



# The Eagle Express

June 2020  
Volume 16, Issue 5

Golden Empire Elementary School • Sacramento City Unified School District  
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## Principal's Corner

Hello Golden Empire Families,

It is so hard to believe it is June already! And families, I know this year is not ending how any of us thought it would. I also know we will pull through this stronger as a Golden Empire Community. It is my hope you are taking this time to enjoy some activities you may have not enjoyed otherwise—taking a hike, baking new kinds of cookies, and maybe creating some beautiful chalk drawings. Please continue to check your student's Google Classroom page, email and participate in Zoom meetings as much as you can as well as the district Website for updates throughout each week, especially as we conclude the school year On Thursday, June 11.

As I write this column, I am reflecting back on the many wonderful events and happenings that have occurred this year. Many of them would not have occurred without the hard work, dedication, and commitment of the Golden Empire staff in ensuring the school runs efficiently, is serving our students, and that students receive a rigorous and fun education. I believe we were successful on all fronts. Thank you to all for making this happen!

I want to extend a big thank you to all for volunteering and participating in the many jobs, events, and happenings that occur each year at Golden Empire. I especially want to extend my gratitude to those parents serving on the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), the School Site Council (SSC), and the English Learner Advisory Committee (ELAC). These committees take extra time and effort, but are the key committees and organization that makes Golden Empire successful. Additional thanks go to parents who were able to volunteer in the classrooms, in the office, or drive on field trips before the pandemic. You all made it possible for us to offer special opportunities to our students.

As you all know, we miss you all so very much. We are looking forward to the day we can all see each other again—hopefully this August. Thank you, families, for making Golden Empire one of the top schools in the district! All of us at Golden Empire wish you a happy & safe summer!

~ Dr. Irene Eister, Principal

# PTO NEWS

Last month we surprised our teachers with goodie bags personally delivered to their doorsteps for Teacher Appreciation Week...socially distanced of course! It was a wonderful reminder for them of how much we appreciate their hard work and dedication to our students. Nothing shows that more than the last few months! A big thank you to Sarah Remis, Janessa Stewart and Ember Bowen for helping assemble the goodie bags! Also Ember personally made 37 masks to give to the teachers! Amazing! And to Alison Milobar for facilitating all of the addresses. No small feat! Also, thank you to our fantastic principal, Dr. Eister, for spending her day helping deliver bags to our deserving teachers! So fun! We also put together a special video for our teachers and staff. If you did not have an opportunity to watch it, you can check it out here:

<https://youtu.be/sCcUBKenAWA>

I would also like to thank a few of our current and past board members that will be retiring from the PTO as their children move on to middle school. Keri Creeger, Amanda Barnum and Crisan Herrera have dedicated countless hours to our school ensuring our students have the best experiences and opportunities possible. I am grateful for their commitment, energy and friendship. They will be greatly missed! This year certainly did not go as planned, but we still had a fantastic year because of all our amazing families! Thank you for supporting the PTO and we will see you in the fall!

Robin Wilson, PTO President  
goldenempirepto@gmail.com



## Bon Voyage

Have you heard? We are very sad to see some of our wonderful staff members leave our staff. Ms. Kim Engstrom, our 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, is retiring after 29 years of teaching, 20 of which were here at Golden Empire. Also, we are very sad to say goodbye to Mr. Drew Gardner, our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teacher, who is retiring after 35 years of teaching, 33 which were here at Golden Empire. Congratulations on giving so much to students and staff! And both Mr. Kane, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher and Mrs. Tomlin, our RSP teacher, are moving on to new teaching positions. While we are so happy for these four educators, it is bitter-sweet, as their contributions to Golden Empire—the students, families, community and school, itself—have been enormous. Please wish these amazing staff members a fond farewell and best wishes for their new endeavors. We will miss them all!



## Teacher Request for the 2020-2021 School Year

Each year classrooms are developed by equally balancing different categories of students such as gender, ethnicity, behavior, academics, and students with special needs. This year all teacher requests must be submitted during Teacher Request Week, June 1—5. Requests are considered but all factors must be weighed when developing new classes. Requests are not guaranteed. Please use the Google form link here:

<https://tinyurl.com/TeacherRequest20-21>



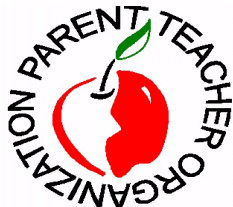
- To our PTO for honoring our fabulous teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week! Robin Wilson, the PTO President, delivered goodie bags to each of the teachers' homes during the quarantine! Very thoughtful and so appreciated by each of the teachers!
- To Robin Wilson for creating a touching video tribute to our teachers and certificated staff! It is beautiful! If you haven't seen it, click here:  
<https://youtu.be/sCcUBKenAWA>
- To Mr. DaCastello and Mrs. Johnson, our Student Leadership Coordinators, for assisting our student leaders during the Student Panel section of the Leader In Me Virtual Review Day! We appreciate your help and support of our amazing student leaders! We also want to thank teachers Mrs. Randazzo, Mrs. Conklin, Ms. Engstrom and Mrs. Lee for their help in facilitating many of our student leaders being filmed sharing their Leadership Notebooks for the virtual review!

## We Need You! To Be a Yard Supervisor at Golden Empire!

Interested in helping our students during recess times? Do you want to help keep our students safe? If so, a yard supervisor position may be for you. We are accepting applications for this paid position for the 2020-2021 school year. Please email our Principal, Dr. Eister if you are interested: [irenei@scusd.edu](mailto:irenei@scusd.edu)

# Thank You Committee Members!

Thank you to the following individuals who have served on the Golden Empire PTO, Site Council, and English Learner Advisory Council. You all help to make Golden Empire an Exemplary school and better the academic opportunities for our students and staff. We appreciate you and your continuous efforts!



## PTO Board Members

Robin Wilson – President & Jog-A-Thon Chair  
Tina Warnick – Vice President  
Janessa Stewart – Secretary  
Kristi Malicsi – Treasurer & Dance Chair  
Alison Milobar – Media Chair  
Mary Brittain – Pancake Breakfast Chair  
Janessa Stewart – Pancake Breakfast & Dance Chairs  
Sequoia Swain – Handmade Holiday Night Chair  
Sarah Remis – BoxTops & Dance Chairs

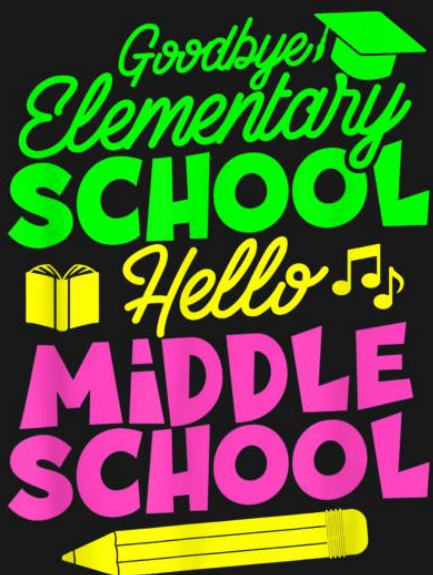
Keri Creeger – Spirit Wear Chair  
Dale Lovrin – Book Fair Chair  
Angel Sanchez – Parent Representative  
Alison Alexander – Parent Representative  
Doreene Hess – Parent Representative  
Ember Bowen – Parent Representative  
Margo Stadel – Teacher Representative  
Jody Bone – Teacher Representative  
Heather Kurihara – Teacher Representative

## School Site Council Members

Laura Powell – Chairperson  
Alison Alexander  
Anisa Cook  
Alan Cox  
Todd DaCastello  
Kim Engstrom  
Dale Lovrin  
John Powell  
Gina Silva

## English Learner Advisory Council Members

Vitalina Tufi – Chairperson  
Leticia Aguila  
Maria Avetisov  
Rosa Carrillo  
Janine Johnson  
Michelle Macey  
Isabel Razo de Belman  
Maria Salinas  
Guadalupe Sanchez  
Amy Smith



**Best of luck to  
all 97 of our  
6<sup>th</sup> grade students  
as they SOAR off  
to 7<sup>th</sup> Grade!  
You will be missed!**



## 6<sup>th</sup> Grade GE Student Wins Poster Contest!

This past April, as part of Mosquito Awareness Week, the Sacramento-Yolo Mosquito and Vector Control District announced the winners of the 2020 annual "Fight the Bite" Contest for students in grades K-12. In an effort to teach children about the importance of mosquito prevention, the contest encouraged students to use art and submit a

drawing that promotes the Fight the Bite theme to inspire everyone to prevent mosquitoes by practicing key messages such as draining standing water and using mosquito repellent. Students were divided into three grade categories: K-3, 4-6 and 7-12.

The winning entries were based on: creativity, originality and the ability to effectively communicate one or more of the District D's of Mosquito Prevention. Twelve winners were selected by a panel of judges.

We are proud to share that 6<sup>th</sup> grade student Kaylie Bui's artwork was chosen out of almost 1,500 entries the agency received as a winning entry! As a 2<sup>nd</sup> place winner, Kaylie won a check for \$100 and a \$200 check was awarded to the school and her teacher, Ms. Engstrom.

And this is an interesting fact: current 6th grade student Thadeus Kim was a 2nd place winner of the same contest last year, as a 5th grader! Golden Empire has some impressive artists! Congratulations, Kaylie!

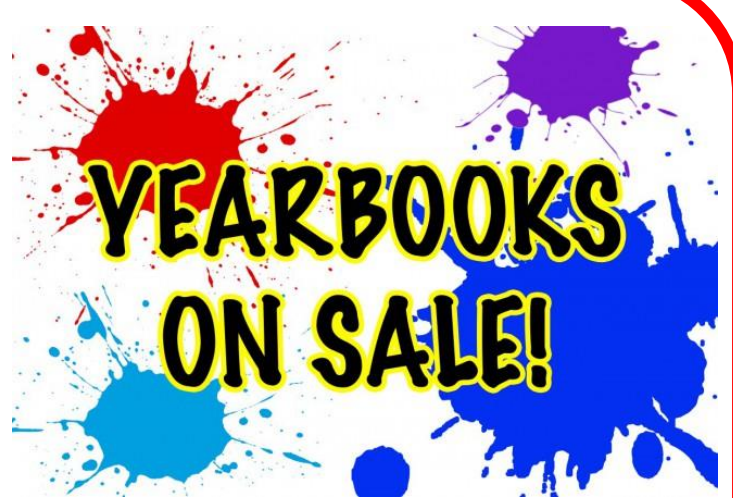
OUR SCHOOL YEAR MAY HAVE BEEN CUT SHORT AND WE MAY HAVE BEEN DELAYED, BUT WE STILL HAVE LOTS OF MEMORIES TO SHARE!

YOU CAN ORDER YOUR 2019-2020 YEARBOOK FOR JUST \$15, NOW THROUGH JUNE 30TH.

TO PURCHASE A YEARBOOK, PLEASE

VISIT: <http://jostensyearbooks.com/?REF=A09856184>

WE WILL HAVE A SPECIAL YEARBOOK PICK UP DAY IN JULY!



# Thank You To Our Leader in Me Review Day Leaders!



Wednesday, May 20 was a busy, virtual day. This was our Leader in Me (LIM) Lighthouse Virtual Review Day! What is a Lighthouse School? Within the education industry, it is common for schools to receive recognition for outstanding achievement. The Lighthouse Certification is a highly-regarded standard that is attainable by every Leader in Me school. As it is a significant benchmark, applying for this certification typically occurs four to five years after a school begins the Leader in Me process. The certification is evidence that a school has produced outstanding results in school and student outcomes by implementing the Leader in Me process with excellence. It is also because of the extraordinary impact that the school has on its staff, students, parents, and the greater community.

The review, which is normally conducted by 2 LIM outside reviewers who visit the campus, had to be completed virtually this year due to the pandemic. Therefore the reviewers had to meet with the parent and student panels virtually, via Zoom. These panels are a crucial part of the review day, as parents and students must be interviewed about the effectiveness of the LIM process.

As of today, we are still awaiting to hear of our certification, but we are keeping our fingers crossed that the result will be a positive one! We would like to acknowledge and thank the following students and parents for their time, effort, and dedication in participating in the LIM Lighthouse Virtual Review Day:

### Student Panel:

Alexys Barnum  
Alina Sanchez  
Alyssa Sanchez  
Casey Liang  
Dylan Fail  
Emory Scott  
James Hickison  
Mackenzie Warr  
Maxton Creeger  
Sophia Esquivel

Thank you to teachers Mrs. Johnson and Mr. DaCastello for facilitating!

### Students Who Shared their Leadership Notebooks:

Alexys Barnum  
Alina Sanchez  
David Quintana  
Jasmine Johnson  
Rayleigh Zillig  
Korshawn Thomas  
Ximena Romo Porras  
Thank you to teachers Mrs. Randazzo, Mrs. Conklin, Ms. Engstrom and Mrs. Lee for facilitating!

### Parent Panel:

Dale Lovrin  
Jas Singh  
John Powell  
Keri Creeger  
Kristi Malicsi  
Laura Powell  
Mary Brittain  
Rosa Alvarez  
Robin Wilson  
Sarah Remis

## Have you signed up for the Summer Reading Program?

Whether you're reading to your child, are a brand new reader, or reading is your lifelong passion, reading is for everyone. Reading during the summer keeps skills sharp at any age, and choosing their own books is a great way for students to grow their joy of reading during school breaks. Reading out loud to younger children builds a solid foundation for literacy.

-The program began May 1, but it is not too late to join!

-Track what you read.

-Add to the joy of reading with fun Summer Reading activities.

-All reading is good reading, so read what you enjoy this summer!

<https://www.saclibrary.org/Event/Special-Events/Summer-Reading>

**summer  
reading**

SACRAMENTO PUBLIC LIBRARY

