January is a great time to celebrate our hard-working school board members and thank them for the important role that a school board plays as a bridge between our community and our school.

Gaston School District has five board members; Christine Riley, Clinton Nelson, Karen Fordyce, TJ Johnson, and Roger Mesenbrink. Mrs. Riley serves as the Board Chair this year and Mr. Nelson is the Board Vice Chair.

“Great leaders never accept the world as it was and always work for the world as it should be.”

Dr. Condoleezza Rice
ATTENDANCE UPDATE

It is so amazing how Gaston families work together to make a positive change when it’s needed! Your efforts during the last three weeks student attendance are outstanding! The following classrooms have won best attendance:

Week 1: Ms. Smith’s — 3rd graders
Week 2: Ms. Christensen’s — 4th graders
Week 3: We have a 3-way tie — Ms. Christensen’s 4th grade, Ms. Henson’s 6th grade, Mrs. Peterson’s 2nd grade

Make sure to keep it up after winter break—there is a BIG celebration coming at the end of the semester for the classes with the Most Improved Attendance!

Positive Behavior Support Update

Gaston Elementary staff have been working hard to fine tune the Positive Behavior Supports program in our school. Most everyone knows we give out PAWS as a method of positive reinforcement when students display one or more of the three guiding school rules, Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible. Rewards for PAWS vary from classroom to classroom; additionally pre-determined goals are set and as PAWS accumulate, as a whole school special fun events are planned; such as the all-school snow ball fight, pajama day, wild hair day.

Along with the positive, there are times when documentation for behavior that does not follow school rules must be created. Previously we used three levels of behavior trackers; Stop & Think, Level 2 and Level 3. This year, we have changed our process and now only have two trackers; a minor referral and a major referral.

If your student receives a minor referral, there is a recurring behavior that needs to be addressed and will happen between teacher and student. Teachers will communicate events and consequences to parents. Minor referrals are not permanent records.

If your student receives a major referral, the behavior is more serious and will be handled by the Principal, who will communicate the event and it’s associated consequence with parents. Major referrals are part of a student’s permanent record.

During December staff and students focused on correctly responding to physical or annoying issues.

For example:

♦ If students are in line and one of the students is too close, touching, being annoying, pushing, etc. and the other student correctly responds without being physical or mentally abusive—that student would receive the Golden PAW.
♦ If the other student discontinues the behavior, they would also receive a Golden PAW.

Two winners from the Golden PAWS earned in each class were drawn and they got to have Hot Cocoa with Mrs. McKenzie this week.

Kindergarten: Andy L., Kylee G.
1st grade: Kayden A., Blake C., Waylon B., Jazzy B.
2nd grade: Austin G., Aiden S., Aidan T., Aubrey M.
3rd grade: Aaron S., Gunner W.
4th grade: Megan G., Dakota G., Ben R., Cypress A.
5th grade: Mykenzie H., Hakeem C., Tristan J., Kira B.
6th grade: Dezi S., Maddy H., Malachi R., Addison D.
Cool Things We Are Doing

Dec. 5th - PreK-12 Attendance Assembly

Dec. 6th - 4-12th Grade Instrumental Concert

Gaston Elementary All-Stars

Gaston All-Stars is a partnership with the News-Times where they recognize three students every few weeks in the newspaper. Their photo and a sentence or two as to why that student shines is included in the article. For December, Gaston Elementary teachers selected these three students for their All-Star qualities. Congratulations!

Maxwell Esteve
Max is always on task, he is an awesome student, has excellent behavior and is a leader.

Channing Gann
Channing works very hard and has great leadership skills.

Quentin Olander
Quentin is so much fun to have in class! He is kind and respectful to his classmates, and they absolutely love working with him. He has made tremendous growth so far this year, and I am excited to see it continue. Keep up the great work, Q!
### Check Out What’s Coming Up...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January 2019</th>
<th>February 2019</th>
<th>March 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7th</td>
<td>School resumes</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>In-service Day</td>
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<td>7th-18th</td>
<td>Winter Assessments</td>
<td>7th</td>
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<td>DIBELS Literacy/iReady Math</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Spirit Day – wear Gaston</td>
<td>8th</td>
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<td>spirit wear/green/yellow/gold</td>
<td>Spirit Day – wear Gaston spirit</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>PTO Hat Day</td>
<td>14th</td>
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<td>School Board Meeting</td>
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<td>6:00 pm</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>1:00pm DISMISSAL - K-12th</td>
<td>18th</td>
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<td>Junior Speeches</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td>President’s Day</td>
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<td>16th</td>
<td>Preschool Field Trip to Fire Station</td>
<td>20th</td>
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<td>9:30-10:30 am</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>School Board Meeting</td>
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<td>6:00 pm</td>
<td>STEAM Activities Presentations</td>
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<td>Schedule TBA</td>
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<td>17th</td>
<td>PTO meeting 6:00, GES Rm 2</td>
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<td>21st</td>
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<td>MLK Jr. Day</td>
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<td>22nd</td>
<td>MAP Testing K-2nd grades</td>
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<td>23rd</td>
<td>MAP Testing 3rd-6th grades</td>
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<td>31st</td>
<td>NO SCHOOL</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Grading/Planning Day</td>
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*Wednesday's are 2:30 Dismissal*

*Call Before 2:00pm with going home changes*
Math Problem of the Month

December’s Problem of the Month

Kindergarten through 2nd graders solve this problem

If a dozen hens lay a dozen eggs in a dozen days, how many eggs do 108 hens lay in 108 days? Show and explain your solution fully.

3rd grade through 6th graders solve this problem

December Math Problem Winner

Congratulations Winner
Mykenzie Hardie!

December’s Answer

Pascal’s Penguins

Pattern: 1s down outside edges on both sides.

Pattern: Middle penguin is sum of two penguins above it.

Pattern: 1-2-3-4-5 on diagonals next to outside diagonal of 1s.

Pattern: sum of each row is double the sum of the previous row.

Fill in the missing numbers. What patterns do you see?
Other Announcements

New Spirit Wear is Here!

Stay warm, stylish & spirit-filled all winter long.

Youth Sizes (XS-L) $15 - Light grey long sleeve 100% Cotton
Adult Sizes (S-2XL) $25 - Dark grey long sleeve hooded 100% Cotton

https://squareup.com/store/GESPTO

Got Info?

Other Announcements

The Preschool class did lots of activities involving the Gingerbread Man stories in December. They listened to several versions and chose their favorite, decorated playdough gingerbread cookies, did a science experiment about what happens when gingerbread gets wet and culminated with a "puppet show" about the Gingerbread Man. They also acted out the story The Mitten, by Jan Brett for their parents before their Holiday party.

If you would like to have an event or information published in the newsletter, please send the information to Mystie Taber at taberm@gastonk12.org by the 20th of the month for the following newsletter.