GARY GAZETTE 2024 2025

DONDE SOMOS LECTORES DE DOS IDIOMAS

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

<u>En español</u>

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



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

UPCOMING ITEMS PARENT GAZETTE

OCTOBER 29, 2024

D33 Parent Newsletter: Week of October 21 through October 25, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

•	10/28: Kinder Field Trip
•	10/29: Awards Assembly

- 11/1: No School/No Afterschool Activities
- 11/4: First Grade Field Trip
- 11/4: CogaT Grade 5
- 11/4: Appreciation Day: School Psychologist
- 11/5: No School/Election Day
- 11/6: PTO @ 4:30
- 11/6: APPLL Window Opens
- 11/11: Veterans Day Program
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 11/18-11/21: Book Fair
- 11/20: No Afterschool Activities
- 12/6: Winter Program
- 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
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
- 4/7: Smile Squad
- 4/8: Smile Squad
- 4/23: No Afterschool Activities
- 5/21: No Afterschool Activities
- June 24 to Thursday, July 24: Summer School

	Trimester 1
9/4	Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or Gary Blue
9/11	Fictional Character Day
9/16	Mexican Independence Day - Red/Green/White
9/18	College Gear Day
9/25	Fall Colors Day
10/2	Wear Orange for Bullying Prevention
10/9	Sports Team Day
10/16	-
	Disney Day
10/30	Dia de los muertos- Wear yellow & orange
11/6	Super Hero Day
11/11	Veterans Day - Red/White/Blue
11/13	Camping Day
11/20	Backwards 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.

IAR: ILLINOIS ASSESSMENT OF READINESS

In November we begin looking at 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

Kindergarten Teacher, Melinda Velazquez

My name is Melinda Velazquez. I have worked in the education field since 2000 in various roles (tutor, substitute, paraprofessional, and teacher). I am so happy to have been working in West Chicago for the last 7 years. I spend my free time reading and hanging out with my daughter.



Kindergarten Teacher, Michelle Lewis

My name is Mrs. Lewis and I am a Dual Language Kindergarten teacher. I was born in Cartagena, Colombia, I was raised in Belgium and Miami. I speak five languages, which include English, Spanish, Dutch, German and French. In 2005, I obtained my Bachelor's degree in languages from Elmhurst College, and in 2008 a Masters in Elementary Education from DePaul University. I taught second-grade Dual Language at Gary for three years and am about to start my fourteenth year in Dual Kindergarten. I have to say that I have never had so much fun as I am having in Kindergarten!:) At home, I have a sweet 13-year-old son named Roman, an 8-year-old daughter named Rosalie, and an equally sweet husband named Kyle. We love to read, go for walks, play in the park, and try new recipes on Sundays. Our favorite new recipe is aguadito de pollo, a Peruvian dish! This Summer we went to Buffalo, New York as well as Los Angeles and Wisconsin. In Buffalo, we visited my in-laws and cousins, nieces and nephews. In Los Angeles, we went on the Warner Bros studio tour, and in Wisconsin, we dropped our son off at band camp. The other Kindergarten teachers and I are so excited to meet you. Hope to see you soon! ~Maestra Lewis



Favorites!!

Food: All food, but most of all "patacones"!

T.V Show: Friends

Book: The Little Prince

Color: pink

Season: Spring and Fall

Musical Instrument: Piano

Hobby: Reading, cooking, and playing with my son Roman
and daughter Rosalie!

Beverage: iced tea and agua de panela

GET INVOLVED!

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is a great way to get to know other parents and the
staff at Gary School! Meetings are once a month in
the library. We hope to see you there!

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5	MAR 2025, WED	• 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
7	MAY 2025, WED	• 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
4	JUN 2025, WED	● 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting

GARY ATTENDANCE

Dr. Graczyk has a doctorate in educational psychology specializing in implementing MTSS attendance practices in schools. She is working with the Netherlands to implement positive attendance practices at a national level there. Gary was hand-picked by Dr. Graczyk to visit with Marije Brouwer-Borguis and Rene Halberstadt to talk to us about our interventions. To give perspective, in 2022 we had 131 students on our 10% chronic absenteeism list, as of last week we have 31! Parents are instrumental in creating positive attendance habits at this age level. Thank you to our parents for partnering with us to get our children here with their teachers and friends.



TARDINESS POLICY

Reminder to our wonderful parents that students are considered tardy after 8:40 am. Doors close and class begins at 8:40. If you arrive after that time you must sign them in the main office.

EMERGENCY LEARNING DAY INFORMATION

District 33 schools occasionally close during extreme winter weather. An Emergency Learning Day may be announced if the district administration can anticipate an emergency that would close schools. An Emergency Learning Day is when students complete paper packets supplied to the students in advance as well as choice boards posted on the district website.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If we have three emergency learning days before February 17, 2025 (President's Day), one of those days will be a day off from school. Instead, we will hold classes on President's Day, February 17, 2025. More Information here: https://www.wego33.org/domain/478



#D33PRIDEAWARDNOMINATIONS

#D33 PRIDE AWARDS - ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS
It is time for the #D33 Pride Awards for the 1st
trimester! Each trimester, there is an opportunity to
nominate staff, students, parents, volunteers, and/or
community organizations that have "gone above and
beyond" to support and enhance the work of
promoting excellence in education. Staff must have
worked in the district for at least 3 consecutive years
to be nominated for the #D33Pride Awards.

NEW CATEGORY!

#D33PRIDE ROOKIE AWARD

The #D33Pride Rookie Award is a new category. Staff who have worked in the district for between one and three consecutive years can be nominated for this award. To find the nomination form for the 1st-trimester #D33 Pride Awards, you can use this link: http://bit.ly/4eDw7Qm DEADLINE TO SUBMIT AN NOMINATION IS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2024



WCCHS D94



POSTER CONTEST

Please see the <u>attached poster contest</u> information in honor of School Bus Transportation Week, October 21-25.

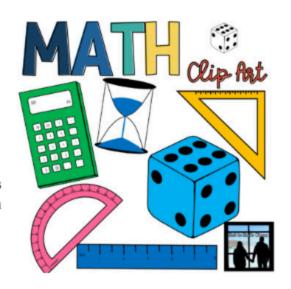


MATH WEEK

This year, Math Week will be held the week of November 4th. During this week, schools will compete to have the most minutes. Our goal for the district is 150,000 minutes! The winning school will have a visit from JiJi (and prizes). Here is a video for you about Math Week. Students can get minutes in two different ways:

- 1) ST Math minutes
- 2) Logging minutes on the Math Week website

The idea of this competition is not for classrooms to change any routines. It is meant for families to come together around math topics through books and games each night. Family promo video - English | Spanish. HERE is a preview of the website and the link that will go live on November 4th.



MIDTERMS

Midterm reports can be viewed today in the Home Access Center (HAC). Kindergarten midterm reports went home with the students.

Viewing Progress Reports in the D33 Mobile App

- Parents must be logged into the D33 Mobile App
- Tap on the HAC (Home Access Center) Icon
- · Enter the HAC username and password
- Tap on the HAC Request for Help icon if needed

Click **HERE** for more information about the D33 Mobile App.

VETERANS DAY DRIVE

The children of Gary School and Mrs. Cruz are, once again, organizing a Driv for our Local Veterans. Donations can be dropped off at several locations around town, including our main office at Gary School. <u>Veterans Drive</u> is a video that you watch to get more information from our students.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

- For this month, our volunteering spotlight is on reading aloud. Reading aloud is a simple way to share your love of reading (in Spanish or English) with your child and other children. Reading aloud will develop critical thinking, listening skills, problem-solving skills, and so much more! Please consider engaging in a partnership with your child by reading aloud at home or school! Do you have a favorite book you would like to share? A perfect story for an upcoming season? If you are interested in reading aloud in the library, please reach out for more information by emailing Miss Nelson at nelsonjoelle@wego33.org. If you would like additional information about the benefits of reading aloud, these articles have more information:
 - 10 Benefits of Reading Aloud to Kids, According to Science
 - The Benefits of Reading Aloud
- We are looking for parent volunteers to walk with music students to LMS after school on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. The children will be in the gym ready to go at 3:35. If you are willing and able to help us out, call the office and Maria will get you everything you need.
- October: Veterans Day, luncheon, and supply drive for homeless Veterans (Mrs. Cruz, Music Teacher)
- November 11, 2024, we are inviting
 Veterans to Gary for a special program and
 celebration. We would like to offer them
 lunch and perhaps breakfast. Want to
 help? Do you have a local family member
 who is a veteran who could join us? Please
 contact Mrs. Cruz for more information at
 cruze@wego33.org.





ACCESS FAMILY NIGHT

I would like to use this space this week to give a huge thank you to a wonderful group of volunteers that included teachers, parents, Gary Students, and National Junior Honor Society students from LMS. In the Spring our students that are learning the English language take a text called ACCESS. It levels them in the 4 domains of language: Reading, Writing, Speaking, and Listening. This is not an easy test! Our students and teachers work hard each day to reach all the levels of both English and Spanish at Gary School. Teachers write objectives for their lessons to make sure that we are preparing our students to be completely biliterate! Family engagement is key to the success of our students. Our Family ACCESS Night brings parents of the children who are taking the test to school to work with the Gary School Staff to better understand the test, their children's scores, and how to support language growth at home while our other volunteers keep their children entertained and having fun so that the parents can fully engage with the content.





OCTOBER 16, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 10/	16. N	ο Afte	rschoo	I Ac	tivitios
• IU/	IO. IN	о мне	rischoo	II AC	uviues

- 10/18: Homecoming Parade
- 10/19: Trimester Reports Available
- 10/19: Fall Funfest
- 10/24: Law Enforcement Drill
- 10/28: Kinder Field Trip
- 10/29: Awards Assembly
- 11/1: No School/No Afterschool Activities
- 11/4: First Grade Field Trip
- 11/11: Veterans Day Program
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 11/20: No Afterschool Activities
- 12/6: Winter Program
- 12/18: No Afterschool Activities
- 12/19: Fifth Grade Field Trip
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Trimester 1 Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or 9/4 Gary Blue 9/11 Fictional Character Day Mexican Independence Day -9/16 Red/Green/White 9/18 College Gear Day 9/25 Fall Colors Day Wear Orange for Bullying 10/2 Prevention 10/9 Sports Team Day Dress like a Gary Administrator 10/16 Day 10/23 Disney Day Dia de los muertos- Wear yellow & 10/30 orange 11/6 Super Hero Day 11/11 Veterans Day - Red/White/Blue 11/13 Camping Day 11/20 Backwards Day

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Elem Calendar

BOARD SALUTES

The Board of Education would like to recognize individuals of the District 33 community - which includes all staff members, students, bus drivers, parents, and guardians - for actions that build a positive culture and climate in District 33. This "shout-out" is read at Board meetings, is included as an agenda item called "Board Salute" and becomes part of the official minutes. If you know someone who deserves a "Board Salute," please



complete this form. To read more about Board Salutes, visit the website.

STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

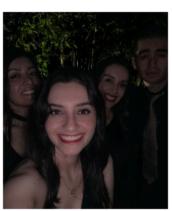
Third Grade Teacher, Lisa Jirovec

Hello! My name is Lisa Jirovec. I have been a dual language teacher in West Chicago for many years. I have been teaching 4th grade in a one-way dual language classroom at Wegner Elementary School for the last 6 years. I missed the two-way dual language program at Gary so I decided to return. Thank you for welcoming me! I live in Winfield, and my daughter is a sophomore at West Chicago Community High School. Go Wildcats!



Kindergarten Teacher, Lucy Toledo

Hola, my name is Lucy Toledo-Jacobo. I am originally from Morelia, Michoacana, Mexico. I studied and worked as a teacher in Mexico for years. I am very happy to work in District 33 as a teacher and to be able to implement the Spanish language to the students. I have a very nice family. I have my parents, my two sisters and my little brother. I also have a dog named Bisquet. I love learning new things since it is a challenge for me. I like to do many things such as: going to the movies, shopping, spending time in my house's library, going to my church, and being with my family. I am very happy to be at Gary School:)



GET INVOLVED!

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HANDBOOK SIGNATURES

Please remember to send in your Parent/Student Handbook signature page to school with your child if you have not already.

2 OCT 2024, WED	• 6 – 7pm	PTO Meeting
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PRESCHOOL OPENINGS IN DISTRICT 33!

Do you have children ages 3 to 5 at home? District 33 offers **FREE** preschool for all children ages 3-5. It's a fantastic opportunity for your little ones to learn and grow! Ready to enroll? Complete an INTEREST FORM now!



CONTACT INFORMATION

If you have moved or gotten a new phone number, please let the front office know so that we can keep our records up to date.

SAVE THE DATE!

- Thursday, November 21, 2024, from 4:30 PM to 8:00 PM
- Friday, November 22, 2024, from 8:30 AM to 8:00 PM
- Teachers will be sending signup notices to you via Parent Square on November 1st.



FALL FUN FEST

Get ready for some fun! Gary PTO needs candy donations and <u>volunteers</u> for the Fall Fun Fest on Saturday, October 19th, from 12-3 PM.! An hour of your time can make a big difference to the event running smoothly. We are also looking for participants for Trunk or Treat. Please a message if you have any questions. Thank you!



OCTOBER: "FIGHTING THE CONSISTENCY BATTLE"

Date: Oct 24, 2024 Time: 6:00 PM

Place: Indian Knoll Elementary, 0N645 Indian

Knoll Rd, West Chicago, IL 60185

Dinner will be provided. Child Care Available

for children ages 3 and up

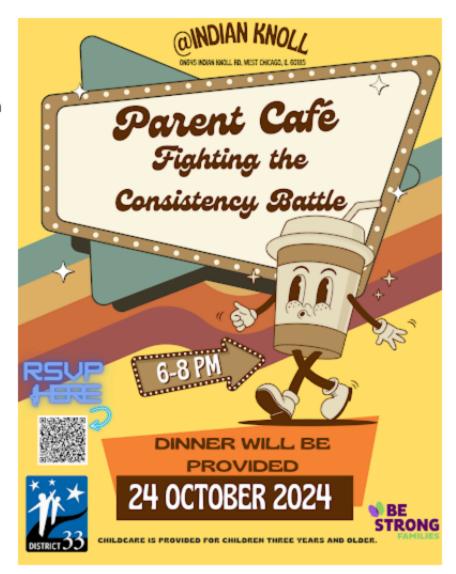
Questions?

Lizette Soto sotol@wego33.org 630-742-1183

Register Here for the October Parent Cafe

GET INVOLVED!

The District is always looking to improve, and an important part of this progress is feedback from parents, staff, and community members. The Citizens' Advisory Council is one way in which the District receives this feedback and works on improvements. Meetings will be held VIRTUALLY on the second Thursday of the month (unless otherwise noted) from 6:00 PM -



7:00 PM. If you are interested, please complete this SIGN-UP FORM. The first meeting is on Thursday, October 10th.

CAC - Information

The primary purpose of the Citizens' Advisory Council (CAC) is to provide feedback on key district issues and initiatives impacting the schools and community.

Past Accomplishments

- Input on transitions between preschool and elementary school; elementary and middle school; middle school and high school;
- Input on parent-teacher communication regarding academic progress
- Input on school year calendars

Dates and Times:

2nd Thursday of the month unless noted; 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

- November 14, 2024
- December 12, 2024
- No Meeting in January
- February 13, 2025
- March 13, 2025
- April 17, 2025 (Third Thursday of the month)
- May 15, 2025 (Third Thursday of the month)

Location:

Virtual

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

- We are looking for parent volunteers to walk with music students to LMS after school on Monday, Tuesday, or Thursday. The children will be in the gym ready to go at 3:35. If you are willing and able to help us out, call the office and Maria will get you everything you need.
- October: Veterans Day, luncheon, and supply drive for homeless Veterans (Mrs. Cruz, Music Teacher)
- November 11, 2024, we are inviting Veterans to Gary for a special program and celebration. We would like to offer them lunch and perhaps breakfast. Want to help? Do you have a local family member who is a veteran who could join us? Please contact Mrs. Cruz for more information at cruze@wego33.org.



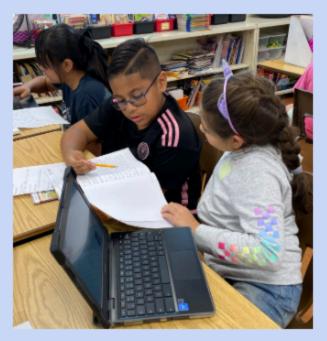






A day in the life of a Gary School Cougar... Friends, Learning, and of course SMILES!







OCTOBER 2, 2024

UPCOMING DATES: ADDITIONS/CANCELLATIONS ARE HIGHLIGHTED

- 10/2: Custodian Appreciation Day
- 10/2: PTO Meeting
- 10/3: Picture Day
- 10/7: Severe Weather Drill
- 10/7-10/11: SAEBRS
- 10/8: 3, 4,5 Music Field Trip
- 10/10: Trimester Midpoint
- 10/14: No School
- 10/19: Trimester Reports Available
- 10/18: Homecoming Parade
- 10/19: Fall Funfest
- 11/14: Picture Retakes
- 2/18: 3rd Grade CAP Presentations
- 3/21: Spring Pictures
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STAFF HIGHLIGHTS

First Grade Teacher, Keziah Silva

Hi! My name is Keziah Silva. I graduated from Aurora University in 2023. This is my first year as a teacher. I love West Chicago, it's my second home. I am super excited to teach first-grade dual language. When I am not teaching, I am enjoying my time off with my son Dorian.



No School: 10/14

There will be no classes on the 14th of October. It is Indigenous Peoples' Day



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TRANSPORTATION CHANGES

If a family is changing the mode of transportation home for the day, they need to call and let the front office know. This way we can make sure the children get in the correct line and not on a bus that takes them home to an empty house. Transportation changes are assumed to be for one day unless parents specify that it is a permanent change.



AFTER SCHOOL BAND AND ORCHESTRA

Rehearsals start this week! Below is the schedule. Thank you in advance for your support in reminding your children to bring their instruments. Mr. Klapp will be walking students over on Mondays and Thursdays. We are still looking for a parent volunteer for Tuesday.

Monday

5th Grade Orchestra

Tuesday

5th Band: Trombone, Trumpet, French Horn, Percussion

Thursday

5th Band: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Saxophone 4th Grade Orchestra

GET INVOLVED!

Volunteering in your child's school has multiple benefits to you, your child's education, your school, and your community. Consider joining the PTO, volunteering for upcoming events in your children's classrooms, helping with projects, and finding ways to engage and show the importance of education to your child.

Volunteers wanted!

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Over the coming year, we will offer ideas of ways to get connected at Gary Elementary. Want to read more? https://www.edutopia.org/article/schoolwide-community-service-and-volunteering-elementary-grades/



PICTURE DAY: THURSDAY!!!



3-2-1

In D33 we look to have our children covered under our 3-2-1 plan for social and emotional health. This means that they can name 3 friends that they can trust, 2 adults that they can trust, and one activity that they participate in outside of the school day. Many of our children perform regularly in local musicals. They are currently preparing for their November show and love it when we go to see them! An extra bonus? The shows are reallilly well done.

