GRETCHKO NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 19, 2021



SAFETY IN THE CAR LOOP

Student and staff safety is a primary concern at Gretchko. We have developed several protocols to protect everyone throughout the building, as well as while they are entering and leaving the building. It is imperative that we are able to count on the parents and other adults follow safety guidelines. **Please DO NOT EVER BACK UP while in the car line!** Also, we have been receiving complaints from parents that are concerned about drivers jumping the line during the drop off and pick up times. Some drivers are not waiting for their turn, and putting student safety in jeopardy. Please be patient, wait your turn and understand all parents want to move on just as much as you do. **Stay in line, and please do not pass the cars ahead of you.**

WEATHER RELATED REMINDER

Students getting out of cars and busses may walk directly on snow and or ice. Please dress your students for the weather. Remind students to have hats on, coats closed and gloves or mittens as needed.

PIZZA DAY - WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Special - Classroom contest - The classroom with the most participation will receive special recognition from Mrs. Drummond



PICTURE DAY COMING TO GRETCHKO

We are now able to arrange a picture day for our school<u>.</u> We have scheduled picture day for <u>March 5th</u>. All students will be photographed for identification purposes. Picture packages will be available for purchase. Please see the Lifetouch information about picture day below

At Lifetouch, we have found a special purpose in capturing and preserving life-long memories through photography. With the many changes in the world this year, we are reminded, now more than ever, of the importance of capturing important moments and sharing photography with our loved ones.

This fall, Lifetouch is taking extra steps to keep your students and staff safe while capturing the time-honored tradition of school photography. Lifetouch is leading the photography industry in providing comprehensive safety protocols. These protocols follow the guidelines or recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services (HHS), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards related to COVID-19.

Our new safety protocols include:

- **Safety Training** Lifetouch employees are required to complete enhanced safety and cleaning protocol training.
- **Social Distancing** Employees will follow new posing and social distancing requirements to ensure a safe and comfortable picture day.
- **Electronic Check-in** To limit interactions and improve efficiency, students will not carry a name card to the camera.
- **Enhanced Cleaning** Photographers will have a sanitization kit to clean camera stations and equipment.
- Face Masks Photographers are required to wear face masks during the entire photography session. We recommend face coverings for students and staff being photographed. During their individual session, they will be advised to remove their face covering to capture their image. Face coverings are **required** for parent volunteers.
- **Customized Plan** Most importantly, we'll work with you to establish a plan that fits your needs.

While Picture Day may look different this year, as a trusted partner, our goal remains the same; to ensure your school receives this essential photography service and families can continue to enjoy life's memories. At Lifetouch, we have found a special purpose in capturing and preserving life-long memories through photography. With the many changes in the world this year, we are reminded, now more than ever, of the importance of capturing important moments and sharing photography with our loved ones.

KIDS KLUB/CLOUD CARE

Please make your student lunch order a priority. We need to be aware that you student needs a lunch so we can have it ready for lunchtime.

Students go out for recess during the Kids Klub time and should be dressed for the weather. PLease mark your students hats, coats, gloves, boots, scarves with their names. Many students have the same items and we are unable to determine what belongs to each child.

Also, please check your child's cloud care folder preferably daily. That is our means of communication with you as well as any homework we may not have had time to complete.

PINE CONE UPDATE

The Pine Cone reading program is all virtual this year! Be sure to visit your Pine Cone course in Canvas to see this year's amazing titles and to learn all about how to earn badges!

We have already learned about this year's featured author, Jarrett K Krosoczka, in iCenter Zooms and read a few of his books too! Every student will enjoy a special webinar featuring JJK in March during iCenter Zoom, so be sure not to miss any classes! In addition to this school wide webinar, a couple students from each class will be selected to meet Jarrett personally and learn more about him and his books in a live zoom session. Learn more about how to be entered into this drawing below.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/13ZE0ZPe3dL7eC5IAX55fqelqbBINPAJQu1JlweldXpk/e dit?usp=sharing





Monica Hammerick Information & Technology Specialist Gretchko iCenter

JARRETT K. KROSOCZKA

Hello Team WBI

We are so excited to announce that our feature author, Jarrett Krosoczka, will be hosting two amazing "virtual" opportunities for all of our Pine Cone and Pine Tree Readers as we celebrate this year's reading program! Due to COVID restrictions, we cannot have large in person gatherings. So, we've worked with our author, JJK, to think outside of the box & create an experience we know you will enjoy!

A huge thank you to the West Bloomfield Township Public Library for both their sponsorship of this incredible reading program and for making this experience possible!



During the week of March 8th, all students will have the chance to participate in a pre-recorded webinar. (This takes the place of our typical whole school assembly.) Jarrett Krosoczka is preparing a special experience just for #TeamWB! More details will be coming your way at the beginning of March.

During the week of March 15th, selected students will have the chance to participate in an invitation only Zoom with the author! (This takes the place of our Author Reception held at the library.) Participants in this event will draw and read along with JJK and hear him answer some of our student's questions. In order to be entered into this year's raffle, you must complete the JJK Badge in your Canvas course by March 1st at 7:00 PM! Each school will be hosting a raffle drawing that week.

We have enjoyed reading and watching your book reviews on Canvas (Pine Cone) as well as Flip Grid (Pine Tree) and can't wait to "see you" at this year's Amazing Virtual Author Event!

Happy Reading!



WBSD MARCH IS Reading Month 2021

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Hats Off to Reading! Hats off to your favorite author! Wear a hat and bring a book to share by your favorite author!	2 Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! Bring your favorite Dr. Seuss book to school.	3 TEAM WB READ-A-THON! The WB iCenters are hosting an all day Read-A-Thon. Listen to "Mystery Readers" share their favorite books via ZOOM.	4 Super Heros Read, Too! Will you dress as Batman, Superman, or a teacher? Read a book about a real-life hero or your favorite superhero.	5 School Spirit Day! Wear your school spirit gear! Tweet a picture with your favorite book! Which school has the most spirit!
8 Reach Out and Read! Reach out by phone and call someone to share what you are reading! OR write a letter/email to someone	9 Read A Shirt Day! Wear a shirt with words on it for others to reador wear your favorite <i>Graphic Shirt</i> and enjoy a Graphic Nove!!	10 Camp Out! Make a blanket tent or fort and listen to today's story. Use a flashlight to read in your tent.	11 JJK Day! Watch an episode of Draw with JJK Bring your drawing to school tomorrow to share with your teacher.	12 Character Day! Dress up as your favorite Book Character and Tweet a pic for our Virtual Character Parade!
15 Read a Crazy Good Book! Fox in Socks Day! Wear fun, silly, colorful or mismatched socks!	16 Readers are Great Leaders! Dress for the future job you hope to have and read a book about a career!	17 Happy St. Patrick's Day! Dress in green today and research how to make a leprechaun trap (with the permission of an adult).	18 Read Your Way to Disney World! Wear any Disney gear and bring a <i>Fairy Tale</i> to share today.	19 Read Your Way to College! Reading will take you to great places. Wear your favorite college gear!
22 Reading Jogs The Mind! Wear your sports/exercise gear and read a book about sports or staying healthy! Can you tweet a picture of yourself reading while being active?	23 NO TV Tuesday! What a great day to snuggle up and read or play your favorite board game!	24 Wacky Wednesday! Listen to the book <u>Wacky Wednesday</u> . Wear your clothes in a wacky way! Recommend a book.	25 We Love Reading Day! Bring a book to school you LOVE and would recommend to your friends.	26 Cozy Up with a Good Book! Wear your pajamas to school and bring a small stuffed animal.

100 BOOKS TO READ IN KINDERGARTEN

Kindergarteners are well on their way to reading the *100 Books to Read in Kindergarten*! In November, a folder was sent home from the WBTLP that included the book list, a poster to hang up at home, and stickers to track the books read. Visit the WBTPL to check out these special titles. Students can also access the 100 book titles from the Gretchko Book Bus or the virtual reading room available on the iCenter Canvas page. During iCenter classes, Mrs. Hammericks has been reading aloud some of the books including, *Stick & Stone, Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs, First Snow,* and *It's Tough to Lose Your Balloon*. Readers can check these books off of their posters!

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1msuTDA6HuAZkhcaSpEgp68tY0266UI8EKhjwRGc-0RM/edit?usp=sharing

KIDS IN CHARGE UPDATE

Hello Gretchko and Scotch Families, we have decided to postpone the first Kids in Charge asynchronous lesson until March. Further information will be sent out in regards to the first lesson as time comes closer.

Until then, it is always important to have open and honest communication with your children about making safe choices, not accepting candy or other items from strangers, and having a safe/trusted adult's phone number memorized in case of emergency. I encourage you all to practice having your student memorize a safe/trusted adults phone number. Make a song or a game out of it!

If you have any questions regarding Kids in Charge, please feel contact me at <u>emily.hubbard@wbsd.org</u>

PARENT AND CAREGIVER RECOURCES

TALKING TO KIDS ABOUT COVID-19

Talking to Kids about COVID-19 provides information and resources regarding how to explain COVID-19 to children of all ages (birth-18) in ways that children are able to understand. National Association of School Psychologists - Information for parents on how to talk to children about COVID-19 PBS - Tips for Talking to Young Children About COVID-19 Birth-3-Answering Young Children's Questions About COVID-19 NPR Comic for Kids that Teaches Them About COVID-19 COVIBOOK My Hero Is You - Cute story for parents to read to young children about COVID-19

SAFETY TIPS

<u>Covid 19 Back to School Checklist: worksheet and embedded video link</u> <u>Safety Tips for Returning to School During COVID-19</u>

<u>Mayo Clinic Q&A Podcast: Back to School Recommendations</u> Parent-intended video, including appropriate handling and care of face coverings

Kids Health Coronavirus (COVID-19) - Helping Kids Get Used to Masks (for Parents)



West Bloomfield Township in conjunction with Civic Center TV and Henry Ford West Bloomfield Hospital will host a Covid-19 Vaccine Town Hall on February 18

virtual event will be broadcast on Lakes FA sus community Facebook pages and on Civ er TV (channel 15 or 99).

ns can be submitted in adv









MARCO'S PIZZA DAY COMING

The class with the most participation in our next Marco's Pizza Day will receive a special visit from Mrs. Drummond and a special reward. So, mark your calendar for Wednesday, February 24th. Join the pizza parade for Gretchko! Gretchko will receive a percentage of sales for each item purchased by Gretchko parents on the 24th.

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LEGO LEAGUE



OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Attention 1st, 2nd & 3rd Grade Parents: FIRST Lego League Explore (previously FIRST Lego League Junior) is the perfect opportunity for our youngest coders to launch their experience within the WBSD FIRST Robotics Program. All skill levels welcome! This season, we're stepping into the world of sports, play, and fitness – moving, collaborating, competing, and celebrating. In PLAYMAKERS, FIRST LEGO League Explore students will discover a variety of activities in different kinds of play spaces and how we can ensure that our games and activities are fun and accessible for everyone involved.

FLL Explore will be a **"Virtual**" Learning Experience. Participants will be provided with a KIT of Lego materials to be used and then returned at the completion of the 8-week workshop. Teams are limited to 4 students per team and we will accept the first 20 applicants.

If you and your child are interested in participating, please RSVP to attend a **Parent Information Meeting via Zoom**:

Monday, February 8, 2021 from 6-6:45 p.m. RSVP HERE

Virtual meetings will be on *Monday evenings from 6-7 p.m. March 1-April 26, 2021* Coaches needed to guide small teams.

If you cannot make the meeting and are interested, email andrea.frank@wbsd.org



BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS - WHERE ARE ALL THE BOOKS?

Still looking for overdue books! Please check to see if you have any books that belong at Gretchko. The I center as well as the classrooms are still looking for books that were loaned out while we were remote. Thank you very much for making the extra effort to check your homes for books that need to be back in circulation.

> Answering Wh

"Answering Why: Unleashing Passion, Purpose, and Performance in Younger Generations"

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 | 6:00-7:00 pm Virtual Presentation plus Q&A

2000 Meeting Link Meeting ID: 848 7826 2795 | Passcode: 277383

submit questions during the presentation, please email PernaEvent@c akland k12 mi.us estselling author and generation nal expert Mark C. Perna as he unveils the proundbreaking timovations and strategies for working with today's younger generation foull discover why the synergy of robust academic knowledge, technical competency and professional akilia in the initiale most important competitive advantage a young person can possess — and how to help them achieve it.

Today's young people are often painted in a negative light, but they have incredible potential to change the world. Parents, educators, employers, and young people thermolives will benefit from Marks perspective on the anaxing promise of millemails and Generation Z. A father to two successful millemails, Mark delivers key insights on bolish owners exercision have to essent the adjacentition. on today's younger generations, how to answer their all-import question why, and how to connect with them at a deeper level

Wh clear action steps you can implement immediately both in you home and professional life. Mark's message will help you motivate owng people, show them why education matters, and empower hem to achieve at a higher level. Rechange your passion for making a difference and start motivating young people like never before!

AT PEOPLE ARE SAYING

ight as a parent to move our children to the light at the end of th

delivery of an incredibly relevant topic. Who doesn't want to und ter? The storytelling format made the entire presentation so mus g and relatable. I would say this was one of the best I've heard or inine & D

mazing! I'm going to go home and have a told me she wants to be an astronomer

etal lo

angers in our ensemen werden versten der Weipshur High Sci d Sana, instructor/Academy Leed at Weipshur High Sci was this useful to me as an educator, but it will ser h my 17 year old who is stuck and perplexed about h to help her with goal setting and future planning. alor, but it will serve as a t



OaklandSchools



2019-20 YEARBOOKS

We still have several yearbooks available from the last school year (2019-20). If you are in need of one, please call the office at 248-865-6570.



Fur with Feelings and Mrs. DeSana





RULER Contact Lindsey DeSana, School Social Worker, for more information

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Please review the calendar for the next few weeks of school

February 22 - 23 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A, B
February 24 - Marco's Pizza Day
February 24 - Wednesday - Remote Learning
February 25-26 - Hybrid learning model - Cohort A,B

MARCH IS READING MONTH

March 5 - Picture Day at Gretchko March 14 - Daylight savings time March 29 - April 2 - Spring Break We will continue the hybrid learning model until further notice.

ADDITIONAL EVENING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS AVAILABLE

In an effort to provide students who may need it with extra support, we have begun offering evening tutoring support via Zoom on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Parents and/or students can sign up for 30 minute sessions to get extra help in most core subject areas K-12. This flyer and link to sign up have gone out in the weekly newsletter on Fridays, but if you have any students you think could benefit, please direct them to this flyer, which has the link to schedule a session: <u>https://create.piktochart.com/output/51242977-wb-sas-flyer</u>

WBSD SMS TEXT ALERTS - SIGN UP TODAY!

As you may already know, our district utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more. This resource is on top of the emails and phone messages you already receive from SchoolMessenger.

You can participate in this service just by sending a text message of **"Y"** or **"Yes"** to our district's short code number, **67587**.

You can also opt-out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy PledgeTM, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

WBSD POWERSCHOOL CONNECTION HELP

If you are having difficulty with powerschool contact Sylvia Mccoy at sylvia.mcoy@wbsd.org



ZOOM MEETING HELP GETTING IN

Parents if you are struggling to get your student onto zoom meetings, please make sure they follow these steps.

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1gx2jrtlLw0d4Ns2Bv40YxdCyzHLoZfF1k2i2WHsbwp8/e dit

DO YOU NEED TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE

We are sharing some good resources below that may assist parents resolving common technology issues.

Help with Canvas: <u>www.wbsd.org/academics/classroom-to-cloud/canvas</u> or <u>canvashelp@wbsd.org</u>

Help with Chromebook: <u>www.wbsd.org/departments/technology</u> Help with PowerSchool: <u>www.wbsd.org/parents/powerschool</u>

WBSD CHROMEBOOK ACCIDENT AND LOSS PROTECTION

Please click **HERE** for information on accident and loss protection for district issued Chromebooks. Please contact Allyson Dewar at <u>allyson.dewar@oakland.k12.mi.us</u> for more information or if you have questions.

GRETCHKO PTO

It's been awhile so as a reminder here are this year's PTO board members: President: Jen Amato Co-Vice President: Ashleigh Davis/Stephanie Reynolds Treasurer: Vanity Koop Recording Secretary: Heather Aldrich Co-Corresponding Secretary: Ufuoma Kaplan /Erica Daenzer

