Cassidy Flynn <cassidy.flynn@citygardenschool.org>

Principal Pat Garrett's Family Newsletter

1 message

Principal Pat Garrett <citygardenmontessorischool@mailman.bloomerang-mail.com> Sun, Nov 20, 2022 at 4:18 PM
Reply-To: pat@citygardenschool.org
To: Cassidy Flynn <cassidy.flynn@citygardenschool.org>

Dear Elementary and Adolescent Education Center Families & Staff,

Every classroom at City Garden starts their day with a community meeting and a practice we call “well wishes." Students are invited to share the name of a family member, a classmate, a pet, or a friend who they want to wish well. It could be their mom’s birthday. It could be that their friend is absent. Sometimes students wish the teachers well.

- “Pickles, my cat, is sick today.”
- “Avery’s not here today. I hope she’s okay.”
- “I want to wish Solomon a happy birthday!”
- “I'm sad about what happened at those high schools.”
- “My grandma’s in the hospital.”

After the list is compiled, the guide or a student reads the names back. Then students say, “We wish them well,” in unison.

Some days this takes five minutes. Other days the list is longer and students share a lot. This practice centers your children – their joys and their worries – every day at City Garden. The empathy this builds in your children is absolutely central to our mission at this school.

At the beginning of our staff meetings once a month, we center children by sharing highlights from the classroom. Last week, for our November meeting, we changed the prompt and asked staff to share a thankfulness. Before staff listed the obvious things we're all thankful for (coffee, pets, and chocolate), they shared their thankfulness for this community. Staff gave thanks for their jobs, for the support students and teachers receive, for our SPED team, and for individuals in the building who always help each other.

Whether you celebrate Thanksgiving or another holiday this week, know that we are thankful for each of you. We are thankful for this community and all of us hope you and your families have time to rest and connect with one another. We wish you well.

Upcoming Dates

November

- November 23: **NO SCHOOL – Fall Break**
- November 24: **NO SCHOOL – Fall Break**
- November 25: **NO SCHOOL – Fall Break**

December

- December 1: Tuition Due Date
- December 7: December Board Meeting at 7:00 PM
- December 10: Jamhuri Day at The Magic House
  December 12 - 14: MOBOT Garden Glow
- December 16: Dress Down Friday
- December 19: **NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day**
  (Quarter 2 ends)
- December 20: **NO SCHOOL – Professional Development Day**
- December 21: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 22: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 23: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 26: **Holiday – NO SCHOOL**

- December 27: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 28: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 29: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**
- December 30: **Winter Break – NO SCHOOL**

New Information

1. COVID-19 Dashboard – **Click here to access this week's dashboard.**

2. Rental and Housing Assistance – **Please click here to learn more about Rental and Housing Assistance available for families.**

3. Jamhuri Day at The Magic House – Join City Garden families and staff on Saturday, December 10 at 10:00 AM at The Magic House to celebrate Jamhuri Day – Kenya's National Day, the day the country gained full independence from Great Britain in 1963 and officially became a republic one year later on December 12, 1964. **Registration is limited to the first 300 adults and 350 children signed up. Please fill out this form as soon as possible to request a spot. A City Garden staff member will reach out to confirm your spot in the coming days/weeks.** The registration deadline is December 4 at 11:59 PM.

4. City Garden Discount to Garden Glow – The Missouri Botanical Garden is offering City Garden discounted tickets to the Garden Glow on Dec. 12, 13, and 14. All families and staff are able to use this discount. The pricing is $15 for adults and $3 for children if you use promo code **CGMSGLOW22** at checkout. Here's how you buy tickets.

1. You must login (or set up an account) to purchase or reserve tickets whether free or paid, member or nonmember. **Click here to login or create an account.**
2. Then, select a date (only options are Dec. 12, 13, and 14) and a time.
3. Then, enter the promo code in the top right corner before adding tickets to the cart.

For questions, please contact Ayanna Woods, Visitor Operations Ticketing System Administrator at (314) 577-9581.

5. How to talk about Thanksgiving – I want to share some resources with you that align with our practices at City Garden when it comes to talking about

Thanksgiving, the national holiday established not until the Civil War by President Abraham Lincoln. Our guides and staff members will spend some of this week talking about thankfulness, connecting with our family members, and how stories do not always reflect what actually happened. Older students may hear about how mythology and history are different. Some guides will talk about how Native Peoples, including the Wampanoag, have chosen their own holidays to follow or how they actively resist celebrating Thanksgiving and instead have days of mourning.

- National Public Radio: How To Talk To Kids About Thanksgiving
- Smithsonian, National Museum of the American Indian: Rethinking Thanksgiving Celebrations

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Reminders

1. November Pick Up Words – The November Pick Up Words for for Parents/Guardians are Sacagawea, Sitting Bull, and Maria Tallchief.

It is such a joy to be in community with you all. Please let me know if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, and I am wishing you well!

In partnership,

Pat Garrett
Interim Principal
Elementary and Adolescent Education Center
Serving 1st – 8th Grade Students

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