

North Gem News

*"Insuring our future by
developing Character,
Confidence and Competence"*

Volume IX Issue XI

April, 2024

Events to Remember

ALL ATHLETIC EVENTS CAN
BE FOUND ON PAGE 2 UNDER
ACTIVITIES

Activities and sports events
change constantly to stay in-
formed and up to date please
visit-sd149.com and download
the calendar link.

April 1- School Board Meeting
6:30pm-Reed Library

April 9- Spring Sports Pictures

April 11- Senior Project Presenta-
tions 9:00 am Auditorium

April 19-20- HS Drama Production
7:00 pm

April 23- Ready for Kindergarten
5:00-7:00 pm

May 6- School Board Meeting
6:30pm-Reed Library

News Articles

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School Board Minutes can be found on
the District Web Page
[/www.sd149.com/school-board/board-meetings/](http://www.sd149.com/school-board/board-meetings/)

Superintendent's Letter

Dear North Gem Community,

It is very good to have the spring season arrive. I'm sure we'll still have some snow, rain, wind, and sunshine – all at the wrong times, but we love Idaho weather and will take it. With only a few weeks of school left to go we have several important events coming up. ISAT testing is this month as well as the SAT for our 11th grade students. Scholarship applications are due, senior projects will be presented, Cowboys in Action service projects, and a variety of field trips, track meets, and social events are upcoming. I am hopeful that you will be able to attend events to support the students and connect with the community.

With the legislature in session I am busy contacting legislators, the Governor's office, and the State Board of Education to advocate for our small rural schools and community. It is too easy for the representatives in Boise to overlook us and make decisions that benefit the big districts and more populace communities. There are several new legislative efforts to change how schools are funded with the renewed introduction of vouchers, the allocation of new facility funds and the strings attached, and an ongoing debate about what libraries can offer and who would get to regulate them. I encourage you to be active in contacting your legislators to encourage them to support local control and local decision making when it comes to our community and our children. Plus, these are your tax dollars that they are using and you should have a say in where those go and how they are used.

We truly live in amazing times! What we know and the opportunities we have available to us is always growing. The opportunities for our children to learn about our world is so much greater today than ever before, and this is not going to slow down. Take the time to be with your kids and grandkids to make sure they know about the values you hold and why honesty, integrity, and hard work are even more important today. Plus, these children are our greatest treasure and you deserve the time to enjoy them and help them navigate a complex world. Remember – nobody on their deathbed ever says "I wish I had spent more time at work". Thank you for looking out for each other and being a great community to be a part of.

Have a wonderful spring!

Dr. Todd Shumway

Dr. Todd Shumway, Superintendent



COUNSELOR'S MESSAGE

Warm weather is coming, Cowboys!

Summer is around the corner and everyone is looking forward to it.

In a distance race, after running so far and putting out so much effort it's easy to see the finish line and succumb to feeling tired and worn out. A race can easily be won or lost in the final stretch. As we work through the fourth quarter of our school year the finish line is in sight and the effort and work of the school year has everyone tired. We need to make sure to keep up the effort through the final stretch! It's easy to lose motivation or let the effort slide since the end is so close-- Students, finish strong! C's may get degrees, but A's get scholarships and open doors. Parents, keep up the cheering and encouragement! These students are capable of great things--let's help them see it!

We've had some fun this past month. The high school went to Idaho State University's Tech Expo at Holt Arena. Technology industries and colleges from all over Idaho set up booths and talked with the students about career options in engineering, communications, aviation, law enforcement, military, and many other tech heavy areas. Our students came out enthusiastic and excited about career fields in technology.

We took a career exploration field trip at the request of some students to explore options in cosmetology and barber as well as Art Education. We visited the Paul Mitchell School in Rexburg, spoke with their teachers, and toured their facilities. We also visited the ISU School of Cosmetology and the ISU art education program. We were able to see opportunities available in those disciplines and how to get there.

We're looking forward to some more opportunities and experiences coming up in April! We'll keep you posted. Until then, keep your eyes on the finish line and let's redouble our effort to finish strong!

Go Cowboys!

Walt Eiman
Counselor
North Gem School District
O: 208-648-7848 Ext: 27
C: 435-258-8928



Activities



North Gem High School Track 2024



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Thursday	April 4	Murtaugh
Tuesday	April 9	Spring Sports Pictures
Wednesday	April 10	Malad
Monday	April 22	Bear Lake
Wednesday	May 1	Westside
Wednesday	May 8	District Track



North Gem Middle School Track 2024



<u>Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Wednesday	April 3	Snake River
Wednesday	April 10	American Falls
Thursday	April 18	Bear Lake
Wednesday	April 24	Malad
Tuesday	April 30	Aberdeen
Friday	May 3	Districts @ Grace



Schedules are tentative and subject to change daily . Please check the District 149 website calendar for current schedules and upcoming activities.





Student Body News



North Gem Drama Department Presents:

Arsenic and Old Lace

By Joseph Kesselring



April 19-20, 2024 7:00 pm

North Gem Auditorium

Student Body News

LITTLE BANG TOWN

MAY 13TH - 5:30 P.M.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

Order Your

YEARBOOK

THE 2023-2024 YEARBOOK WILL INCLUDE THE ELEMENTARY, JR. HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL.

THERE IS NOT AN ONLINE OPTION FOR ORDERING. YOU NEED TO ORDER YOUR YEARBOOK AT THE FRONT OFFICE.

YEARBOOKS ARE \$46.00.



Job Openings @ North Gem

- Bus Aide
- Substitute Bus Drivers
- Substitute Custodial
- Substitute Teachers
- Substitute Cafeteria



Lunchroom News

SCHOOL LUNCH PRICES 2023-24

MONTH		REDUCED	K-4TH GRADE	5-12TH GRADE	ADULT
Day rate		0.40	3.20	3.40	4.70
August	8	3.20	25.60	27.20	37.60
September	15	6.00	48.00	51.00	70.50
October	18	7.20	57.60	61.20	84.60
November	16	6.40	51.20	54.40	75.20
December	12	4.80	38.40	40.80	56.40
January	17	6.80	54.40	57.80	79.90
February	16	6.40	51.20	54.40	75.20
March	12	4.80	38.40	40.80	56.40
April	18	7.20	57.60	61.20	84.60
May	14	5.60	44.80	47.60	65.80
TOTALS		58.40	467.20	496.40	686.20

- 2024 -

APRIL

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

North Gem School District #149

“Improve the Health and Enhance the Ability to Learn Through Better Nutrition”

Milk and Choice Bar Offered Each Day

Free Breakfast Served Daily to All students

1 Shepherds Pie w/ Breadstick Deli Bar
Broccoli Apple Salad
Hot Cinnamon Apples

2 Tomato Soup w/ Grilled Cheese Deli Bar
Baked Beans
Apricots

3 Hotdogs Deli Bar
Sweet Potato Fries
Fresh Sliced Oranges

4 Chicken Bowls Deli Bar
Corn
Mandarin Oranges

5

8 Pizza Kits or Sloppy Joes Deli Bar
Roasted Baby Carrots
Apple Pie Parfait

9 Bbq. Western Burger Deli Bar
French Fries
Peaches

10 Super Nachos Deli Bar
Refried Beans
Pineapple Tidbits

11 Bacon Ranch Flatbread Deli Bar
Brocc./Caul. Bake
Pears

12

15 Cereal Fun Lunch Elem. Sunrise Breakfast HS/MS Deli Bar
Roasted Squash
Applesauce Pudding Cups

16 Bbq. Chicken Sliders Deli Bar
California Spinach Salad
Banana Splits

17 Soft Shell Taco or Taco Soup w/ Cornbread Deli Bar
Sweet Corn
Fresh Orange Slices

18 Walking Tacos Deli Bar
Sunshine Carrots
Pears

19

22 Italian Dunkers Deli Bar
Green Beans
Mandarin Oranges

23 Baked Potato Bar Turkey Gravy/Brocc. Cheese Deli Bar
Sunshine Carrots
Apricots

24 Mac n Cheese w/ Chicken Nuggets Deli Bar
Brocc./Caul. Bake
Blueberry Smoothie

25 Corndogs or French Dip Deli Bar
French Fries
Fresh Apple Slices

26

29 Hot Beef n Cheese or Breakfast Sandwich Deli Bar
Green Beans
Strawberries

30 Smothered Burritos Deli Bar
Peas
Applesauce





Middle School Students and Parents that stayed after school for practice, picked up and dropped off students for practice, and helped me with props and costumes. My senior project was a success because of all your help and support. Thank you to Mrs. DeWitt also for staying after school to supervise so we could use the building. I couldn't have done it without all of you. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Journey Gunter



About READY!

READY! for Kindergarten® is a series of parent education workshops designed to teach parents how playing with their child is the best way to prepare them for Kindergarten. READY® has identified 26 skills that are most associated with academic success and social- emotional wellbeing in Kindergarten. These skills are called the READY! Targets.

Parents attend a series of 90- minute workshops which each focus on 10 of the 26 school readiness skills, or READY! Targets. In the workshops, the 10 targets are explained to parents through hands-on activities and active engagement in conversations. Parents are taught how to intentionally play with their child, or “play with a purpose,” to help develop these skills.



At the end of each workshop, parents not only leave with the knowledge and confidence to “play with a purpose,” but also with a free tool kit full of high quality materials, including books, puzzles, and games, that directly supports the 10 targets covered in every workshop.

Phil Knox



Birth to age 5 is the time to get your child...

READY! for Kindergarten®

Did you know?

- From birth to age 5, a child learns at a speed unmatched the rest of his or her life. Those early learning experiences influence success in school and beyond.
- Parents and caregivers are a child's first and most influential teachers.
- Every year 40 percent of children walk into kindergarten one-to-three years behind. These students struggle to catch up. Sadly, most of them never do.
- Students who start kindergarten behind form the largest group of dropouts, and they have less than a 12 percent chance of attending a four-year university.

But there is something you can do about it!

- A child's learning journey begins long before they start school – it starts at home.
- Birth to age 5, children are learning every waking moment.
- Reading, talking and purposeful play with a child beginning at birth helps their minds grow strong and bright.

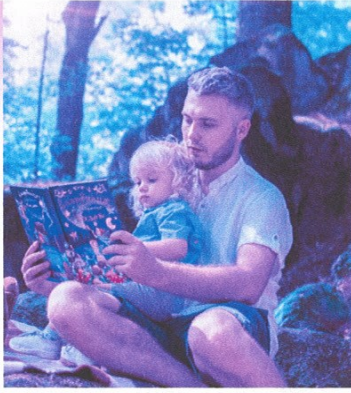
READY! for Kindergarten shows you how.

- READY! for Kindergarten is the national model for school readiness, engaging parents and caregivers in their child's learning from birth to age 5.
- READY! builds strong parent engagement and teaches families new skills and helpful tips to nurture a child's development in ways that foster essential early literacy, math and social-emotional skills.
- FREE workshops, learning targets, and take-home activities and tools, equip parents and caregivers to help babies and young children develop strong brain connections for success in school.

Ask your school or library about the next workshop!



www.idahoaec.org/ready



PARENTS ARE THEIR CHILD'S FIRST AND MOST INFLUENTIAL TEACHER

“

We all know that parents are the first teachers, so making sure we have the skills and equipment necessary to make our interactions with our children meaningful is huge. Quality child care is hard to find and is hard to afford in my community, but knowing that all parents can have access to this quality material to use at home is crucial.”

READY! For Kindergarten Parent, Kuna

“

It's changed how I view learning at home. These workshops shifted my thinking away from structured lessons and towards how I can use what we're already doing to learn and work on skills. It's really helped us to get so much more learning in.”

READY! For Kindergarten Parent, American Falls

“

A program like this helps give many students the much-needed leg-up they need prior to kindergarten. The fact that it occurs after work hours, with dinner and child care provided, makes it accessible for working-class families - I can't stress enough how much that piece matters and makes it truly equitable!”

READY! For Kindergarten Parent, McCall

READY! for Kindergarten®

Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI)

The Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI) assessment measures literacy proficiency and is conducted in the fall and spring semesters of each school year. According to Idaho's IRI scores, almost half of Idaho's children enter kindergarten below grade level and nearly a third of them are still not performing at grade level at the end of the school year.

Fall 2022 48 %

Spring 2022 65 %

“

This Fall (2022), 93% of our READY! graduates scored in the Tier 1 [at grade level] and Tier 2 [near grade level] on the Idaho Reading Indicator (IRI)”

-Panhandle Alliance for Education

READY! for Kindergarten®



WHEN WE INVEST IN OUR CHILDREN, OUR COMMUNITIES WIN

READY! For Kindergarten is a proven program developed by the Children's Reading Foundation and administered across the country through local partners, such as the Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children. All READY! For Kindergarten workshops feature a facilitated lesson by a trained instructor and offer free, quality early learning materials, resources, and activities for families to work on at home.

The READY! For Kindergarten program empowers parents to provide the foundational skills their children will need to be successful in school and life.

Research shows children who have quality early learning experiences are:

-  Less likely to be held back a grade
-  Less likely to need special education
-  More likely to graduate from high school
-  Have higher earnings as an adult
-  Less likely to become dependent on welfare
-  Less likely to be involved with law enforcement



ReadTalkPlay

EVERY DAY

When you read, talk and play with kids, you help:

- Build self confidence (READ)
- Develop communication skills (READ)
 - Nurture creativity (READ)
 - Expand vocabulary (READ)
- Build brain connections aiding in comprehension (TALK)
- Manage their emotions in healthy and productive ways (TALK)
 - Develop social and emotional skills (TALK)
 - Foster healthy relationships (TALK)
 - Reduce stress (PLAY)
 - Keep physically fit (PLAY)
 - Build problem solving skills (PLAY)
 - Promote independence (PLAY)
 - And much more!!

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Bancroft, Idaho 83217
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