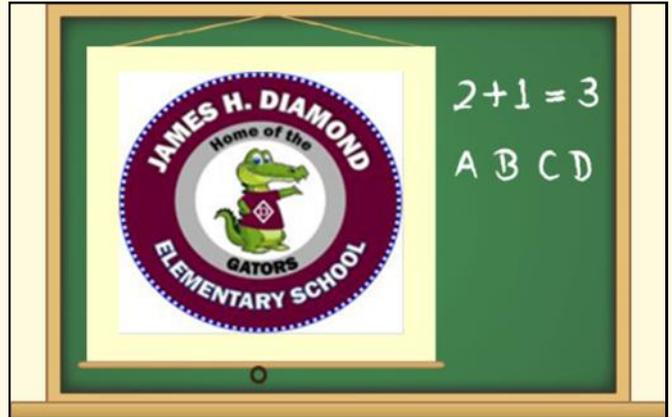


Diamond Elementary School

Volume 1, Issue 4
SY 17-18
December 5, 2017

Ms. Rachel Brumbaugh
Interim Principal
Rachel.Brumbaugh@am.dodea.edu

Dr. Deborah Williams
Assistant Principal
Deborah.Williams@am.dodea.edu



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

While students are on break over the holidays, it's easy for our children to get into a complacent mode when it comes to school work. We may find that our children are sitting around doing little with their days. We may find we are letting them mesh into long continual nap fests, game fests, and/or cartoon fests.

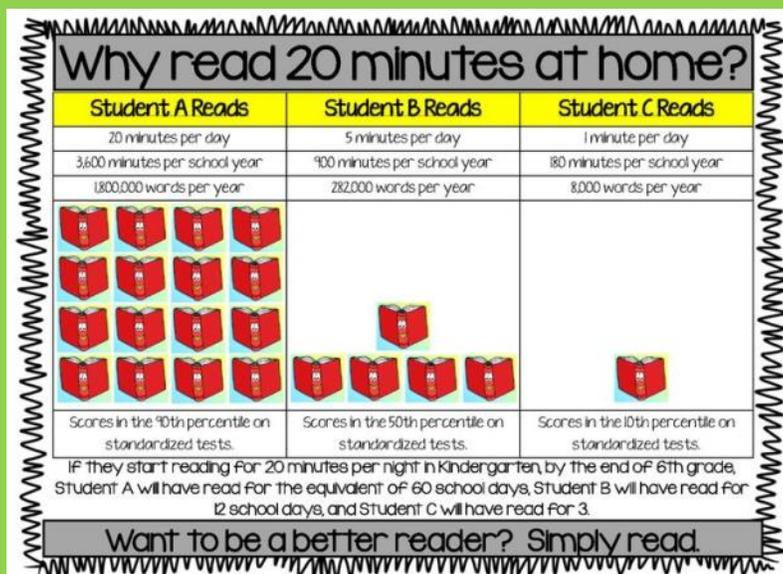
So why not make the most of the holiday break by giving your child the gift of quality time and improve reading comprehension and vocabulary? Parents can give this gift through regular reading at home—just 20 minutes a day. Reading to and/or with your child every evening for at least 20 minutes can make a difference in a child's reading achievement (see graph below). Additionally, reading each night gives "quality" one-on-one time with our children without distractions. Building 20 minutes into each day for reading together provides this important bonding time.

I would like to encourage, challenge, and reward students who use this winter break to read each day; December 16-January 2. I challenge students to keep a log on a sheet of paper of their 20 minutes of reading (date, book title, total time).

When school resumes on January 3, 2018, students should bring their log to the office for a special reward from Ms Brumbaugh!

Happy holidays and happy reading!

Rachel Brumbaugh



December 2017 Dates to Remember

01	Fall Picture Retakes
04-08	Book Fair, Multi-Purpose Room M-Th (8:30-1:00p); Fri (8:30-11:00a)
07	Winter Wonderland Dance-5:00-7:00p, Multi-Purpose Room
11	PTO Coffee-8:30a, Multi-Purpose Room
14	Popcorn Day
15	Star Student Assembly-9:00a
18-29	Winter Break - No School
Jan 1	No School-New Year's Day
Jan 2	No School-Teacher Work Day
Jan 3	Students Return to School





December Mission: Focus on avoiding the flu!

Diamond parents, the Flu vaccine was due last Friday, December 1st, for all DoDEA students. If you have already provided proof of the vaccine or waiver, I thank you! There are **263 (or 42.8%)** students who submitted their proof, and you make me want to sing and dance!



On the flip side, this means that we have approximately **351 (or 57.2%)** students to go. We achieved 98% compliance last year, and we can get **100%** this year! **WE CAN DO IT!** If you need waiver information, please stop by and see the nurse in the health office.

If your student has received their vaccine, but you have not given a copy to the nurse, please get it in **ASAP!** For your convenience, you may take a **CLEAR** photo or scan showing the date of the flu vaccine and your student's name and email the information (with 'flu' in the subject box) to sherri.jones@am.dodea.edu.

****It is extremely important to get this done before the winter break****

There are new policies in effect and those who are noncompliant for required DoDEA vaccines will be receiving notices which will escalate to the notification of the Garrison Commander. This is new and I wanted to give you advanced notice.



Sherri Jones, BSN, RN
DES School Nurse
912-369-1457

DES ATTENDANCE

Attendance / Tardy Policy

Attendance is mandatory and is a key factor in a student’s achievement.

- ◆ Students are required to attend 180 instructional days.
- ◆ Monitor plans will be implemented during all PRE APPROVED extended absences 5 or more days.
- ◆ Written verification and doctor notes are required for approved absences.
- ◆ Parent must physically sign student in for late arrivals.
- ◆ NO student checkout during the last 30 minutes of instructional day without principals approval.
- ◆ Absent/Tardy– 5 day letter will be sent home.
- ◆ Absent/Tardy– 7 day letter will be sent home, this could possibly be referred to the Student Support Team (SST).
- ◆ Absent/Tardy– 10 day letter will be sent home to parent and command will be notified to intervene.

LATE ARRIVALS (KG-5th)

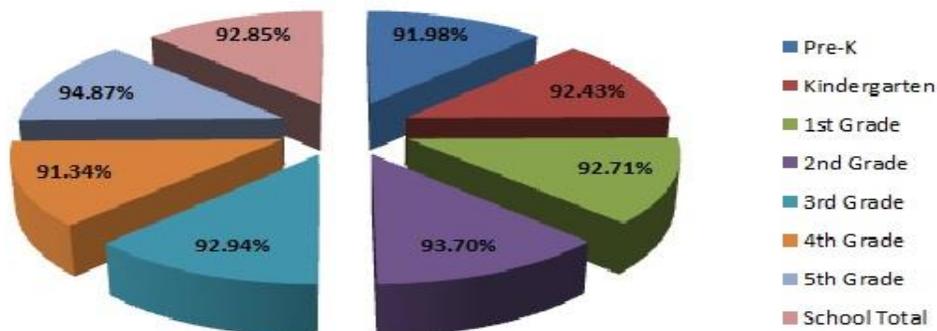
Minutes Missed	Clock Hours	Code	Portion (of the Day)
Up to 10	8:21-8:30	T	0.0000
11-90	8:31-9:50	A	0.2500
91-180	9:51-11:20	A	0.5000
181-270	11:21-12:50	A	0.7500
Over 270	12:51-3:05	A	1.00

EARLY DEPARTURES (KG-5th)

	Clock Hours	Code	Portion (of the Day)
	8:20-10:35	AD	1.0
	10:36-12:04	AD	0.7500
	12:05-1:34	AD	0.5000
	1:35-3:05	AD	0.2500

We must work together to ensure that our students are attending school each day and receiving a quality education. The graph below shows that our average daily attendance for the month of November was **92.85!** Our goal is to maintain the **95%** or higher attendance rate. Please ensure that your students are present at school and arrive on time. When students are not in school, they are missing valuable instructional time. You can review the attendance policy in the District’s website. Specific requirements for attendance are addressed, including what time of the day is considered tardy, full day, half day, etc.

AVERAGE DAILY ATTENDANCE





Our December Gator Trait is **CARING!** Caring means to:

1. Be kind;
2. Think of others' feelings before you speak or act;
3. Be generous with your time, talent, and things;
4. Be helpful to others;
5. Show others that you understand what they are feeling (*empathy*);
6. Show concern for others when they have problems;
7. Never say things that are mean or hurtful;
8. Be a good friend to others;
9. Show others respect; and
10. Be polite!



November Gator Café Winners

KG - Allison
 1st - Stringer
 2nd - Rogers

3rd - Houtkooper/Myers
 4th - Taylor
 5th - Crank/Romero

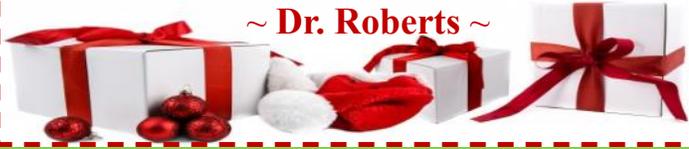
****Winning classes will receive a prize choice to enjoy**

Nicole Haws
 Guidance Counselor
 Diamond Elementary
 Ph 912-876-6094

David Dobson
 Guidance Counselor
 Diamond Elementary
 Ph 912-876-6094

**FROM THE DESK OF
THE LIBRARIAN**

~ Dr. Roberts ~



Parents,

All library books should be returned to the Media Center **NO LATER THAN Monday, December 11th.**



Reading Is Fundamental

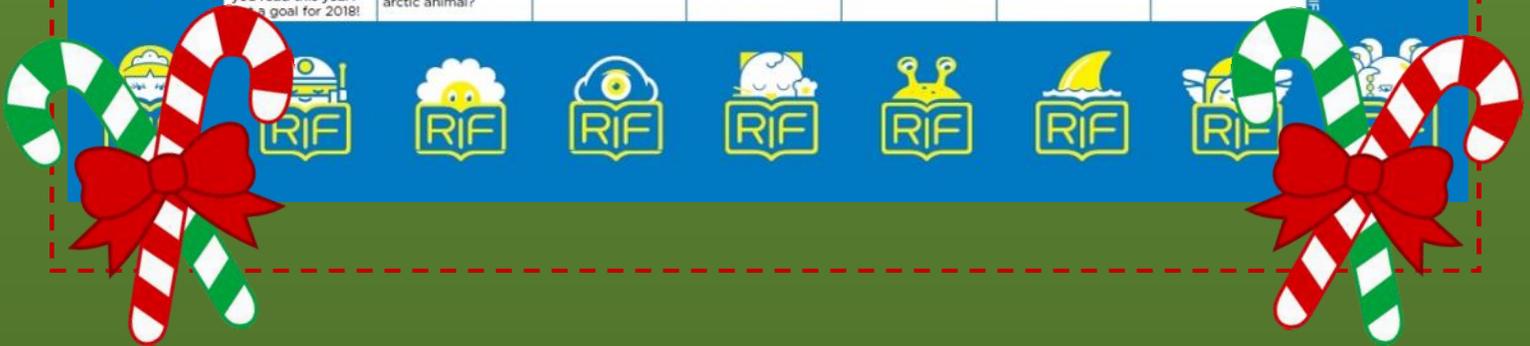
DECEMBER 2017

READING ACTIVITY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 It's Jan Brett's birthday. Read a winter themed book by this author.	2 Take a trip to the library to pick out books to read for this month.
3 Interview a grandparent or parent about their favorite family tradition growing up.	4 How many words can you make using the letters in "chocolate"?	5 Happy Birthday Walt Disney! Write five questions you would like to ask your favorite Disney character.	6 Create a book nook (look up nook if you need to) and read for 20 minutes.	7 In remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day, find a book or an article to read about the event.	8 Create a word search using the names of your favorite book characters.	9 Read about one family's traditions and a little mishap in <i>Too Many Tamales</i> by Gary Soto.
10 Track the temperatures this week. Create a graph that shows the changes in temperatures.	11 Is it cold outside? Find a warm place to read for at least 20 minutes today.	12 What does the word <i>hullabaloo</i> mean? Write the definition and use it in a sentence.	13 Cocoa Day Find out where cocoa beans are grown. Share your new fact over a cup of hot cocoa.	14 Read a book online or an e-book today. Which do you like better a paper book or a digital book? Explain.	15 Organize your books. Make a pile that you no longer need and can donate to someone.	16 Use your weather data to recap the week. Write up a report and pretend to be a meteorologist.
17 Wright Brother's Day Read about the first documented flight. How far has aviation come since 1903?	18 Take a walk through your neighborhood. Make a list of all the signs that winter is coming soon.	19 Think of ways you can show kindness to others. Make a list in your journal. Do one kind act a day until the end of the year.	20 Get one of your books and read for 20 minutes today. How many 4 minute segments would that be?	21 What does the word "perplexed" mean? Look up the definition and use it in a sentence.	22 Watch a movie that you have already read the book for. Which was better, the book or the movie?	23 It's author Keiko Kasza's birthday. What do you notice about the characters in his books?
24 Draw a picture in your journal that shows your favorite family tradition.	25 Read a nonfiction book about arctic animals. Which pole would you most like to live if you were an arctic animal?	26 What instruments are used in a marching band? Find out!	27 Create an acrostic poem about this month using the letters in "December."	28 Talk about your favorite book you read this month with a friend. Trade books if you can.	29 It's time to read today for 29 minutes. What time of day do you like to read?	30 Write a poem about the favorite thing you did in this month.
31 New Year's Eve How many books did you read this year? Set a goal for 2018!						

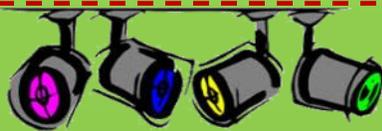


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Gator Family Spotlight



ART

~ Ms. Wheatley ~

Gator Artists CAN Create!

Students are busy making lots of colorful art projects! Grades K-5 are applying the element of color into their art work. They are experimenting with color mixing, color value as well as some color theory.

The first semester of Art Club will be coming to an end soon. The last meeting for grades K-2 will be on January 9th. The last meeting for grades 3-5 will be on January 10th. Second semester lottery selections for Art Club have already been drawn. Selected students will be given a form to be filled out and turned back in by **December 13th** if they are still interested.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

~ Coach Marcus ~

Current Activities: Catching and Throwing; Fitness Gram

This month, we will keep it moving with additional catching and throwing activities. Students will also be introduced to basic basketball skills which will help them develop fundamental skills required for successful game play.

Please remember to have your child wear gym shoes on their gym day!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

— Stay Fit!



MUSIC

~ Ms. Foster ~

During the month of December, all grade levels will continue to learn about the music elements—those things in music that we have to know and understand before we can start creating our own music.

First graders have already started the creative process! We will now take this knowledge and apply it to different instruments. Of course, 4th grade will be on recorders! After winter break, 5th graders will be on the drums while the other grades will be creating music using various classroom instruments.





Gator Family Spotlight



FLES

~ Ms. Trias ~

For December, our new unit is about places, jobs, and transportation on post. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer 10-15 minutes in your child's class to talk about your job or bringing and showing a mode of transportation that you use at work. If so, please send an e-mail to maria.trias@am.dodea.edu. Gracias!



ESL

~ Mr. Cruz ~

For the month of December, I will be working with the students to improve English reading, writing, and speaking skills. In addition, I will be working in collaboration with classroom teachers and providing ESL students with one-on-one assistance and small group interventions. I will continue to be a liaison between parents and the school to keep ESL parents informed. Finally, there will be an ESL luncheon for parents. Details are forthcoming.



FLES

~ Ms. Stewart ~

During the month of December, Ms. Stewart's 2nd and 3rd grade classes will finish up Unit 1 "*Mi escuela y yo/ Me and my School.*" Students will learn the difference between the verbs *tengo/to have* and *necesito/I need* with classroom objects. Students will also learn to tell how they feel in Spanish. We will also cover "*Gente y lugares en la escuela/People and places at school.*" Students will also learn to sing Christmas songs in Spanish to celebrate the holidays.

Kinder and 1st grade classes will continue with Unit 2 "*Mi familia/My family.*" Students will be able to say their family members, how big is their family, and will learn the use of *tengo* to describe their family. Finally, students will begin Unit 3 "*Mi Comunidad/My Community,*" as well as learn to sing Christmas songs in Spanish to celebrate the holidays.



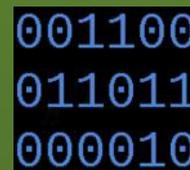
EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY

~ Ms. McWilliams ~

Gator Parents! On Monday, December 4th, we began our transition into **The Hour of Code**, which is part of Computer Science Education Week (December 4-9). More than 100 million students worldwide have already tried an Hour of Code.

Our Hour of Code is making a statement that Diamond Elementary School is ready to teach these foundational 21st century skills. To continue bringing programming activities to your students, we want to make our Hour of Code event HUGE! I encourage you to volunteer, reach out to local media, share the news on social media channels, and consider hosting additional Hour of Code events within the community. **This is a chance to change the future of education!!**

Click here → [Hour of Code](#) for more details, and help spread the word!





Gator Family Spotlight



GREATER GATORS CLUB ~ Ms. MYERS ~

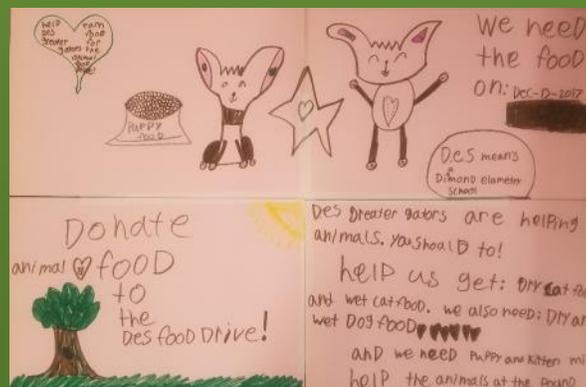
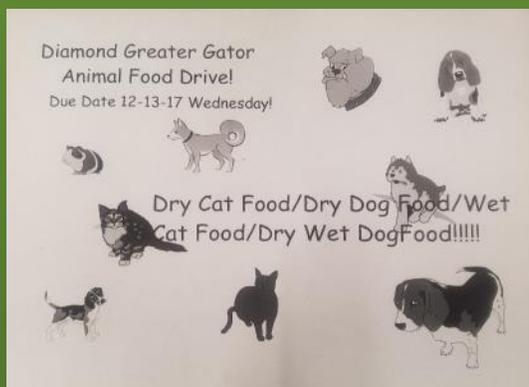
PET FOOD DRIVE:

The Greater Gator Club is conducting a Pet Food Drive for homeless pets located at the stray facility here on Fort Stewart. The pet food drive will continue during the month of December. Please bring items to the Front Office by **Wednesday, December 13th**. Currently, there is a need for:

- ⇒ Wet/Dry Dog or puppy food
- ⇒ Wet/Dry Cat or kitten food
- ⇒ Leashes and collars

If there are any questions, please contact Ms. Myers at: michelle.myers@am.dodea.edu.

Every little bit helps! Let's show how **CARING** we are for our four-legged best friends this holiday season!
Thank You!





FALL BOOK FAIR WEEK

PTO is currently hosting the annual Fall Book Fair Week in the school's Multi-Purpose room on Monday through Friday, December 4-8, 2017. The shopping hours will be Monday-Thursday 8:30a-1:00p and Friday 8:30a-3:30p. Parents are more than welcome to come and shop during any of the hours listed.



Students will have the opportunity to shop during their class scheduled time. **If you are paying by check, please note on the memo line your student's name and your sponsor's unit.**

Questions can be directed to the PTO Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/diamondpto

LAST POPCORN THURSDAY

Thursday, December 14th, will be the last Popcorn Thursday of the year. Money is due on **WEDNESDAY, December 13th. NO MONEY WILL BE ACCEPTED ON POPCORN DAY!!!!**



WINTER BREAK SCHOOL HOURS

Diamond Parents,

The school will be open on the following days during Winter Break:

Monday, December 18 - Friday, December 22

The hours of operation will be from 8:00a-4:00p.

School will resume its normal business hours on **Tuesday, January 2, 2018**. Students will return on **Wednesday, January 3, 2018**.

WINTER WONDERLAND DANCE

DES PTO will be sponsoring the Winter Wonderland dance on **Thursday, December 7th from 5-7p**. During the dance, there will be a silent auction. All proceeds from the auction will go towards supporting Operation Enduring Warrior. If you have anything you'd like to donate, please contact the PTO.



COLD STONE SPIRIT NIGHT

Cold Stone Spirit Night will be held on **Wednesday, December 13th from 5-10p** at the Fort Stewart Cold Stone Creamery location.



CHICK-FIL-A SPIRIT NIGHT

Congratulations to Ms. Laveroni's class for winning November's Chick-fil-A Spirit Night. Her class had the most attendees!



PTO COFFEE

PTO will be hosting an informational event, *PTO Coffee*, on **Monday, December 11th at 8:30a** in the Multi-Purpose room. DES Admin will be available to provide information and answer questions.





Cafeteria's Monthly Menu

Fort Stewart Schools - Breakfast and Lunch Menu - December 2017

<p>All Sponsors need to complete a lunch application for their children enrolled in Fort Stewart Schools.</p> <p>Fort Stewart Schools have a Provision 2 Certified Breakfast Program. This allows us to offer breakfast at no cost to all enrolled students.</p>				<p>1</p> <p>Pancake Mini or Sausage Biscuit W/jelly</p> <p>Cheeseburger on a Bun - Seasoned Green Beans - Potato Tots - Fresh Fruit</p>
4	5	6	7	8
Banana Muffin and or Graham Cracker and or Fruity Cheerio Cereal Bar	Mozz. Cheese Stick and or Graham Cracker and or Marshmallow Cereal Bar	Homemade Banana Bread or Oatmeal Raisin	Poptart and or Graham Cracker and or Honey Scooter Cereal	Pancake on a Stick W/Syrup or Cinnamon Roll
Barbeque Pork on a Bun - Baked Beans - Seasoned Corn - Fresh Pear	Salisbury Steak - Brown Rice Pilaf W/Gravy - Seasoned Peas & Carrots - Seasoned Green Beans - Delicious Red Apple	Grilled Cheese Sandwich - Beef Vegetable Soup - Corn on Cob - Lemon/Strawberry Sidekick	Scramble Eggs - Sausage Pattie - Super Pretzel - Baked Potato - Orange Wedges	Corn Dog - Seasoned Broccoli - Carrot Sticks - Ranch Dressing - Fresh Fruit - Ketchup
11	12	13	14	15
Blueberry Muffin and or Graham Cracker and or Waffle W/ Syrup	Honey Graham Cereal and or Graham Cracker and or Breakfast Donut	French Toast Sticks W/Syrup and or Graham Cracker and or Trix Cereal Bar	Sausage Biscuit W/Jelly or Chicken Biscuit W/ Jelly	Manager's Choice
Taco Salad - Seasoned Pinto Beans - Salsa - Orange Wedges	Barbeque Chicken - Orange Glazed Carrots - Steamed Cabbage W/Bok Choy - Cornbread - Applesauce Orange/Mango	Roasted Turkey - Mashed Potatoes - Seasoned Green Beans - Cinnamon Roll - Sliced Cantaloupe	Hamburger on a Bun - Lettuce and Tomato Wedges - Seasoned Broccoli - Peach Cobbler - Ketchup	
18	19	20	21	22

We Wish You A Merry Christmas

Musical notation for the song "We Wish You A Merry Christmas". The lyrics are: "We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! Glad tidings we bring to you and your kin, glad tidings for Christmas and a happy New Year! We wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas, we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy New Year!"



Printed: 11/20/2017

School Breakfast and Lunch Menu SY 2017-2018



Important Reminders for Parents and Students:

- School starts at 8:20. Students are considered tardy at 8:21 and must receive a tardy slip from the front office.
- It is a DoDEA requirement that we do a **100% ID check** when coming into the school and checking out children.