

GARFIELD GAZETTE

Volume 6, Issue 4

Winter, 2010

NEWS AND NOTES!

From the Principal

Winter has definitely made its presence known so far this year! Please make sure your students dress appropriately for the weather. Students will have outdoor recess unless the air temperature or wind chill reaches single digits. Please make sure students have coats, gloves and hats.

ARRIVAL TIMES: Some students have been arriving at school before 7:30. Staff do not report until 7:30 and students may not be able to get in the building. This is especially critical on cold days as we do not want students waiting outside in dangerous weather. **Reminder:** Breakfast students and bus riders can arrive at 7:30am. All other students should not arrive until 7:45 or after.

Bullying survey

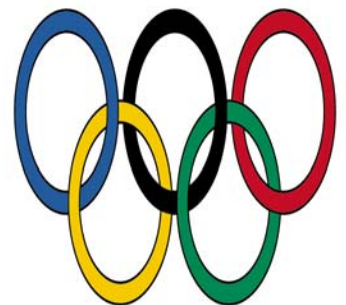
Bullying is an issue that schools continually face. Garfield Elementary has several components in place to deal with bullying issues. The state of Kansas defines bullying in part as: **Any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment.** Not all inappropriate behaviors are bullying behaviors but as a staff we are working to address issues when they arise and prevent inappropriate behaviors from becoming bullying situations. With this in mind, we are going to be asking our 3rd -5th graders to be taking a survey regarding bullying at Garfield. The survey will be online and we will receive results in February. We will review the results and determine what further steps Garfield can take to ensure students feel that this is a safe place to learn.

Garfield Mission Statement

All individuals will achieve their full learning potential in a safe, respectful, and caring environment.

*"If you think
Education is
expensive, try
ignorance"*

Derek Bok



IMPORTANT DATES

January	Time
21st –K-1st Family Night	6:00pm
29th– 4th Grade Wax Museum	12:00-1:00pm
February	
2nd– Garfield Spelling Bee 2nd-5th	1:00pm
3rd– Early Release	Noon
4th– SITE Council	Noon
8th-11th Parent Teacher Conferences	Evenings
9th– Spring Pictures	
11th– County Wide Spelling Bee OMS	1:15pm
12th NO SCHOOL	
25th– 3rd-5th Family Night	6:00pm
March	
2nd– K-1st Musical Program @ Garfield	6:30pm
1st– State Assessments begin	
10th– 3rd-5th Literature Festival	
15th-19th Spring Break– NO SCHOOL	

School Funding Issues

These are certainly tough times for many families and businesses. The economy in Kansas is struggling and the legislators are tasked with finding a solution to a \$400 million dollar shortfall in the Kansas budget. Education and services have already received substantial reductions in expected funding and some legislators want to reduce school funding even further. Unfortunately reductions affect the students the most. We will certainly be faced with increasing class sizes, losing valuable programs, and possibly losing teachers and staff in the district if further cuts are made. Ottawa students continue to perform incredibly well on state assessments and leave the district well prepared for their post-high school dreams. I am asking you to take a moment and let our local reps know that education in Kansas is important and students continue to be successful in and after school. Their future depends on us!

Our local legislators and contact info follows.

Senator Pat Apple:

Phone: 785-296-7368

Email: Pat.Apple@senate.ks.gov

Representative Bill Feuerborn:

Phone: 785-296-7688

Email: bill.feuerborn@house.ks.gov

