

GARY GAZETTE 2024 2025

DONDE SOMOS LECTORES DE DOS IDIOMAS

SERVING: D33 K-5 TWO-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE FAMILIES

EN ESPAÑOL



If you need anything this year, please feel free to call or text.

Amie Correa, Gary School Principal

(630) 935-8764 Cell Phone

correaa@wego33.org

Jessica Raiser, Gary School Assistant Principal

630-974-9864 Cell Phone

raiserj@wego33.org

QUICK LINKS

[School Calendar \(Spanish\)](#)

[School Calendar \(English\)](#)

[Gary School Website](#)

[D33 Website](#)

[Principal Correa's Bio](#)

[Assistant Principal Raiser's Bio](#)

[Lunch Menu](#)

[Breakfast Menu](#)

[Gary Plan on a Page](#)

GRADE LEVEL NEWSLETTERS

EACH GRADE LEVEL WILL SEND OUT A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER. PAPER COPIES WILL BE SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILD. YOU CAN FIND AN ELECTRONIC COPY BELOW.

Kinder	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	Specials
September	September	September	September	September	September	September
October	October	October	October	October	October	October
November	November	November	November	November	November	November
December	December	December	December	December	December	December
January	January	January	January	January	January	January
February	February	February	February	February	February	February
March	March	March	March	March	March	March
April	April	April	April	April	April	April
May	May	May	May	May	May	May
June	June	June	June	June	June	June

[UPCOMING ITEMS PARENT GAZETTE](#)

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- **12/16-12/20: Spirit Week**
- 12/18: No Afterschool Activities
- 12/19: Fifth Grade Field Trip
- **12/20: Districtwide Pajama Day**
- **1/7-1/10: Fastbridge Testing**
- **1/13-1/17: MAP Testing**
- 1/22: No Afterschool Activities
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP Presentations
- 2/19: No Afterschool Activities
- **12/21-1/5: Winter Break**
- **3/12-3/21: IAR**
- 3/19: No Afterschool Activities
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
- 4/7: Smile Squad
- 4/8: Smile Squad
- 4/23: No Afterschool Activities
- 5/15: Literacy/Math Night
- 5/21: No Afterschool Activities
- June 24 to Thursday, July 24: Summer School

Trimester 2	
4 de diciembre	Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or Gary Blue
11 de diciembre	Year 3000 (future)
16 de diciembre	Grinch Day (Green)
17 de diciembre	Underland (snowflakes, blue & white)
18 de diciembre	Holiday Sweater Day/Holiday T-Shirt
19 de diciembre	Candy Cane (red & white)
20 de diciembre	Winter PJ Day
8 de enero	Look alike Day
15 de enero	Safari Day: Wear animal print
22 de enero	Career Day: What job do you want when you are older?
29 de enero	Art Spirit Day: Dress like your favorite artist or in your favorite color
5 de febrero	Book Character Day
12 de febrero	Where's the Love? Day - Red/Pink/White
19 de febrero	Dress like a Gary Staff member day
16 de febrero	Vaquero Day
5 de marzo	Disney Day

STAY IN THE KNOW!

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WEAR IT WEDNESDAY:

Our [Spirit Days](#) are every Wednesday with a few extras once in a while.

FAMILY VOLUNTEERS

We are so thankful for our volunteers! This month we are highlighting the value of small group leaders. When teachers ask volunteers to lead a small group in a classroom, the volunteer is given an activity to guide students with a specific skill which provides students an opportunity to get more positive individual attention as they develop reading, writing, math, fine motor skills, or social skills.



IAR: ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS

In the classroom, we work on practice problems for the Illinois Assessment of Readiness with our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. Please take the time to look at the problems with your children as well.

[Elem Calendar](#)

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

Second Grade Teacher, Yecenia Mexicano

Hello! My name is Yecenia Mexicano. This is my 11th year teaching for District 33 and my 12th year teaching. I received my Bachelor's and Master's from Concordia University of Chicago. One of the things I love the most about teaching in West Chicago is the community. You will often see me at many PTO and community events in West Chicago. I am a big fan of traveling and learning about different cultures. I love listening to all kinds of music but currently, my favorites are Indian and Portuguese. I'm an advocate of making learning fun and giving students different cultural experiences within the classroom. At home, my time is consumed by a busy toddler who loves to play. In my free time, I like to go shopping and visit/explore different places with my family.



Second Grade Teacher, Lety Valdivia

Hello! My name is Leticia Valdivia. I was born in Mexico City and raised in the Pilsen neighborhood of Chicago. My husband and I will be married 25 years this December. We have three children, Diego (19) and twins Emma and Daniel (16). This is my 28th year in education. I taught for three years in the Chicago Public Schools before moving to Gary School in 2000. I taught 3rd grade for 9 years and I have been teaching 2nd grade for 19 years now. Some of my favorite things to do are: going to church with my family, attending my children's cross country and track and field meets, walking, reading, watching movies, baking, and trying new vegan recipes.



RAMPING UP FOR THE 2025 2026 SCHOOL YEAR

It is time to start thinking about next year. Our first step is to find all of our kindergarteners who will begin with us in the fall. [2025-2026 Registration Calendar.docx](#) has the events outlined in a calendar for those of you who are involved in the process or just curious.

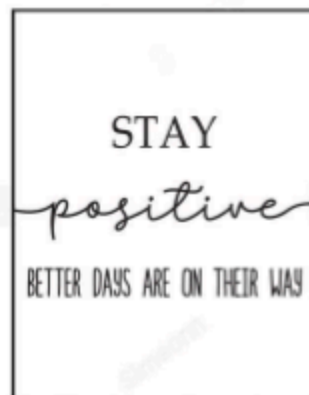
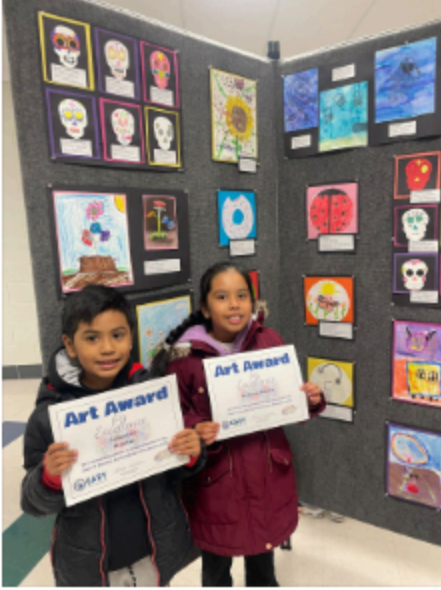
HEADPHONES

Headphones are supplied by parents. Please check in with your children and make sure that they have a working pair. We have testing season about to open and they will need a working pair. If this is a hardship on a family, let me know and I will figure something out for you.



A NOTE FROM MRS. WALKER

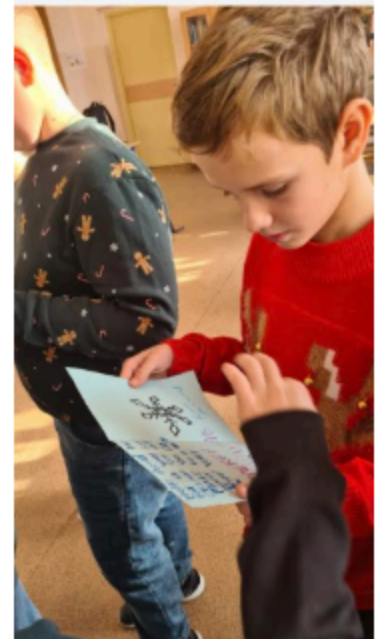
The first district art show of the year was a fantastic event! Congratulations to all the hardworking and creative Gary students who had art displayed in the show. **Special thanks to Viannett Caballero and Michelle Lewis** who welcomed and checked in every family into the event. We hope to see you at the next district art show in April!



A NOTE FROM MRS. CHRISTODOULOU

I would like to share a fantastic project that Gary has been involved in, which I had the pleasure of coordinating. This year marks the second time Gary has participated in the International Friendship Project, where our school served as the project coordinator. This initiative brought together students from 11 countries, including Spain, Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Greece, Cyprus, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Belgium, and Italy. Our students engaged in exchanging Christmas cards, letters, and posters with their peers in these countries. The experience was not only joyful but also enriching, as it fostered cultural understanding and enhanced global awareness among all participants. Through these activities our school community becomes stronger and more connected. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the wonderful parents who volunteered for this project. Some parents, whose native languages correspond to the participating countries, assisted our students in writing Christmas cards and participated alongside them, adding a personal touch to our exchanges. We firmly believe that involving parents enriches our students' educational experiences and strengthens the connection between school and home.

PHOTOS FROM SCHOOLS IN POLAND, CCHIA, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, AND ROMANIA AS THE CHILDREN MAKE CARDS FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL CLASSMATES AND RECEIVE GREETINGS FROM ACROSS THE OCEAN



HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

December has been filled not only with math and reading at Gary School this month but also with holiday celebrations as we head into Winter Break. January will bring you photos from our visits from Santa and Los Reyes Magos, in the meantime, enjoy our photos from our Winter Program, Frosty Fest, Pop Up Band and Orchestra performances, and Breakfast with Santa! I have thoroughly enjoyed spending time with your children preparing for the holiday season. Thank you for choosing me as your leader of our wonderful Gary Community. I wish you all a very happy Winter Break! ~Amie



GARY SCHOOL UPDATE: 12/10/24

- La envoltura de Toys for Tots se realizará mañana después de la escuela en el gimnasio de Gary.
- PTO está participando en el concurso de decoración de ventanas Frosty Fest. Vote utilizando este [enlace](#).
- El enlace del documento de la Semana del Espíritu no funcionó para todos. Los días se enumeran a continuación.

- Wrapping for Toys for Tots is tomorrow after school in the Gary School Gym.
- PTO is participating in the Frosty Fest Window Decorating contest. Please vote using [this link](#).
- The Spirit Week Document link did not work for everyone. The days are listed below.

MONDAY 12/16
Grinch Day:
Wear green


TUESDAY 12/17
Wonderland:
Wear snowflakes
(blue and white)


WEDNESDAY 12/18
**Holiday Sweater
or T-shirt Day**


THURSDAY 12/19
Candy Cane Day:
Wear red and white


FRIDAY 12/20
Winter PJ Day:
Wear your holiday
pajamas!


LUNES 16 DE DICIEMBRE
Día del Grinch:
Usa ropa verde.


MARTES 17 DE DICIEMBRE
Mundo asombroso:
Usa copos de nieve
(azul y blanco).


MIÉRCOLES 18 DE DICIEMBRE
**Día del suéter o
camiseta festiva**


JUEVES 19 DE DICIEMBRE
Día del bastón de caramelo:
Usa rojo y blanco.


VIERNES 20 DE DICIEMBRE
**Día de pijama
invernal:**
Usa tu pijama
navideño.


DATE CHANGE: TOYS FOR TOTS WRAPPING WILL OCCUR ON THE 11TH AND 12TH IF A SECOND DAY IS NEEDED. THE EVENT ON

THE 10TH HAS BEEN CANCELED

DECEMBER 3, 2024

D33 Parent Newsletter: [Week of November 18 through November 22, 2024](#)

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 12/1 & 12/2: K, 1, 2, 3 Hearing Screenings
- 12/4: PTO Meeting @ 6:00
- 12/6: Winter Program
- 12/11: Toys for Tots Gift Wrapping @ 4:00
- 12/14: Breakfast with Santa
- 12/18: No Afterschool Activities
- 12/19: Fifth Grade Field Trip
- 1/22: No Afterschool Activities
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP Presentations
- 2/19: No Afterschool Activities
- 3/19: No Afterschool Activities
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[Elem Calendar](#)

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

First Grade Teacher, Rosmeri Ayala

Hola! My name is Rosmeri Ayala, I am very grateful to God for giving me the opportunity to serve in the educational field. It is full of unique obstacles every day and that's what makes it special. This is my 5th year teaching at Gary. Four years in first grade and I spent one year in Kindergarten. I grew up in West Chicago and earned my degree from Illinois State University followed by a Master in Education. I love spending time with family and friends. I have three lovely children living at home, one is in college and the other two are in high school. I have two pets, a cat and one dog.

Thank you Gary for giving me the opportunity to serve the community of West Chicago.



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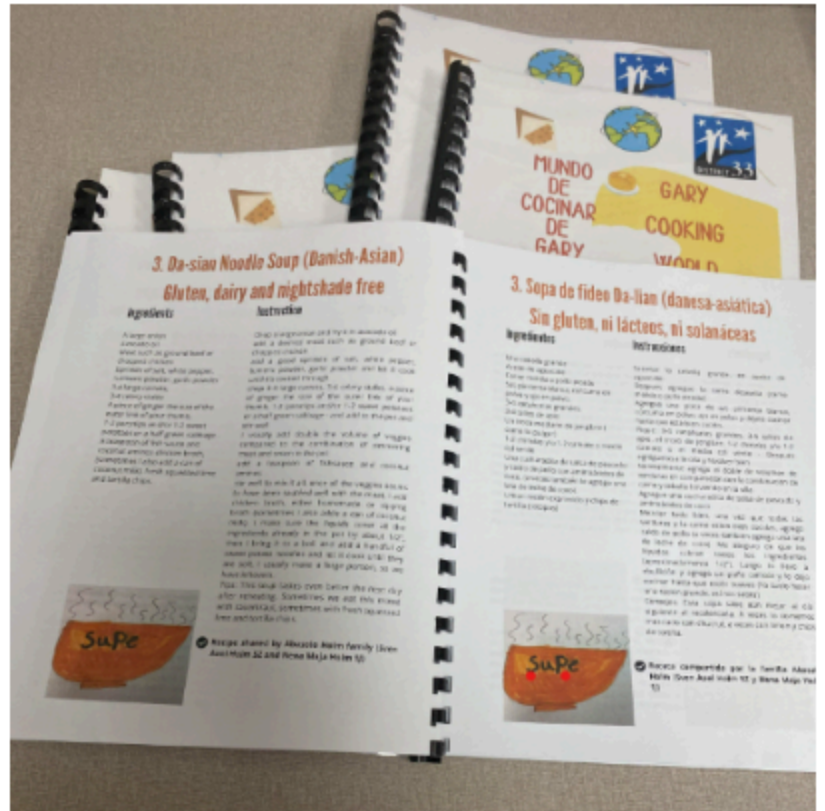
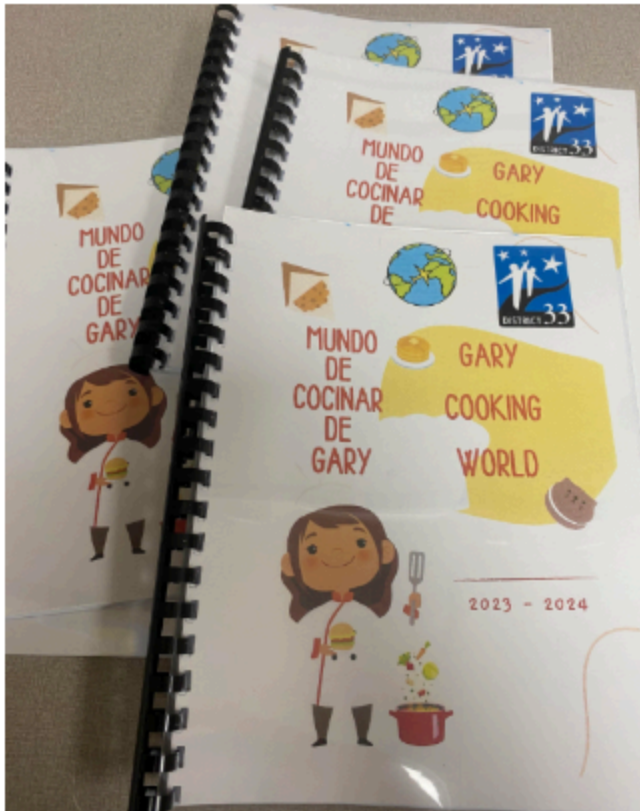
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FROM OUR SPECIALS TEAM

Gary School is focused on improving ambitious instruction for student learning. According to Eileen Depka PHD, ambitious instruction can be described as a logical, well-thought-out look at structures and ideas to promote rigor in the classroom. Through ambitious instruction, students develop a deep understanding of academic content and become confident problem-solvers. Please check our monthly newsletter to see what ambitious instruction looks like in specials!

We are excited to announce Gary Cookbook II, and we would love to include your delicious recipes! The collection period for recipes will run from November 4 until April 1. In your recipe submissions, please include the ingredients, steps, and a brief note about what the recipe means to you or when you typically make it. You can email your recipes: to Mrs. Christina Christodoulou (christodoulouc@wego33.org) or Miss Joelle Nelson (nelsonjoelle@wego33.org). Alternatively, you may also send a written copy with your child to school. We can't wait to see your wonderful recipes!



EMERGENCY DAY LEARNING INFORMATION

District 33 schools occasionally close during extreme summer and winter weather. When possible, the administration will make every attempt to determine and communicate school closings by 5:30 AM on the affected day. If there is a school closure, the D33 administration may have students participate in asynchronous learning from home instead of canceling classes. Asynchronous instruction is when students learn on their own with packets provided by the district. On Friday, November 8, 2024, your child brought home Emergency Learning Day packets for Day 1 and Day 2. Please keep these packets in a safe place. If the district decides to implement an Emergency Learning Day, students will use the packet for independent work. If your child did not receive the packets, please contact the school.



FROM OUR PTO

PTO ran a very successful fundraiser right before the break. Thank you for participating and sending in money to purchase feathers for the class turkeys! The teachers, Jessica, and I had a blast dressing up like Turkeys and visiting the classrooms. PTO rewarded top-earning classes with pizza and made popcorn for all the children on the Thursday before conferences.

They have two more opportunities for you to work side by side with them or simply come and spend some fun time with them. Breakfast with Santa will be on December 14th this year from 8 am to 11 am. They are looking for volunteers, if you are willing and able. It is also a fun event for you to attend with your family. There are free pancakes, crafts, and of course visits and photos with Santa! To volunteer fill out this form: <https://bit.ly/BwSVolunteers>

The final project that they are working on is gift delivery from Santa himself to each child at Gary School. Diana Fialka has been working again this year with Toys for Tots. This is a program run by the Marines that donates a gift for each child. They are sending some Marines this year to deliver the toys on the last day before Winter Break. Between now and when they arrive, we are tasked with wrapping all of the gifts. Toys will be dropped off and sorted on Friday the 6th after school. PTO will be sorting Friday evening and Saturday from 8 to 5, if you want to help. Gift Wrapping will happen on Wednesday and Thursday after school in the gym.



WEGO CHEER

We are beyond proud of our West Chicago Youth Cheer team for making it to state! They have worked so hard, pushed through challenges, and gave it their all. Their dedication and effort truly paid off. Congratulations to both teams for their incredible performances. We can't wait to see what they accomplish next year! They had 4 competitions and needed one bid to make it to State, it is not an easy sport as they had to work and dedicate 7 hours every week since May 2024 to accomplish and get this far. State competitions are on two days, they perform both days and they compete against many teams. The hard part is that they can place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd their first day, however, the 2nd day can change depending on the performance. Our 3rd-grade squad received 4 Bids and placed 3rd on the first day of state competition, the second day they did not place. However, they did an amazing job. Our 5th-grade squad did not place however they tried, they tried their best and did amazing.

Gary School Cheer Squad Members

3rd Grade Squad

1st Grade: Delylah Servin, Ameerah Hernandez

2nd Grade: Daya Hernandez, Airalih Garcia, Ellie Spadavecchia, Elaiza Munoz, Iliana Castro

3rd Grade: Jazlynn Vargas, Aylanii Vazquez

5th Grade Squad

From 4th: Tiffany Correa, Fiona Williams, Mackenzie Shipp

From 5th: Melissa Salinas, Selene Bonilla, Alayna Alfaro



FROM MS. WALKER

Thank you to all who came to the kindergarten, first, and second-grade tiny art show to support our students! The third-, fourth-, and fifth-grade tiny art show will take place at our next parent-teacher conferences.

