



Grizzly Discovery Center
Newport School District
1380 West Fifth Street
Newport, WA 99156

February 27, 2023

Dear Grizzly Discovery Center Families,

February has flown by and March is upon us, hopefully bringing warmer weather soon than later. This month, we have continued to have conversations with the students about the program (see below) and we formed a Student Leadership Team. The student leaders helped organize the February Family Night. Daily they have taken on tasks such as handing out snacks, sharing the Word of the Day PPP, and walking through an end of the day reflection. Starting in March, they will be assisting with the running of our Chess Club, our Escape Room activity, and our Knitting class. They will also be going twice a month to be mentors for the younger students at our Stratton Site.

DISCUSSIONS: The question we asked this month was, “What problems do you see with the GDC?” The students identified inappropriate jokes and language, loudness of voices, not listening to one another or staff, phone use, rough housing, and taking stuff from one another (supposedly as a joke). The follow up question was “How would you like to address these problems?” Here are their solutions:

PHONES

- Use of Phones only between 2:35-3:00 PM
- Will follow school procedures for use of cell phones out of that time ~ this includes the confiscation of a phone after the second warning and the need for parents to retrieve it.
- Sign posted with times phones can be used

BEHAVIOR GUIDELINES

- Create a Behavior Guidelines Agreement & have students sign it
- We have done this and are using it as the base for the system described in the paragraph below

Discussion of how it doesn't seem fair that everyone gets a party even those who are disrespectful, loud, and mean. Students felt that those who are characterized by violating the agreed upon behavior guidelines should not be allowed to participate in the party or special treats. Reward events will be held at lunchtime.

- Have a chart with green, yellow, blue, and red zones
- Put everyone's name on a clothespin
- Everyone starts in the green each day
- First warning = moving name to yellow zone
- Second warning = talking to individual one-on-one AND move name to blue zone
- Third warning = Refer to Miss Vickie, calls to parents, apology letters, and eventually maybe a suspension from GDC class or GDC itself for a few days
- Repeated violations beyond RED could result in lunch time detention
- They can earn their way up a level by exhibiting positive behavior

Starting this week, students will be asked to complete a behavior reflection journal entry at the end of the day. They will record where they ended up on the Behavior Chart at the end of the day. Those who received one or more warnings, will record what behavior guideline they violated and generate solutions to help them exhibit positive behavior in the future.

FEBRUARY'S FAMILY NIGHT was held on February 15th and attended by six students and their families. Everyone enjoyed the meal prepared by the students, liked making (and eating) lava cakes, and had fun with a Digital Valentines Escape Adventure. Some students indicated on the day of the event that they wanted to attend and were disappointed when I said no. My reason was that their families had not sent in the RSVP form and I had purchased food only for those who responded ahead of time. A few of these students commented that they didn't know about the event because they hadn't attended the GDC. I pointed out that this is a student issue and a consequence of their choices.

Students need to be attending at least two days a week and they will receive information about the program such as monthly calendars and flyers for Family Nights. Program information is also available on Canvas and on the District website (<https://www.newportgriz.com/domain/31>). Lastly, we have made calls to families to see if they will be attending and sent out text message reminders for both RSVP forms and the events themselves. FYI: I send out this letter, the calendar, and the family night flyer during the week that a new month begins. Program packets not picked up that week are given to classroom teachers to go home. If you have not received a program packet by the end of the first week of a month, please ask your student where it is as it might be in the bottom of a backpack. I hope that I don't sound too harsh or heartless, but I am doing everything I can to get information to your family. I don't know what else I can do and I am open to suggestions.

MARCH'S FAMILY NIGHT: You are invited to "A Starry STEaMy Family Night" on Thursday, March 23rd from 5:15-7:15 PM. Taking inspiration from Van Gogh's painting *A Starry Night*, we will be exploring the galaxy through STEM and Art activities. Following a Spaghetti Dinner, families can embroider a constellation, help put together *A Starry Night* puzzle, paint a tile from Van Gogh's picture, navigate a Sphero through a lunar maze, create a paper plate planet, play an interplanetary communication game, and SO MUCH MORE! Please return the attached RSVP form to help me determine who is coming and how much food I need to purchase for dinner.

SUMMER PROGRAMMING: As part of our grant, the Grizzly Discovery Center will be offering a summer program. It will run between 8:00 AM-Noon, Monday-Friday, from July 10 – August 4, 2023. Our theme for this year is *A Summer of 4-H Fun*. Students will have the opportunity to work on STEM, Art, and Animal projects that they can enter into the Pend Oreille County Fair (where they can earn money for the ribbons they are awarded). Our summer program also includes daily Math and Language Arts review to prevent the summer learning slide. AND we have weekly fitness field trips to the CAMAS Center, where the students can swim, use the gym, and enjoy the rock wall. Please be on the lookout for registration forms soon after Spring Break.

Please know that the GDC staff counts it as a privilege to work with your students and we are thankful for the trust you place in us. As always, if you have any questions or concern, please contact me at 509.671.2428 or via email at blanchetvickie@newportgriz.com OR Constanza Rickey at 509.447.2426 extension 2582 or via email at rickeyconstanza@newportgriz.com.

Sincerely,



Vickie Blanchet, Program Director