

GARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER

A NOTE FROM MRS. CORREA

We are ready to begin our third study of Influential People From Around the World. Information about Malala Yousafzai has been shared with the Gary School staff so that planning for this next unit of study can begin. Malala's story offers students a powerful look at courage, advocacy, and the importance of education as a universal right.

As we continue to deepen multicultural learning across our classrooms, this unit invites students to explore global perspectives and recognize the contributions of individuals who have significantly shaped our world. By engaging with Malala's experiences, students will have opportunities to connect their learning to the concepts of resilience, equity, and the importance of speaking out for positive change. Malala Yousafzai is a young woman from Pakistan who has become a global advocate for education. Malala grew up in an area where girls were often not allowed to go to school, but she bravely spoke out for the right of all children to learn. Even after surviving an attack for her activism, she continued to fight for education and co-founded the Malala Fund to support girls worldwide. Her story teaches courage, resilience, and the importance of standing up for what is right. We are excited to explore her life and the contributions of other influential people as part of our multicultural learning program at Gary School. Thank you for your continued commitment to creating inclusive, culturally responsive learning environments for our Gary School community. Let's make this another impactful study for our students.

GARY ADMINISTRATORS

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HIGHLIGHT

PRINCIPAL MESSAGE

SPIRIT DAYS

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COUGAR

NEWS FROM GRADE LEVELS

NEWS FROM SPECIALS

NEWS FROM BAND AND ORCHESTRA

NEWSLETTER

GARY SCHOOL

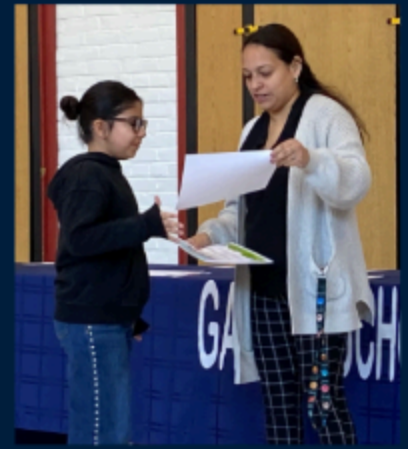
WEAR IT WEDNESDAY: STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAY.

11/19	Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or Gary Blue
12/3	Safari Day: Animal Print
12/10	Look alike Day
12/15	Grinch Day (Green)
12/16	Winter Wonderland (snowflakes, blue & white)
12/17	Holiday Sweater Day/Holiday T-Shirt
12/18	Candy Cane (red & white)
12/19	Winter PJ Day
1/7	Neon Day
1/14	Art Spirit Day: Dress like your favorite artist or in your favorite color
1/21	Book Character Day
1/28	College Gear Day
2/4	Where's the Love? Day - Red/Pink/White
2/11	Vaquero Day
2/18	Disney Day
2/25	Throwback Day (decades)

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF OUR GARY COUGARS

At Gary School, every day is an opportunity for curiosity, discovery, and growth! Our students dive into reading, writing, and math lessons each morning, developing important skills while exploring new ideas.

Throughout the day, they enjoy specials like art, music, and PE, and participate in activities that make learning exciting and meaningful. Recently, our Cougars have discovered new favorites at the Book Fair, and our PTO continues to support amazing programs and events. We also take time to celebrate student achievements through recognitions and awards, honoring both effort and success. Each day at Gary School is a blend of learning, creativity, and community—making it a place where our Cougars truly thrive!





Kinder News

December



Dates:

- December 22-January 2: No classes
- January 5: Return to school. Happy New Year!

News:

-Our current theme is: **Stories**. We will continue reading traditional stories (folktales) to learn about characters and plot. Our next theme will be plants, which will begin later in December.

-In **Math**, we are counting every day, with the goal of reaching 100. Eventually, we will count to 100! We will finish shapes and begin our Measurement unit.

-The time has come to learn to put on our own Winter gear! Students should practice tying their shoes and boots, and zipping up their coats and snow pants. We will practice timing with them, but they should be as independent as possible with putting it on.

Have a wonderful month!

-*Kindergarten*

Practice or

consider this:

-Read together every day, 15-20 mins. Even if your little one can't read, he is learning from watching you!

Practice always: Writing name, ID numbers 0-10, letter ID/sounds, and syllables.

If your child already knows these skills, practice identifying numbers 0-20 and counting to 100.



1st Grade News

December 2025



Reminders



- Read with your child at least 15 minutes every day. Please sign your initials on the homework chart to verify that your child read.
- Please practice addition and subtraction facts with your child.
- Send your child with a healthy snack (no nuts) and a bottle of water.

Language Arts

Topic: The Human Body Cont.

Focus: students will learn the fundamental parts and functions of five body systems: skeletal, muscular, digestive, circulatory, and nervous.

UFLI: English phonics and literacy development

Lectoescritura: Spanish literacy development

— Math +

Topic and Focus: addition and subtraction to 20. Decomposing numbers

First Grade Team

Ms. Jimenez
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Ms. Ayala
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Mrs. Swierenga
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Mrs. Meza Owens
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Upcoming Events

December 22-January 2:

Winter Break (NO SCHOOL)



December 2025

Ms. Mexicano- mexicanoy@wego33.org
Ms. Portillo- portilloc@wego33.org
Mrs. Uhlhorn- uhlhorne@wego33.org
Mrs. Valdivia- valdivial@wego33.org

Events

- ☐ Dec. 3: PTO Meeting 6 p.m.
- ☐ Dec. 13: Breakfast with Santa 8-11 a.m.
- ☐ Winter Break
December 22-January 2

Reminders

- ☐ Bring a refillable water bottle each day.
- ☐ Read and fill out Reading Calendar for homework.
- ☐ Dress appropriately for the weather

Learning Focus

Reading:

- We will finish our study of Early Asian Civilizations and begin our Spanish unit of Ancient Greek Civilization.

Math:

Module 4
Addition and subtraction within 200 with word problems to 100.

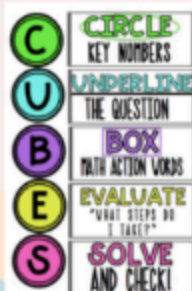
3rd Grade News

December 2025

Social Studies

We are finishing our unit that focuses on leadership. We are learning about influential leaders such as Mayor Bovey of West Chicago, Katherine Johnson, and Jane Goodall. We are discussing our rights and responsibilities of living in a democracy and how we can make change to our community over time. Our next unit will focus on economy and we will learn about goods and services and how they affect a community.

Communities
**MAKE
CHANGE**



In 3rd grade, this is how we solve word problems.

Language Arts

English Language Arts: We are finishing up an engaging unit about animals at the beginning of the month. The students have learned about how scientists classify animals. They have also practiced a lot of reading skills while reading informational texts. The reading skills they have practiced are using context clues to determine the meaning of unknown words, learning from text features, and finding the main idea of a passage. The students are writing a paragraph about an animal of their choice. They will write a topic sentence and supporting details.

Spelling and Grammar: Our animal classification unit also included practice on important skills in spelling and grammar. They learned about how to spell words with the endings -ed and -ing. They also learned about nouns, verbs, and adjectives.

Spanish Language Arts: The students read a text about piranhas repeatedly in order to improve their reading fluency. They also wrote a sentence in "Dictado" to practice writing words with accent marks and certain endings.



Math (English)

In Math, we have started Module 3 which focuses on Multiplication of 6s, 7s, 8s, and 9s. We are revisiting the concepts of the commutative property and distributive property. Please continue to practice multiplication and division facts with your children!

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20
3	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30
4	4	8	12	16	20	24	28	32	36	40
5	5	10	15	20	25	30	35	40	45	50
6	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
7	7	14	21	28	35	42	49	56	63	70
8	8	16	24	32	40	48	56	64	72	80
9	9	18	27	36	45	54	63	72	81	90
10	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100



Upcoming Events

December 13: Breakfast with Santa

December 20-January 4:
Winter Break



Third Grade Team

Ms. Meyer
meyer@wego33.org

Mrs. Larson
larson@wego33.org

Ms. Jirovec
jirovec@wego33.org



Reminders

Please send only water to school for students. It is best to use a reusable water bottle.

Please send a healthy snack to school to eat in the classroom in the afternoon. Fruit, vegetable, crackers, granola bar are great options!

*Don't forget to look at the pages attached to your child's math homework to find out about what they are learning in math class!

Be sure to watch the weather to know the appropriate clothing for the day! It is winter, so please bring a coat every day.

Third Grade	
8:40 - 8:50	Morning Meeting
8:50-9:40	Specials
9:40-11:00	Language Arts: Amplify
11:00-11:40	Language Arts: WIN
11:40-12:10	Lunch and Recess
12:10-1:00	Guided Math
1:00-1:40	Math Core Lesson
1:40-1:55	3rd Grade Recess
1:55-2:20	Language Arts: Amplify
2:20-2:50	SLA
2:50-3:20	Social Studies/Science
3:20	Dismissal

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red	PE	SEL	PE	Art	PE
	Library		Music		Music
Blue	Music	Music	Art	Library	SEL
	PE	PE		PE	
Yellow	Art	PE	SEL	PE	Library
		Music		Music	PE



Miss Brandt:
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Mrs. Garcia:
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Miss. Rivera:
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December

Amplify - Literacy: We are going to start our third unit. Students are going to learn about Spanish Poetry from well-renowned authors.

Throughout this unit, students will be writing their own piece of poetry.

Science: We will be starting our unit on energy resources. The students will learn how energy travels through matter.

Math: We have been working on module 3, currently focusing on long division and multiplication.

Please have your child read nightly for at least 40 minutes.

Send a water bottle with your child daily.

For winter snow play, your student must have: snow boots, snow pants, coat, hat, and gloves.

IMPORTANT INFO

Breakfast with Santa: Dec 13

Winter Break: Dec 22 - Jan 2



December 5th Grade Newsletter

LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

This month, our 5th graders focused on the core value of responsibility, practicing completing homework, turning in classwork on time, and taking ownership of their behavior. In science, we're working through unit 2, studying energy transfer in ecosystems and plant and animal needs. In Amplify, students are exploring life in America's first civilizations. Ask your child about the Mayans, Aztecs, or Incas. In math, students finished a unit on whole-number multiplication and division with multi-digit numbers.

Focus on the month:

- Amplify: First Civilizations in the Americas
- Math: Multi-digit multiplication and division
- Science: Energy transfer, plant needs
- Behavior: Responsibility

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

THE TEAM



CONTACTS



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IMPORTANT DATES

PTO Meeting: Dec. 3, 2025- 6pm
D33 Art Show: Dec. 8, 2025 5pm
Breakfast w/ Santa: Dec. 13, 2025
5th Grade Winter Party: Dec. 19, 2025
Winter Break: Dec. 20- Jan. 4, 2026

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need support for our winter holiday celebration. If you'd like to help run a craft or game at the party, please contact your child's teacher. We are also seeking donations of:

- Hot chocolate packets & cups
- Ornaments to decorate
- Graham crackers, frosting, and candies for gingerbread houses
- Holiday bracelet-making kits
- BINGO prizes

WE'RE "ALL IN!"

We're encouraging all 5th graders to be "All In" on responsibility, which includes caring for their materials, completing work, and owning their actions toward others. Our goal is to help students develop this skill now so they carry strong habits of organization, accountability, and self-management into later grades and adulthood.



Specials Newsletter

December 2025

Art

It is a Claycember to remember! We're making art with all types of clay this December. 4th grade is finishing up their 3D printed picture frames. Thank you for coming by our Tiny Art Show during parent teacher conferences! Our D33 Art Gala will take place in January at Leman Middle School. Stay tuned for more details after winter break!



Music

- **Save the date: January 27. 2026 Winter Program 1st Grade, 4th Grade, Orchestra, Gary Chorus**

In Kindergarten and 1st grades we are working on learning how instruments make sound. We will be creating our own instruments from recycled materials. Please send stickers, contact paper, rice, beans, and recycled items to class the week of December 15th.

In Second and Third grades, we will be using the Nutcracker story to look for patterns, musical form, and musical elements.

In Fourth and Fifth grades, it's recorder time! We will be working on reading music and playing songs. Students have to earn the privilege of taking the instrument home and must bring it back as we will use it until April.

- Come see Gary Chorus at Frosty Fest!



PE

- In gym class we will be playing Basketball skills practice, activities, and games! We will learn dribbling basics, passing basics, shooting basics, and defending basics. Check out the basketball cues below to help prepare for our basketball unit.



foods help our bodies grow strong, and some foods do not.

1st Grade: Students are learning that fruits and vegetables give our bodies important vitamins that help us stay healthy. They will be able to choose healthy foods in many different colors to help their bodies grow and stay strong and understand that eating a variety of foods is important for good health.

2nd Grade: Students will be able to identify and choose foods that help keep specific parts of their bodies healthy and about the fruit and vegetable food groups. They will explore examples of foods in each group and how certain fruits and vegetables help different parts of the body—such as our eyes, hair, skin, and heart.

3rd Grade: Students are learning that having a balanced plate helps them eat the right amounts from each food group. Eating too much or too little of certain foods can affect their overall health and wellness. They will be able to identify the five food groups and what each one includes. We will also practice creating a balanced meal using the MyPlate guidelines.

4th Grade: Students are learning that proteins and carbohydrates are important nutrients our bodies need. They are also discovering that there are many healthy sources of both proteins and carbohydrates. We will learn that proteins help build and repair muscles, and carbohydrates give the body energy. Students will be able to identify healthy sources of proteins and carbohydrates.

5th Grade:

Botvin Life Skills Training with Officer O'niel will focus on 3 areas.

Personal Self-Management Skills - Students learn strategies to feel more confident, solve problems, reduce stress and anxiety, and handle strong emotions like anger in healthy ways.

General Social Skills - Students practice important social skills such as speaking clearly, building positive friendships, overcoming shyness, and resolving conflicts peacefully. Most Importantly,

Drug Resistance Skills - Students learn how to make safe choices and stand up to peer pressure related to tobacco, alcohol, vaping, and other drugs.

Library

Students are continuing to build a love of reading by checking out books they enjoy for pleasure. At home, please encourage them to talk about what they are reading to help develop strong readers. The Chicago Wolves reading incentive program ends before we go on break in December. If your child would like to participate or needs a new form, please reach out! Thank you to everyone who has participated so far!





ELEMENTARY ORCHESTRA



newsletter



What are we learning in December?:

We are learning:

4th Grade Beginning Orchestra 5th Grade Intermediate Orchestra

- Bow Fundamentals
- Note Reading Memorization
- Independent Music Learning
- Slurs/Ties
- Concert Music - Applying 8th Notes
- Critical Practice Reflections



Mr. Klapp!

Concert Date

Tuesday, February 3rd is our Concert!

Tell your family this holiday season that about your students upcoming concert on February 3rd. Specific details will come later, but for now.

Performance Start Time: 6pm. Location: Leman Middle School (Enter Door 8)

Polo Shirts

The shop is now closed. Ordered polos will be delivered to students a few days before our first concert.



Contact

Charles Klapp

Contact via Parent Square!

Rehearsals

5th Grade Intermediate

Mondays

4th Grade Beginner

Thursdays

December

Special Edition

★ December 5th Grade Band Newsletter ★

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the families who attended our parent teacher conferences. It was such a pleasure to meet all of you and discuss your child's progress. Thank you for your support!

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Working on Ireland, Mexico, and Jamaica stamps

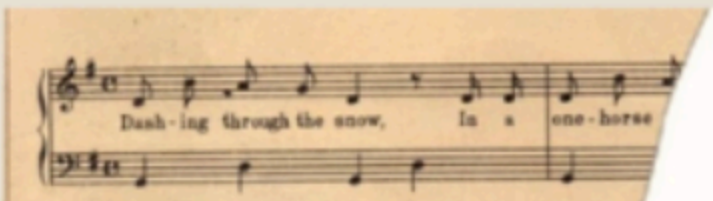
Christmas pops concerts in schools, more details to come

Eighth notes

Applying first 5 notes



YEAR IN REVIEW



As we celebrate the holidays, we also celebrate the great success of your student in band. Students have been working so hard these past few months and can now play 5 notes in songs, how cool is that? Although it may be tough at times, little by little, the hard work is paying off :)

LOOKING AHEAD ★ ★ ★

Believe it or not, we have our first concert coming up in February! Stay tuned for more details but please mark your calendars for February 4th, 6pm at Leman Middle School

PRACTICE!

My favorite phrase is when students ask me what the hardest instrument to play is, my response being, "the instrument you practice the least"... please keep up the practice logs this holiday season! Additionally, ask your student what happens when they reach 10 approved weeks of practice :)