



Gene Witt Elementary Witt Wire

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October, 2019

Welcome to Fall!

I would like to thank the FBI (Father's Being Involved) for putting up four tetherball courts on the playground. Our students are very excited to use them each day at recess. We also need to thank the parents and students that came out on Saturday, October 5 to clean up the campus. They removed bricks for construction. We were able to take down the orange temporary fencing that has been up for almost one year. Finally, we had a few dads that were able to pressure wash the sides of several buildings. This was a huge task and the results are awesome. Lenny was able to get many of the buildings completed this summer. We are now very close to having all sides clean.

Construction Update:

The school board held a workshop on Tuesday, October 9 to review our construction plan. The budget of \$20.4 million does not cover all of the needs on the construction plans. Jane Dreger from Construction Services for the district along with the architect and construction manager shared that we will need an additional \$3 million to complete the plans for all buildings.

At the meeting it was shared that a total budget of \$23.4 million is very close to the cost of Barbara Harvey (the new elementary school). The board is going to contact the state to request that we would be allowed to tear down the school and rebuild a new school rather than remodel.

If approved, a plan would move forward with moving the students and staff off our campus to another location. We would be there for 12- 15 months while they tear down and rebuild Witt Elementary.

If not approved, the school board would consider our request for the additional \$3 million and begin work on the new 8 classroom wing and then complete a phase of work to complete all other buildings.

Chairman Miner asked for a three week pause to allow time to see if this is feasible.

David Marshall, Principal

Important Dates

- Oct. 3—SAC/PTO Meeting, 6:00 p.m.
- Oct. 9—Helping Hands, 8:30 a.m.
- Oct. 10— Chick-fil-A spirit Night , 6-10 p.m.
- Oct. 11—Early Release, 12:55
- Oct. 14—Record Day-No School
- Oct. 14-21—Book Fair
- Oct. 17—Report card conference night
- Oct. 18—Early Release, 12:55
- Oct. 23-31—Red Ribbon Week
- Oct. 25—Box tops due
- Oct. 25—Monster Mash/Bingo, 6-8 p.m.
- Oct. 30— School picture retakes
- Nov. 5—Spirit Night @ Wolves Head, 4-8p.m.
- Nov. 6—Early Release, 1:40 p.m.
- Nov. 7—SAC/PTO Meeting , 6:00 p.m.
- Nov. 11—Veteran's Day, schools closed
- Nov. 13—Helping Hands, 8:30 a.m.

Our clinic is in need of girls clothing, sizes 8, 10 and 12. If you have any gently used items you are willing to donate, we would greatly appreciate it.

I am excited to announce that we now have Peer Mediation at Gene Witt Elementary School! We have 9 students from 4th and 5th grade who have completed a four-week training. The goal of this program is for students to work together in order to resolve conflict. Students who are having an argument, disagreement, or other type of conflict with a classmate may choose to participate in peer mediation or they may be referred by a faculty member. The Peer Mediators, working in teams of two, listen to both sides of the story and work to help the students peacefully and logically resolve their issues. Everyone has a chance to state their case and work towards a logical resolution of the problem. Students learn valuable lessons by participating in this process such as teamwork, listening and communication skills, empathy, respect, and problem-solving skills. This is truly a "kids helping kids" program.

Megan Silvestri, LMHC

School Counselor

Physical Education Corner

"Those who think they have no time for exercise will eventually have to make time for illness"
Edward Stanley

Please Remember! If there is a reason, your child cannot participate in gym or recess because of an injury, please write a note or have a Doctor's note sent to the clinic so classroom and PE teacher can make alternate plans. Always remember to wear proper attire and shoes to be able to participate in the PE activities.

WHAT WE ARE DOING IN P.E. CLASS

- *Use teamwork in cooperative games such as "Caterpillar relays", "Poison court", Hula Boat Race".
- *Learn about our body systems by reading the book "How Your Body Works".
- *Improve our Fitness Level



BRUSHSTROKES...

Our Eagles have been hard at work learning about tempera painting techniques and the use of SPACE with our Square One Art projects. In the primary grades, we have learned how NOT to give our brushes a "bad hair day"! Our 1st through 5th grades have done an amazing job of showing foreground, middle ground, and background space in their work. Some of us even developed a little "perspective" in our pieces. I am impressed! I know you will be too...Check it out!



MEDIA MESSAGE

The month of October is going to be busy in the Gene Witt Media Center. Our first Scholastic Book Fair will be October 14-21st. So mark your calendars, and plan to come on in and check out the new books we will have for sale. If you can't make it in, you can shop the book fair online at Scholastic.com/fair. Any books you buy online will be shipped to our school and delivered to your child.

We are in need of volunteers for the week of the book fair. If you are interested in running the cash register, or helping kids pick out books, please let me know. I will be creating a Signup Genius account that our PTO will forward out to everyone. Your help is always greatly appreciated!

During media class time in the library we have been enjoying Fables and Fairy Tales. We have been enjoying some of the old classics, and comparing them to some of the newer stories. The kids always enjoy listening to these stories.

MUSIC NOTES



Witt's Got Musical Talent!

We recently learned that a record number of nine Witt students were chosen to perform with Florida Elementary Central Regional and Florida Elementary All-State ensembles. These students practiced diligently for over a month before submitting auditions online. In past years, over 400 Orff instrumentalists and nearly 900 singers from around the state have auditioned for the groups. We are proud that Gene Witt Elementary had the highest number of students making All-State from Florida's District II, which includes about ten Southwest Florida counties.

The Florida Central Regional Honors Festival will be held on November 2 at USF. Those selected are:

Alysa Jones and Elisabeth Pavone (Choir), and Morgan Amato (Orff).

All-State concerts will take place in January 2020 at Tampa's Convention Center.

Witt's All-State students include:

Madelyn Gabriel, Sara Green, Madison Lane (Chorus),

Ryleigh Baker, Kaylee Crane, Ava Le and Elisabeth Pavone (Orff Ensemble). [Note: Elisabeth auditioned for both groups, making All-State Orff Ensemble AND Regional Choir.]

Congratulations to these talented and hard-working young musicians!

EVERY DAY COUNTS

Suncoast Campaign for Grade-Level Reading has a yearly poster contest to promote attendance. Participants are asked to create a poster that will inspire students to have good attendance in school.

Here are Gene Witt's grade-level winners:

Kindergarten: Shawn Anastasia
 First Grade: Kennedy Nguyen
 Second Grade: Lennox Briant
 Third Grade: Johanna Smith
 Fourth Grade: Alayne Freier
 Fifth Grade: Jade Voorhees



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A great big *Thank You* to our 2019 - 2020 Gene Witt Business Partners! We are grateful to have so many new businesses supporting us this year! When you need a service, please think of our Gene Witt Business Partners! Let's support those businesses that support our school!

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