



January / February 2012

# PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Edition #3

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[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bglenn/](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bglenn/)

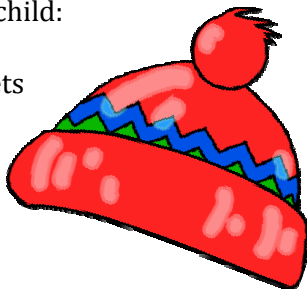
## What's New?

## Upcoming Events:

Your children are happy learners who enter the building each morning ready to learn.

During colder weather, children wear hats, scarves, and jackets and the possibility of our school dealing with head lice becomes prevalent. We request that you assist us in preventing a head lice problem by reviewing the following items with your child:

- a. Hats, scarves, jackets and other items of clothing should never be exchanged.
- b. Combs and brushes must never be borrowed or used by someone else.
- c. It is best for everyone to use only his or her own personal articles both at school and at home.



Committees composed of teacher, staff, and parents are in the process of defining our school improvement plan (School Portfolio).

North Greenville University and UpState University education students have been assigned to classrooms to help small groups of students, listen to students read, put up bulletin boards, check papers, work with individual students who are having trouble in a subject, and gain firsthand experience of the job of a classroom teacher.



We are into the second semester and things are moving along briskly. February, the shortest month of the year, is very busy but an enjoyable time of the year. Here are some events for you to be aware of this month.

February 1 -3  
February 6- 10

**Black History Month**  
4K Registration  
National Guidance Counselor's Week  
GAC Meeting @ 7:15 AM  
SKATE Night

February 7  
February 9  
  
February 10  
February 13 -17  
February 13

Student Counselor Meeting @ 7:30 AM  
4K / 5K Storybook Time  
Class / Group Pictures  
PTA Chic-fil-a Night  
PTA "Moo" Friday Biscuit Sale  
I Love Reading Week  
*Go Fish: Community Resources Fair*  
PTA Meeting  
Progress Reports  
Brook Glenn Chuck E. Cheese Night

February 15  
February 16

PTA Valentine's Day Dance  
PTA "Moo" Friday Biscuit Sale  
Presidents' Day - NO SCHOOL  
Black History Program  
School Spirit Day  
PTA "Moo" Friday Biscuit Sale

February 17  
  
February 20  
February 21  
February 24

February 27  
"Correct Way to Carry a Backpack" Assembly Programs  
February 29  
SIC Meeting @ 12 Noon  
Birthday Celebration

**SCHOOL DOORS OPEN AT 7:15 AM.**  
**BREAKFAST IS SERVED FROM 7:15 - 7:50 AM.**  
**Breakfast is free for all students**  
**THANK YOU!**

# PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Greetings,

Believe it or not, we are in the mid-point of the 2011 -2012 school year! Where does the time go? We have so much to accomplish! It seems like we have just begun. January has come and gone with little weather drama. The children were able to go out for recess, on most days, and enjoy the mild and amazing temperatures! When the groundhog speaks, we humans listen. His weather-predicting skills may only be accurate 39 percent of the time, but that hardly matters. Well, he saw his shadow. Six more weeks of winter. Please be sure that students are dressed appropriately for the weather.

February is a month packed with lots of hugs, love, various holidays and special weeks. From Black History month and Groundhog Day to Valentine's Day right through Lincoln's Birthday and Presidents' Day there are a variety of interesting lessons for your children to learn. It is this time of the school year when we start to really focus on preparing our students for spring testing. These tests are very important for our school and our students. We encourage our children to continue to work hard. I believe this is a crucial time of year because there are less distractions during winter time and the students are able to concentrate on their school work more. This is a time when they can make large gains in their studies. We as parents need to make them aware of their responsibilities as students to do the best job they can each and every day. We as a team must focus on their effort and make sure they reach their potential.



Students are expected to be in class before the 8:00 bell rings. It's very important that your child arrives on time. Every Minute Counts! Please, please, please help us give your children the best. I cannot stress how important it is to make sure your child attends school regularly. Poor attendance is one of the main reasons for students having poor grades. It is easy to get behind and not catch up due to the amount of material that is presented daily. There is no substituting being in class and interacting with peers and getting direct instruction from a teacher. We thank you for your active involvement in our school. We welcome your involvement and interest as we collectively celebrate the many talents of our students as learners. Please continue to take the time and ask your child how his/her day was.



Well, Brook Glenn is GOING GREEN! As you walk through the building, you will notice the green plants in the hallways and classrooms. These plants were purchased by Mrs. Linda Wade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, who was a Green School grant recipient. Research shows that students are more happier in classrooms where there are plants than those students in classrooms without plants. In addition to their aesthetic beauty, indoor plants have shown to offer psychological and restorative values, such as reduced tension, better coping mechanisms, and increased concentration and attention.

As we move quickly through the month, I hope that your February is filled with heartfelt moments. May we all keep in mind the words of Zig Ziglar that "among the things we can give and still keep are our word, a smile, and a grateful heart."

Peace,



# Parents Page

## Tidbits from Your Instructional Coach *Mrs. Lauren Pessolano*



### Mnemonics

Successful students remember facts and details of battles in history, formulas in math, and unending lists of elements in science. What can you do to help your child develop memory strategies that will cause them be more successful in school? Teach them fun and simple mnemonics. In one evening you can show your child how to apply memory strategies to any vocabulary list, series of facts and figures, or just plain remembering what to do after coming home from school.

Mnemonics are memory aids that help make a connection between what you already know and what you need to remember. You probably use mnemonics in your daily life and don't even know it. When you're writing, do you ever say to yourself, "I before E except after C?" Or do you remember the planets by saying, "My very educated mother just served us nine pizzas?" Following are three mnemonic techniques (memory strategies) to teach to your children.

**Acronyms** take the first letter of a series of words you need to memorize and make a word out of them.

- The more famous acronyms we have are SCUBA (Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus), NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration), and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome).
- Ask your son or daughter if there's a list of vocabulary, facts or figures they need to learn for tomorrow or the next day and see if you can help them come up with an acronym.
- If you remember the names of the Great Lakes by spelling HOMES (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie, Superior), that's a mnemonic using acronyms.

**Acrostics** take the first letter of a series of words you need to learn and create a sentence.

- Here's an example for remembering the first 11 U.S. Presidents: When A Just Man Makes A Just Vow, He Takes Pains. (Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, (John Quincy) Adams, Jackson, Van Buren, Harrison, Tyler, Polk.)

**Keyword** takes the word you want to learn, finds a similar sounding word (or similar spelling) and comes up with a sentence that includes the keyword and the meaning you're trying to remember.

- This approach works beautifully with Spanish. Let's say your child wants to learn the verb "Dormir" (to sleep). You decide on a keyword (we'll use dorm) and then you create a sentence, "Norm sleeps in the dorm." When you add an illustration to this sentence, it helps your child remember even more quickly, and retain it longer.
- The scientific term for common frogs is ranidae. A helpful keyword for ranidae might be rain and a child could draw a picture of frogs hopping in the rain.

Any one of these mnemonic techniques will work depending on the material. It all comes down to finding the best one for your son or daughter. Here are ways to give children practice at home:

- When you go shopping, see if your child can recall where the bread was, or on which aisle the sugar was located.
- Cut out five items from a grocery store ad. Show your child how much each costs. Then see if your child can remember the cost of each.
- Show your child, step by step, how to do something. Then ask him to repeat the steps to you.
- Read a story. Then have your child tell it, in detail, back to you.



**(Great Opportunities for Families In Search of Help)**

*Teaching others how to fish is our mission!*

**What is Go Fish?** A division of Brook Glenn Elementary School's Guidance Department that collaborates with the Greenville County School District as well as local upstate agencies to bring awareness to Brook Glenn Families and their surrounding Community concerning agencies that offer **free** or **affordable** services such as assistance with food, utilities, clothing, shelter, employment opportunities, disaster relief, medical care, medical insurance, legal services and transportation. Come fish for INFORMATION ABOUT THE SERVICES THAT YOUR FAMILY NEEDS! THERE WILL BE LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AND DOOR PRIZES!

You are Invited to



Monday, February 13, 2012  
Brook Glenn Elementary School Gym  
2300 East Lee Road  
Taylors, South Carolina 29687  
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

For more information contact Mrs. Belcher-Shell @ (864) 355-4704