

The Goshen Gazette

September 2009

Goshen Elementary School
101 District Drive ♦ Edwardsville, Illinois 62025
(618) 655-6250



Mark Your Calendar!

Friday, September 11

Fall Picture Day

Monday, September 14

ECUSD 7 School Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. at Woodland Elementary

Tuesday, September 15

PTO Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Friday, September 18

First Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home

Friday, September 25

Spirit Day – Wear your Gator GREEN AND GOLD and purchase a *SMENCIL* to benefit Anderson Hospital!

Monday, September 28

ECUSD 7 School Board Meeting
7:30 p.m. at Woodland Elementary

Visitor Guidelines

All visitors to Goshen Elementary School are required to show photo identification and sign in with the School Safety Officer or in the Main Office before entering the school building.

Parents and visitors are required to follow this process before school and throughout the school day. We welcome and encourage you to join your child for lunch, volunteer in the classroom, and join us for morning meeting in the gymnasium. Our goal remains to keep all of our students safe! Thank you for your assistance and understanding!

Principal's Notes

Dear Goshen Families,

Welcome to 2009-2010 school year at Goshen Elementary School! Each and every one of our students has done an amazing job starting the new year. The teachers and I are proud of their hard work, and we are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

We would like to extend a special welcome to all of the students and families who are new to District 7. We feel fortunate that you have chosen Goshen Elementary School to begin your child's learning adventure!

Our focus this school year is to provide a safe and welcoming school environment for your children. As parents, you play a vital role in helping us achieve our goal! Please talk with your child about Goshen Elementary School's expectations:

1. Always try your best. It is OK to make a mistake; that's how we learn!
2. Respect others and our school.
3. Follow directions the first time they are given.

These school expectations will help guide children in their decision making throughout the school year and will pay off throughout their educational careers. We want to thank all of our parents for their support as we continue to move through the first quarter. Working together will ensure the success of your children and all students at Goshen Elementary School!

Warm wishes!
Mrs. Wells



Don't Forget! Picture Day is Friday, September 11!



Parent Orientation

Parent Orientation was held on September 1, and it was extremely well attended.

Parents were able to get an overview of their child's school year including information about classroom and school expectations, communication, and upcoming field trips. It was a very informational meeting for all in attendance. Thank you for spending the evening with us!



The Goshen PTO Needs You!

The Goshen PTO held its first meeting on Tuesday, August 26th. If you are looking for ways to get involved at Goshen Elementary School, you are in luck! We are ALWAYS looking for volunteers during the school day and at special events! Our next PTO meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th and you can get more information by calling our president, Allison Hershberger at 920-8116!



Goshen Elementary School is a BULLY-FREE Zone!

Bullying is a form of aggression in which there is an imbalance of power between the bully and the victim. The bully is always more powerful than the victim. Bullying can be physical, verbal, and/or psychological.

Key elements of bullying:

- Power imbalance
- Intent to harm
- Victim's distress
- Repeated over time

Difference between teasing and taunting:

- **Teasing** is playful and used in relationship building. The teaser and the person being teased swap roles. If someone becomes upset, teasing is discontinued.
- **Taunting** occurs when there is an imbalance of power and intent to harm. Only one person is laughing and roles are not swapped.

Difference between telling and tattling:

- **Tattling** is speaking to someone about a problem just to get someone else in trouble, to get my own way, or to make myself look good.
- **Telling** is speaking to someone the child trusts about a problem because I or someone else may be getting hurt.

Strategies students are being taught in sessions with social workers and in health classes include:

- Tell the bully to STOP.
- Let an adult know.
- Remind adults if bullying continues.
- The differences between telling and tattling.
- The differences between teasing and taunting.
- Be brave and confident that you know what to do.

Nurse's Notes



The Madison County Health Department has agreed to visit each class at Goshen to educate our students on proper handwashing. The program, **Clean Hands, Healthy Bodies**, is an interactive program in which children will see what fake germs look like on their hands. They will also be able to practice good handwashing. You can help your children avoid getting sick by reminding them that they should wash their hands properly and frequently. We are really excited about the program, and it should be a lot of fun! Look for Glitterbug to visit your child's classroom on September 21, 22, or 28!

Please remember that if your child is sick, they will need to be fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school.

If your child is reluctant about hand washing, try these tips:

- Use colorful soaps made especially *for kids*. Some soaps also come in interesting shapes or have fun scents to make *hand washing fun*.
- Have your child sing a favorite song while lathering up. By the time the tune is done, those germs should be washed away!



Did You Wash Your Hands? We're Keeping Goshen "Germ-Free"!

A delicious mud pie, a good-luck rock, or a friendly frog are just a few of the presents kids love to bring home to Mom and Dad. But behind these adorable gifts, millions of germs could be lurking. Kids don't always listen when you tell them to wash their hands before eating, but it's a message worth repeating. Hand washing is by far the best way to prevent germs from spreading and to keep your kids from getting sick.

When kids come into contact with germs, they can unknowingly become infected simply by touching their eyes, nose, or mouth. And once they're infected, it's usually just a matter of time before the whole family comes down with the same illness. Good hand washing is the first line of defense against the spread of many illnesses, from the common cold to more serious illnesses. Here's how to scrub those germs away. Demonstrate this routine to your kids — or better yet, wash your hands together often so they learn how important this good habit is:

1. Wash your hands in warm water. Make sure the water isn't too hot for little hands.
2. Use soap and lather up for about 10 to 15 seconds (antibacterial soap isn't necessary — any soap will do). Make sure you get in between the fingers and under the nails where uninvited germs like to hang out. And don't forget the wrists!
3. Rinse and dry well with a clean towel.

To minimize the germs passed around your family, make frequent hand washing a rule for everyone, especially:

- before eating and cooking
- after using the bathroom
- after cleaning around the house
- after touching animals, including family pets
- before and after visiting or taking care of any sick friends or relatives
- after blowing one's nose, coughing, or sneezing
- after being outside (playing, gardening, walking the dog, etc.)

Don't underestimate the power of hand washing! The few seconds you spend at the sink could save you trips to the doctor's office.

