

Please
read
and
heed.

Tattler



GKES Mission Statement: The Geilenkirchen Elementary School community of students, educators, and parents is committed to excellence. Together, we will educate our students to be responsible, productive, and ethical citizens with the skills to think creatively, reason critically, communicate effectively, work cooperatively, and learn continuously.

Super Stars

Last week we were pleased to honor **J. B.** as our Super Star. J. B. shows interest in learning, and he behaves in ways that show respect and caring for others. **J. B.** has earned the honor this week. She is attentive and enthusiastic about learning, and she is helpful and friendly toward others. Way to go, J. and J.!



In the last newsletter, I listed eight behaviors that I look for, when I consider each week's Super Star choices. Already, I have observed quite a few students, who consistently – not just for a day, but throughout the week – display these positive behaviors, making the choice of a weekly Super Star extremely difficult. In some school years, there have been so many possibilities in a week that I've almost had to settle on the one child who hadn't yet been chosen or the one who came first in the alphabet or the one who had the most letters in his/her first name or the one who had the cleanest desk, etc. Is it possible for a student to be selected more than once? Yes, that could happen in the course of a school year. Is it possible that a student may never be chosen? I hope that *won't* happen! To help those students who sincerely struggle to meet the criteria, I make every effort to recognize improvements, offer encouragement, and provide positive feedback. Although it is conceivable that the reward of being named Super Star might not motivate a student to make positive choices, I truly hope that all my students will strive to achieve this commendable goal! Children **do make choices** about how they behave, and I hope to help my students learn to make choices that they can be proud of.

Open House

Vielen Dank to all the families who arranged their schedules so that they could visit 92T for the Open House. It was fun for me to watch the 2B3A students guiding their family members around our classroom and explaining some of our routines. It was also nice to be able to answer questions that some of you have had. When Mr. B. posts them on our web page, you will be able to enjoy seeing some of the photos that J. and I took.

Speaking of Our Web Page...

If you have not done so already, please visit http://www.geil-es.eu.dodea.edu/Classes/2B_3Aindex.htm There you can see photos of the children, check past issues of this newsletter, and explore the growing selection of links to educational sites that we use to support our curriculum. Mr. R. B., our competent, dedicated webmaster, does a fantastic job of maintaining the school's web page. We are so lucky to have him on

our team! Please share the link with your friends and loved ones in the States, so they can keep tabs on our class.

Contact Information

Last week I told you about the many ways that Mr. E. is helping our class this year, but I forgot to provide his contact information for you. He has asked me to share his phone number and his e-mail address.

Many of you gave me permission to share your contact information with him, and we appreciate that. The more people there are who are willing to help out with parties and special events, the more memorable these occasions will be for the students. The list of APO box numbers is attached to this newsletter, and Mr. E. now has the phone numbers/e-mail addresses of those who were willing to share them. Thank you, in advance, for keeping those APO box numbers private and using them *only* for the purposes stated on the list.

Birthdays

So far, we have had no birthdays among the 2B3A students, but soon that will change. If you wish to send in cupcakes (or some other **simple** finger food) for your child's birthday, please remember to also supply the paper plates and/or napkins, too. Your child's birthday treat will be shared at snack time, which is the first ten minutes (only) after recess. We will not take instructional time to have birthday parties in class, so please do not plan to send in drinks, games, favors, etc. A simple finger food *served by the birthday child* makes him/her feel quite special. We sing "Happy Birthday" (auf Deutsch), and I give the birthday child a special hat and pencil. After this, we quickly return to our day's learning. By keeping the event short and sweet, we lose little time from our academic day, but the child-of-the-day still knows that we care and recognize his/her birthday. Of course, *no child is required* to bring a treat for his/her birthday. We will still sing, and the child will still receive the two items mentioned.

Cultural Experiences

Thanks to the many families, who have allowed their children to bring in artifacts and/or clothing representative of their own cultural heritage or of a land in which they have lived. The students have been proud to show and tell about the items, and some have even taught us a few words in a different language! Eating Cold Sesame Noodles with chopsticks was an unforgettable experience for 2B3A



students! Mr. E. and Mrs. R. supervised the two groups of third graders, as they prepared the recipe that was shared with the second graders. According to all reports, the noodles were yummy! Vielen



Dank, Mr. E. and Mrs. R., for providing this enriching experience for our kids.

Milestone Charts

The next time you come to our building, please take time to view the milestone charts created by the third graders. It is fun to see how much effort and creativity went into the creation of these treasures. Most of the children are quite proud of their eye-catching, appealing presentations of the highlights of their lives. The "walls of fame" in Building 92 are generating lots of interest among students and staff members.

Emergency Callers

Thank you to the five parents who responded that they would be willing to help call others, in the event of an emergency that affects GKES. Please remember to provide the office with the very latest telephone numbers and emergency contact information for your child. The emergency telephone calling system will be tested in early October, and it would be great to have 100% success in 2B3A!

A Little More about Homework

If you feel that a homework assignment is not a good "fit" for your child, then please do not struggle with that assignment to the point at which it becomes an emotional issue. It makes much more sense, if you leave that particular task and go online to the GKES web page at <http://www.geil-es.eu.dodea.edu/>. There you will find many educational links to games and activities that are related to the same topics. My links are not posted yet, but they will be added as I find new ones to support what we are learning. Mrs. B.'s are "up and

running", and she has given me permission to share them with you. I have explored many of her links and find that there are lots of possibilities for students whose skills are *beyond* the first grade level.

If you do decide to put aside one of my assignments, in favor of some quality practice time on the Internet, please write me a note, telling me what site your child worked on and why you chose that option. I will be happy to give your child homework "credit," and I will be even happier, if you share a "new" site with me. Of course, since my assignments are based precisely on those skills that I have introduced in class, I expect that this "exception" to the homework assignment will not be made too often.

L.A. and Math Skills to be Studied this Week

- o expanding reading vocabulary (all);
- o reading a textbook (all)
- o identifying plot (2)
- o identifying theme (3)
- o using and writing contractions (2)
- o writing plurals (3)
- o identifying simple sentences and using capitals at the beginnings of sentences (2)
- o identifying complete sentences and using singulars and plurals correctly (3)
- o spelling words with /ā /, /ī/ (2)
- o spelling plural words (3)
- o writing bold, not boring, sentences (all)
- o using a topic sentence (all)
- o finding sums of three addends (2)
- o using a four-step process to solve problems (3)
- o drawing pictures to solve problems (2)
- o comparing numbers and money amounts (3)

Important Dates

Friday, October 3 – Teacher In-Service (No school for students)

Mon.-Fri., October 20-24 – Fall Break