

Girard Family Newsletter

February 2025

Stephen Girard School

Liz Walls, Principal

Tamika Washington, Assistant Principal

Jerome McCalla, Climate Manager

girard.philasd.org



Principal's Message

As we head into the heart of winter, I wanted to express my sincere gratitude for the continued support and partnership of our amazing families. Your involvement in your child's education is invaluable, and I truly appreciate the positive spirit you bring to our school community.

February 2025	
2	School Counselor Appreciation Week
4	Doughnut Breakfast for Perfect Attendance in January
7	Early Dismissal 11:45 AM
10	Winter Student Well Being Survey Opens
11	Grade 4- Philadelphia Orchestra Trip
12	Crossing Guard Appreciation Day
13	SAC Meeting 1:45 PM in the Library
14	Dress Down in Red or Pink- \$1 to benefit Young Chances Foundation Special Person's Day
17	Schools Closed- Presidents Day
28	Girardsonian- Black History Month Event

This month, we're focusing on Black History Month and Special Person's Day. Look for more information on upcoming events and activities related to these themes.

Kindergarten registration for the 25-26 school year opened January 21, 2025. Online registrations are preferred. For more information, please visit <https://www.philasd.org/studentplacement/kindergarten-registration/>

I encourage you to spend quality time with your children this month - whether it's enjoying a cozy night reading together, exploring a local museum, or simply taking a walk in the crisp winter air.

Wishing you all a wonderful and enriching February!

Principal Walls

School-wide News:

Notes from Nurse McCoy:

SMILE PENNSYLVANIA MOBILE DENTIST IN SCHOOL PROGRAM- Has completed the Winter Dental Care Program. New toothbrushes are available for students upon request.

CUB SCOUTS- This "After School Program" is currently full and no additional applications are being considered.

MEDICATION PICK UP & DROP OFF

If your student will require medication administration this school year please bring the medication and the [MED-1 FORM](#) completed by the prescribing physician to the nurse. Medication must be inside a labeled " Prescription Box" when delivered to the School Nurse. An adult **MUST** do medication drop-off.

NOROVIRUS

The US and Philadelphia are seeing record numbers of Norovirus, commonly referred to as "the stomach bug". I wanted to share a few helpful tips. Most important is to wash hands well & often (sing happy birthday twice)! It's also important to note that regular cleaning solutions don't work



well to kill the virus so cleaning with bleach is the most effective way to prevent further spreading. Thank you for your help in keeping our community healthy.

2024-2025 School Year Calendar:

Click on the following link to see the District's calendar for the school year.
<https://www.philasd.org/calendar/#1675253918736-686a6997-ec5c>

Counseling Corner

We have winter coats, hats, and gloves available for students who may need them. Contact your child's teacher to request one.

Please note the date changes for the Safe Touch and Boundaries workshops. They will now take place on 1/24, 2/18, 2/20.

You can preview the family letter about Safe Touch and Boundaries [here](#).

Important Reminders For All Families

Our school hours are from 8:15am - 2:45pm during regular days, and 8:15 am- 11:45 am on half days (aka early dismissal days).

Students who arrive after 8:30 must enter through the main entrance on Dorrance Street

and will receive a late slip at the welcome desk before being escorted to their class. Parents are not allowed to accompany their child to their classroom.

A reminder that we will not be calling students out of class during school hours for situations such as receiving a lunch from a parent. We are happy to deliver items and messages to students in their classrooms.

Breakfast is available at no charge every morning in the classroom at the start of the day. Lunch is also available at no charge.

There are no early dismissals granted after 2:15 pm. Dogs are not allowed on the schoolyard, playgrounds, and school garden at any time, with the exception of service animals for safety reasons.

Students are not permitted to remain in the schoolyard after school without adult supervision and must leave right away.

Family Fun Ideas Looking For Fun Things to Do With the Kids?

Click on the following links for a list of fun things to do this season:

[Top Things to Do in Philly in February](#)

[Philly Out and About](#)

Stay Connected and Know What's Going On At Girard:
Website: girard.philasd.org
Instagram @sgirardes
Facebook stephengirardes

News From Our Specialist Staff...

S.T.E.M.

*Hello Girard Families! Our Solar System unit took longer than expected so our Rock Unit has been moved to February! Grades K-2 will be coding coding coding! Grades 3-4 will work on different types of rocks and will use problem solving skills to build "dams" using rocks and playdoh! Super excited for our STEM scholars! Because of generous donors, we have received video creation materials from Donors Choose! The 3rd and 4th graders have been tasked with creating a "commercial" to promote Stephen Girard! We will be working on this for the next couple of months. Also, I will be choosing some students to work on a short "movie" about bullying etc. More info to follow!!! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out on ClassDojo or email me at mcyanga@philasd.org.
♥Ms. Yanga*



P.E.

Students in 2nd,3rd, & 4th grades will be learning about Hockey. They will practice skills, learn rules and hockey strategies. K and 1st graders will continue to practice throwing/catching, balance activities and locomotor movements.
Always try your best!
Mr. Bordner

ART

Connect to Girard School's Art Class by using Artsonia to receive important updates on your child's art classroom activity. You can order your child's artwork on t-shirts, keychains, etc., as gifts! You can browse www.artsonia.com/parents and enter this Parent Code 7SWNR3P7

Respectfully,
Julieann Julia, Art Teacher

Advocacy Alert!

We are patiently awaiting the district's decision on our proposal to expand to 5th grade. If you support our expansion, please click this link <https://www.philasd.org/contact-us/> and let Superintendent Watlington know your thoughts. Make sure to click on "Superintendent's Office" and then "Philly We're Listening!" so the communication goes to the Superintendent. We have included a script below you can

copy and paste, if you would like to use it.
Thank you for all you do for Girard!

I'm writing to express my support for Stephen Girard Elementary to add a 5th grade. I believe this change would benefit students by providing continuity and enhancing their learning experience in a familiar environment. Thank you for your efforts to improve education for all students. I look forward to seeing the positive impacts of this decision.

304- Zaniyah Thomas/Ilijah Mallory
305- Joyce Jiang/Tahraj Sharp

Students of the Month and Most Improved For January:

- 100- Edward Thomas Pollard/Alonna-Milan Jones
- 101- Jayden Jefferson/Lyna Hamadache
- 200- Angel Knight /Kaysha Ramadhani
- 202- Kristoff Malicdem / Xander Le
- 203- Nelly Awukwlu/ Alexander Hightower
- 204- Dulna Tran/ Peyton Sutton
- 206- Angel Lee/Alana Cush
- 210- Skye Williams/Shakur Waters
- 300- Adam Jed/Jordynn Brown
- 302- Ahmed Thameur/Mannetti Mussa Kiriri
- 303- Aiden Makhtany/Tahir Siler

