

# Cowan Road Elementary Newsletter

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## Parent Engagement Corner

Parents,

Increasing your student's vocabulary is important at any age. Since learning depends on good speech, reading, writing and communication skills, improving your student's vocabulary can improve school performance in every subject. Please read this month's newsletter to find vocabulary tips to help you and your students at home.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time if you need support or information on how to improve your child's academic performance in school. You can reach me at 770-229-3790 or by email at [christina.garner@gscs.org](mailto:christina.garner@gscs.org).

## Did You Miss...?

In February, all parents were invited to attend and participate in the "Your Two Cents" Stakeholder Meetings.

Stakeholders were given an opportunity to review and revise the School-Parent Compact and the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. We also asked for feedback on the reservation of funds and building staff capacity.

If you missed the stakeholder meeting and would like more information, you may watch a video clip at <http://www.cowanroadelementary.education/Students--Families/Parent-Resources/Parent-Involvement/index.html>.

You can also give feedback online at <https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2018FeedbackLink> or contact Christina Garner at 770-229-3790 or by email at [Christina.garner@gscs.org](mailto:Christina.garner@gscs.org).

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR-IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

3/21	Report cards sent home
3/28	<p>"Your Input Matters" Stakeholders Meeting 2019-2020 Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan in Media Center at 10:00 am or 4:30 pm.</p> <p>All parents are invited to attend and participate. The purpose of the meeting is to provide input on the School Comprehensive Needs Assessment and to revise the School Improvement Plan.</p>

Estimados padres:

Este es un documento importante de la escuela de su hijo. Si ustedes necesitan que traduzcamos esta información, por favor, llamen a Lisa Bates al 770-229-3710 ext.10327.

## Cowan Road Elementary Parent Resource Center (PRC)

Find activities, books and brochures for your student in the school parent resource center. The center is designed to provide educational resources for you to help your student succeed academically. The best part is -resources are FREE!

You can find the Parent Resource Center located in the media center. The center is open, by appointment, Monday-Friday, 7:30 am –4:00 pm. If you would like more information or want to make an appointment, please contact Christina Garner at 770-229-3790 or by email [Christina.garner@gscs.org](mailto:Christina.garner@gscs.org).



## Literacy Tips for Parents of a Middle Student

- Read. Read. Read. The most important means of improving reading skills is to encourage reading of all kinds. Read the back of the cereal box, the newspaper or billboards.
- Visit places where reading is featured including the library, museums or bookstores.
- Talk to your child about what he is reading or learning and not how he is doing in it, but the actual content. Have him summarize or paraphrase what he is reading.
- Read the same books your child is reading. Then talk to them about the book. Ask why and how questions not just factual questions.

## Word of the Day

Have family members take turns bringing a new word to the supper table. Each person should be prepared to tell family members what the word means and then use it in a sentence. Post the words on the refrigerator or anywhere else that is easily seen. Make this activity a little more competitive by having a contest of who can use the word of the day the most times in a sentence correctly.



## ACADEMIC WEBSITES OR TIPS

### Five Online Vocabulary Builders for Elementary Students

- <https://education.cu-portland.edu/blog/classroom-resources/5-online-vocabulary-builders-for-elementary-students/>

### Vocabulary Apps for Middle and High School Students

- <https://www.teachthought.com/1iteracy/12-best-vocabulary-apps-middle-high-school-students/>

\*The listed resources are not endorsed by GSCS but offered as possible tools that families may utilize.

## Eight Ways to Improve Your Child's Vocabulary

- Let your child tell the story
- Pay more attention to your kids' vocabulary
- Make conversation a priority
- Read together
- Play word games
- Write for pleasure
- Introduce a new word each day
- Make frequent trips to the public library

*Tell us what you think...*

## Spring Parent Survey

**We need your input!!!**

Please take a few minutes to take the spring parent survey.

English: <https://tinyurl.com/EnglishSpringParentSurvey2019>

Spanish: <https://tinyurl.com/SpanishSpringParentSurvey2019>

## **Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan Parent Feedback!**

**A Comprehensive Needs Assessment is the first step in developing an improvement plan. It is a process that collects and analyzes data to determine strengths and weaknesses. A School Improvement Plan is a road map that sets out the changes a school needs to make to improve the level of student achievement. School specific goals are determined based on data with action steps for improvement.**



**We value your input. Please take a few minutes to review the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plan at**

**<http://www.cowanroadelementary.education/Students--Families/Parent-Resources/Parent-Involvement/Your-Input/index.html>.**

**After reviewing, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/GSCS2018FeedbackLink> to provide input. If you have questions, about the plan contact Mr. Hoby Davenport at 770-229-3790 or by email at [hoby.davenport@gscs.org](mailto:hoby.davenport@gscs.org).**

## **Griffin-Spalding County School System Parent Resource Center**

Did you know that the Griffin-Spalding County School System has a Parent Resource Center? Find activities, take home kits, books and brochures for your student in our District Parent Resource Center. The center is designed to provide educational resources for parents to help their students succeed academically. Parents can also find computers with internet access at the center. The best part is resources are FREE! You can find the Parent Resource Center located in the Parent Services Center Building, Room B112 on 234 E. Taylor Street, Griffin, GA 30224. The center is open by appointment from Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. If you would like more information or want to make an appointment, please contact Melinda Owens at 770-229-3710, ext. 10363 or [melinda.owens@gscs.org](mailto:melinda.owens@gscs.org).

