 28. Semi-finals and the final battle will both take place on Saturday, March 9.

Registration forms are available at both libraries and online at dtdl.org/battle.
Call DTDL (517-321-4014 x3) or GLADL (517-627-7014) for more information.

District Delta Township Library

Grand Ledge Area District Library

The 2019 Battle of the Books is possible due to the generous support of the Friends of the Delta Township District Library.

Delta Township District Library | 5130 Davenport Drive Lansing, MI 48917 | 517.321.4014
Grand Ledge Area District Library | 131 E. Jefferson St. Grand Ledge MI 48837 | 517.627.7014

School Closing Protocol

Regular attendance is important to a student's ongoing success in school and we expect that, when school is in session, students will be actively engaged in learning. However, because we live in Michigan, and our winter weather is sometimes unpredictable, Grand Ledge Public Schools has established the following guidelines for decisions related to inclement weather. You may refer to these guidelines when you have questions about possible school closings/delays.

The decision to close or delay school due to inclement weather is a very difficult and serious undertaking. Decisions to close school for any reason are made in a thoughtful and deliberative process and, specifically, these decisions are made in response to the safety of students and staff members.

If the weather predictions are severe, we attempt to announce a school closing the night before. However, more likely a school closing decision won't be made until the middle of the night - usually no later than 5:30 a.m.

Factors taken into consideration when deciding whether to close/delay schools include:

- Information from the National Weather Service (NOAA);
- Amount and type of projected precipitation;
- Local weather forecasts, including start and stop times;
- Ability to clear parking lots and sidewalks around school buildings;
- Street (highway, residential and rural roads), and bus stop conditions;
- Freezing rain and the effect on roads, power lines and tree limbs;
- Wind and wind chill; along with overall temperature;
- Bus capability to start/run due to extreme cold or unplowed streets;
- Driving conditions; are they hazardous for buses, students, staff;
- Poor visibility due to fog, or blowing snow
- Water, power or phone outages within the district

Leaders in the Grand Ledge Public Schools Administrative team closely monitor national, state, and local weather forecasts. At all times, the safety of our students and staff is the foundation for this team's conversations and decisions. The district's administrators are routinely out driving the roads beginning as early as 3:00 a.m. to assess road conditions within the Grand Ledge Public Schools' community. It is important to remember, the Grand Ledge School District covers almost 120 square miles, many of these are rural areas.

The Administrative team also maintains regular communication with neighboring districts. Area superintendents remain in close contact beginning with the first prediction of inclement weather, often having conversations the day before and again in the middle of the night when foul weather seems certain. While there is an effort to keep decisions consistent across the region, each district must weigh many factors unique to their district. Therefore, there may be times Grand Ledge Public Schools is closed, while another district remains open. Finally, decisions concerning the cancellation of athletic or other extra-curricular events will be made with input from the appropriate school administrators/directors.

Early Dismissal

Grand Ledge Public Schools will generally not close once school is in session due to supervision concerns. Specifically, the district would not want to endanger a student by transporting a student by bus to his/her home, in the middle of a snowstorm, when there is no guarantee a parent received notification of the early dismissal and/or that the parent or other adult is home to let that child in out of the cold.

However, on an extremely rare occasion, it may be necessary to close a school during the day due to loss of power, loss of water or other non-weather emergency situation. Parents are reminded to provide the school office with up-to-date emergency telephone numbers to ensure our ability to notify them if this should be necessary.

Communication

An automated phone call to all Grand Ledge students and staff is typically the preferred method of communication. However, notification of school closings because of inclement weather will also be posted on the district's website, as well as published on Twitter, and Facebook. Additionally, local TV or radio stations may also post or announce closings/delays.

School closing, school delays, and early release decisions are not easy. Your child's education is important and we want to provide learning opportunities on as many days as possible. Almost always, some people will agree with the decision that is made, and others will not.

Please know these decisions are not made lightly. Rather, the decision to close school, for any reason, is made through a thoughtful and deliberative process. And, most importantly, these decisions are made with concern for the safety of students and staff members.