

Director's News

April 2021

I believe Spring has arrived! We've had some nice sunny days, and some rain in the forecast. Farmers will be out planting the fields soon, gardens will be put in, and flowers planted! Change is inevitable and it can be a wonderful thing! It can also bring some anxiety and fear of the unknown, but with a positive outlook things all work out in due time.

One big change that is coming to Glacial Hills this summer is that I will be retiring on June 30th. I have made this decision for several reasons, but utmost is that I have the opportunity to spend more time with my family! I also feel that it is time, after 13 school years, for GHES to experience a recharge of energy and enthusiasm under the leadership of a new director. The pandemic of the past couple of years has forced all of us to readjust our priorities and view school through a new lens, so the timing is right to make this change. Paula Foley has been hired to step into the position, and she comes to Glacial Hills with a full portfolio of experience, skills and knowledge. She will bring some fresh ideas and great leadership to continue the vision and mission here at GHES! I'm excited to work with her in the weeks ahead, and look forward to what lies in store. I'm sure I'll be called back to do some substitute teaching next year, and look forward to that opportunity! Thank you to ALL (students, parents, staff, community) for the marvelous opportunity I have been given to work with the people in the Starbuck community in the role as the Director of Glacial Hills Elementary School. It's a time I will treasure and look upon very fondly in the years to come.

Minnesota Comprehensive Assessments (MCA) are just around the corner for students in grades three - six. If you have students in these grades please be aware of the testing dates and make sure that the children are getting a good night's sleep before the test! Also, make sure they eat breakfast either at home or school on those days! Your consideration and assistance on these things is crucial to the success of the students on these assessments.

MCA Dates

4th Reading - April 13 - 16
5th & 6th Math - April 13 - 16
4th Math - April 20 - 23
5th & 6th Reading - April 20 - 23
3rd Math - April 27 - 30
3rd Reading - May 4 - 7

Spring Plant Sale Plant pick-up day is Saturday, May 8th from 10:00 - 2:00 here at the school. There will be extra plants for sale for those that didn't place an order, or those that would like a few more items. The plants are from Glacial Ridge Growers and have been quite beautiful and hardy in the past. This sale brings in over \$2500 for GHE which is used for technology, library books, field trips and other special events at school. Thanks for your help with this event!

The School Board is beginning to plan for **School Year 2021-22**. This includes planning for teacher assignments based on enrollment at each grade level. We currently have 85 students enrolled and anticipate that this number will remain steady moving into next school year, however the marketing committee has been working hard to get the word out about GHES so we are hoping to increase that number! If you know that you are moving, or have plans to enroll your student somewhere else, it is important that you get that information to Mrs. Mathias as soon as you know about it. Our funding is based strictly on our enrollment, and our hiring is based on the funding we receive. It is important to us that we have accurate numbers when we are planning so we can provide the best services to students that we possibly can. Thanks, in advance, for your consideration of this.

Kindergarten Round-Up is going to happen a bit differently this year due to the pandemic. We are asking that families with children who are 5 by September 1st and are eligible to participate in kindergarten in the fall of 2021 contact Mrs. Giese (mgiese@glacialhills.org) to receive a packet and video of information about the program. They will then be able to set up a family visit that will be conducted in June. In August there will be a day where the students can come to school for the morning, prior to the first day of school, and spend the day in the classroom and become acclimated to the building. ***All children who plan to enroll in kindergarten must have completed a preschool screening and have their vaccinations up to date prior to the start of school.***

Preschool registration is open for the 2021-22 school year. Please contact Mrs. Uribe (muribe@glacialhills.org) for more information. We will continue to offer a 3 year old program on T/TH mornings from 7:30-11:30 and a 4 year old program M/W/F from 7:30-3:30.

Summer School plans are in the works. Please return registration forms by Friday, April 16th. If you need another copy of the form let us know and we'll be sure to get that sent home! The dates for summer school are June 7-10 and 14-17, M-TH 8:00 - 3:00. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. Parents are responsible for the transportation.

COVID Update - we have been fortunate that we haven't had any positive cases reported among the staff and students. However, we have had several students who have had to quarantine due to an exposure to a positive case. Please continue to keep students home if they are experiencing symptoms. Continue to wear a mask, social distance and wash hands to lessen the spread of the virus. Thanks for your cooperation.

Upcoming Events

Apr. 13-16	<i>Math MCA 5th & 6th and Reading MCA 4th</i>
M, Apr. 19	No School - COVID Planning Day
Apr. 20-23	<i>Math MCA 4th and Reading MCA 5th & 6th</i>
Apr. 27 - 30	<i>Math MCA 3rd grade</i>
F, Apr. 30	OW Animal Program (4th gr) 1:30
M, Apr. 26	School Board Mtg. 7:00
F, Apr. 30	Charlotte's Web virtual play (1:00)
May 4 - 7	<i>Reading MCA 3rd grade</i>
S, May 8	Plant pickup from 10-2:00
M, May 10	No School - COVID planning
TH, May 27	Last Day of School
F, May 28	Teacher Inservice

Please note that there is **no school for students on Mon, April 19th and Mon, May 10th.