

Patriot Press Weekly

April 13, 2018

Folsom Education and Community Center

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Website: <http://www.gisu.org/folsom>

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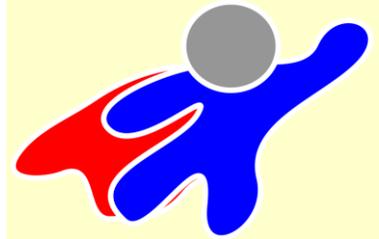
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Be a Folsom Hero!

From the Principal's Desk

As we prepare for another year of state testing in grades three through eight, I thought I'd share my thinking about testing, especially for young students. Succinctly put, I don't like the tests. I believe that they cause a great deal of stress and do not provide data that is worth the time, energy and cost associated with them. As the parent of a third grader, I have witnessed the stress and self-doubt that often goes along with this testing and I really feel like I want to protect my daughter from the whole mess. There...I vented and now I feel better!

When I am calmer, I realize that although the tests are not the most important data point, they are a data point, and we should make the best use of it. When I am calmer, I remember that it is not my job as a parent to prevent my daughter from feeling stress, it is my job to help her deal with stress. When I am calmer, I realize that these tests, as flawed as they are, are filled with learning opportunities for all of us.

My hope is that over the next few weeks of testing, we keep our students and ourselves focused and doing their best. Not because the test is going to make or break us, but because it is better to do our best than to not. Given that we will use the data collected from this test to make decisions about our school, let's work together to make sure the data is as reliable as possible.

Please do your best to make sure your children are eating healthy meals and getting a good night's rest. Testing when you are tired and hungry is akin to going for a run in the mud. Please encourage your child to do their best while also letting them know that their best effort is all we need from them. Please consider sending a note in with your student to encourage them to try their best even when they feel like being done.

Thank you for your help and support with SBAC's, and with everything else that goes into making our school a success!

Please have a safe weekend in the snow!

Respectfully,

Matthew Brankman
Interim Principal

Upcoming Events

April

- 13 PTO's Special Person Dance 6:30-8pm
- 18-19 County Music Festival
- 16-20 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC's)
- 23-27 **No School** Spring Recess
- 30- May 4 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC's)

May

- 4/30-5/4 Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBAC's)
- 4-5 District Music Festival
- 11-12 The Lion King performances
- 15-17 8th Grade Science state test
- 23-25 5th Grade Science state test
- 28 Memorial Day **No School**

Art Room Happenings

We're having an art showing at Wally's Place for k-4 during the month of April! Each artist has creating a small piece of art inspired by our local bagel place and a famous pop artist, known for his food filled canvases! (Ask your artist whose artwork we talked about.) Thank you to Matt Bartle for giving us the opportunity. If you have an idea as to where artwork is needed or if you would like some awesome student artwork let me know.

Looking for some donations: *Do you have a pile of old broken crayons? *Acrylic clear spray *Palm sized smooth flat rocks *Trash/recyclable things *Magazines *Wood to paint on *Cardboard sheets? The art room welcomes and appreciates your donations to help us create amazing things!

LOOKING FOR LOCAL ARTISTS FOR AN ARTIST IN RESIDENCY! Are you a practicing artist? Do you enjoy installation work? Would you be willing to share your skill with students? We are looking to incorporate art into the garden area and an artist who has the enthusiasm for working with all age groups. Do you have someone in mind? Send them my way please! jambeda@gisu.org .

Shout out to Forrer Watson who got honorable mention in the Casella Calendar Contest. All of our 3rd graders drew an image for them, along with 400 other 3rd graders in the state of Vermont. Congratulations to all of our artists who enter a contest this year!

From the PTO

Please sell those Lake Monster tickets!! The school gets a good percentage of the sales, and the deadline for selling tickets is Friday, April 20. (the last day before Spring Break). CHAMP may visit us too, to provide encouragement... We are working on it!! If you lost the envelope, there are more in the office!!! Let's go to the ball park!!

The Special Person Dance is TONIGHT Friday, April 13. 6:30pm-8pm in the Folsom Gym. The PTO is looking for donations of student volunteers to help and of refreshments. This event is FREE and open to all ages... Invite that special person in your life! Contact Mme Bishop to volunteer. helbish@gisu.org

Time to Order Your Yearbook!

Yearbooks are now on sale. The cost is \$11.99 and orders must be placed on line at www.TreeRing.com. A school passcode is required when setting up a TreeRing account for the first time or when adding a new child at a different school to an existing account. The code for Folsom is 1015157750772519. The ordering deadline is May 2 and the books will be in some time in June.