

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT  
IN THE SCHOOL SIDE  
PARKING LOT, IT IS ILLE-  
GAL TO PASS A STOPPED  
SCHOOL BUS THAT HAS  
ITS RED LIGHTS FLASH-  
ING.**

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Dear Families and Friends,

As the month of February begins, we find ourselves at a crossroads having just completed the first reporting cycle of student progress while inching towards the start of our annual New York State assessments for students in grades 3-5. This year, the NYS English Language Arts test will be held on Wednesday, April 11 and Thursday, April 12 with the NYS Math test occurring on Wednesday, May 2 and Thursday, May 3 for students in grades 3 and 4. Students in grade 5 will complete the NYS Math exam in computer based format the following Monday, May 7 and Tuesday, May 8.

Beginning this year, all New York State assessments will now be given over two days instead of three days which signals a shift from the New York State Education Department in response to concerns from both parents and teachers. We will also begin a transition to computer-based testing, specifically with our fifth grade students completing this year's NYS math assessment using this new testing format. Other significant shifts include the continuation of untimed testing which allows students to work at their own pace and complete the exam throughout the course of a school day. There will continue to be fewer test questions on both the ELA and Math exams as well as fewer reading passages and constructed response questions on the ELA exam.

As our testing dates approach, we will share more specific information regarding the administration of these annual exams. In the meantime, we will continue to provide meaningful learning opportunities and educational experiences for all students.

Sincerely,

Christopher T. Sanita  
Principal

## **Progress Reports**

Parents will be able to access and review their child's report card online via the district's SchoolTool Parent and Student Portal.

- Elementary report cards will be available on the SchoolTool Parent & Student Portal on Thursday, February 1, 2018.

If you have not yet created a SchoolTool Parent and Student Portal account, please be sure to do so as soon as possible to ensure that you have access to your child's report card and other important information. [Visit the SchoolTool home page](#) on the district website to learn more about creating, accessing and using your account.

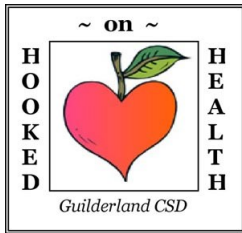
## **Absences and Assignments**

If your child will be absent from school, please call the Main Office (357-2770) to notify us. New York State law requires a written excuse from a parent or guardian stating the reason for any school absence. According to NYS law, the following are examples of legally excused absences: sickness, death in the family, religious observances, medical appointments, any weather-related occurrence including impassable roads. Examples of unexcused absences include family vacations or any other non-emergency or non-medical related absence from school.

We strongly encourage parents not to schedule family vacations and trips on days when school is in session. A great deal of learning takes place during the instructional day that cannot be replicated otherwise. Learning occurs not only through assigned written work, but also through hands-on activities, discussions and interactions that can only occur between students and teachers in the classroom. Teachers are not expected to provide assigned work in advance as this is often predicated on the pace of instruction and learning in the classroom. There is a strong possibility that extended absences may negatively impact student performance.

School will be closed for **Presidents' Day** and **Recess** from  
**Monday, February 19—Friday, February 23, 2018**

School will resume on  
**Monday, February 26, 2018**



### DID YOU KNOW?

The child of today is less fit and more fat than the child of the 1960's.

Go sledding, skating, skiing or snowshoeing this winter!



### Upcoming Events:

#### March

- 6 *Bus Evacuation Drill 9AM*
- 9 *PTA Movie Night, 6:30 pm*
- 12 *PTA Spring Pictures*
- 14 *PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm*
- 21 **NO SCHOOL**—*Superintendent's Conference Day*
- 28 *Spring Concert 7PM*
- 26-29 *PBES Spirit Week*
- 30 **No School**-*Good Friday*

#### April

- 2-6 **No School**-*Spring Recess*
- 10 **11:30 Dismissal** for Grades K-2 Only for Parent Conferences
- 11-13 *NYS Grade 3-8 ELA Testing*
- 16 **No School**– *Gr. K-2 Parent Conferences*
- 19 *Report Cards Available on Schooltool*



Parents please note that on days when the opening of school is delayed by one or two hours, there are no staff present to supervise children who arrive at the regular time. Please do not drive your child to school earlier than the delayed opening time expecting that someone will be available to watch him or her.

Whenever schools are closed for emergency reasons all night activities and continuing education classes are also cancelled.

## Camp Invention

### **Camp Invention is returning to Guilderland Central School District**

Camp Invention takes summer fun and transforms it from ordinary to extraordinary!

In partnership with the National Inventors Hall of Fame, Farnsworth Middle School is pleased to offer the nationally acclaimed Camp Invention program to children entering grades 1-6. It's an exciting, weeklong summer adventure with lessons that explore connections between science, technology, engineering and innovation. Children will work together to seek solutions to real-world problems and sharpen critical 21st century learning skills while rotating through several fascinating modules. The week begins August 6, 2018 with Kate Mathews McNally serving as Director of the **Fast Forward** program.

Here is how young inventors will be spending their time:

- Dreaming up and designing their very own futuristic smart home filled with gadgets, LEDs, technology and innovation
- Using tools to take apart robotic dogs and compare their inner mechanics to the anatomy and physiology of a real dog
- Designing tracks for their Optibots to follow while exploring different modes of transportation
- Exploring chemistry, non-Newtonian fluids and magnetism as they investigate magnetic slime

All activities give participants the opportunity to explore, discover and achieve while having fun!

Local educators will facilitate program modules and enthusiastic high school students will serve as Leadership Interns, ensuring that one staff member is in place for every eight children.

**Register using promo code Ideas25 to save \$25 (expires 3/23) and Ideas15 to save \$15 (expires 5/4) OFF\$235.** Every registration includes a complimentary Camp Invention t-shirt. Availability is limited, so visit [www.campinvention.org](http://www.campinvention.org) or call 800-968-4332 to secure your child's spot today!

