



Horseheads Central School District

# Golden Star Gazette

February 2020

**Gardner Road Elementary School**

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

[ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com)



Dear Gardner Road Families –

Happy February to all of our Golden Stars and their families. The first month of the school year was great and we look forward to the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the school year. This month our students will have a chance to celebrate Valentine's Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, which is February 20, 2020 pending snow days.

Thank you to our PTO for hosting a roller-skating party last month. This week, they host a swim night at the high school pool on Friday at 6:45. We look forward to seeing you there. Please also come to our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Book Bingo and Math & Movement Night on February 20th from 6:00 -7:30. There will be games, door prizes, hot chocolate and more. There will also be information coming out this month about our school float for the St. Patrick's Day Parade, being part of our talent show, and signing up to take part in our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Kids Marketplace which will be the same night as our GRPTO Spring Fling.

Each year, Mrs. Herforth coordinates a guest author to come to our school. We believe it is important for our students to engage with an author and learn about their process in creating text. This year's author is Salina Yoon and she will be coming in June. Check out her website at:

<http://www.salinayoon.com/HOME.html>

In the spring, we will begin to look at classroom placements for the year 2020 - 2021. We use a team approach for class placements and it is a long process. As you might imagine, we must take many things into consideration when making placements. We welcome your input on the learning environment your child learns best with in and you are welcome to share this in a letter to me. Please do not include in your letter a request for a certain teacher as we do not honor these requests. Please know that we do value parent input and if you have any information about your child you want us to consider during placement, please put it in writing and drop it off to the main office by Friday, May 1<sup>st</sup>.

To keep up to date with the happenings at our school, follow our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. Don't forget to listen in to Sunday Stories with the Principal at 7:00 pm each Sunday. All videos are posted so you can watch at a time convenient for your family! Please contact me if you need anything, have any questions or would just like to chat about our school/your child.

Your Partner in Education

*Patrick F. Patterson*

Patrick Patterson - Principal

**CHOOSE  
TO BE  
NICE**  
[choosetobeenice.com](http://choosetobeenice.com)



## Inside the Gazette:

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Main Office Updates

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Character Corner

School Mission & Vision



## Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu

February Calendar

Digital Citizenship - February

## GENERAL INFORMATION:

### Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

### Gardner Road Office Hours

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Elementary Lunches (K-6)

Breakfast: \$ 1.25

Lunch \$ 2.10



## Moishe's Quote of the Month:

*"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." Christopher Robin, Winnie the Pooh*



## Gardner Road Main Office Updates:



### Spring New York Assessment Dates (Grades 3 & 4):

English Language Arts: March 25th & 26th  
Grade 4 Science Performance: May 19th

Math: April 22nd & 23rd  
Grade 4 Science Written: June 1st

### School Delays and Closings:

The cold, slippery, white flakes are just around the corner. When the ice and snow arrive, it is often necessary to delay or close schools. The announcements can be found on our District website [www.horseheadsdistrict.com](http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com) and the local media stations. In the event of a 1 or 2-hour delay, students can be dropped off at the cafeteria entrance beginning at the adjusted time. Please be aware that **NO** breakfast is served when there is a 2-hour delay. I will also post our current status on the Gardner Road Twitter feed. To sign up for the tweets, go to our school website and follow the link. PK start time for a 2-hour delay is 10:30.

### Recess:

Students will be going outside for recess as the weather becomes colder (20 degrees wind-chill and warmer) Please make sure that your child has a warm coat, a hat and gloves/mittens so they can stay warm as they play.

### PLACEMENT INFORMATION FOR 5th GRADE

The Intermediate School will soon be completing 2020-2021 classroom placements for students. They create class sections with the intent to achieve a mix of students by ability, gender, personality, and individual special needs. While we are unable to honor specific requests for teachers, we value your input from a parent's perspective. If you have specific information about your child's needs which should be taken into consideration or a specific previous personal experience, please put them in writing and send them to the Intermediate School no later than Thursday, April 2nd. The IS looks forward to working with you to ensure your child's academic success- thank you!

**Save the Date:** Grade 4→5 Presentation/Open House scheduled for Monday, March 23rd beginning at 6:00 PM in the Middle School cafeteria.



### Scripps Spelling Bee at Gardner Road



Congratulations to all of the students in grades 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> that participated in our Scripps Spelling Bee. Nithik and Niyati finished in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places respectively (after 25 rounds) and will represent Gardner Road in March at the Regional Bee. Pictured above are our top 5 spellers including Daniel, Li-Chi and Cecelia.





# January Snapshots



Check out more photos and events on our [Facebook Page!](#)





# "We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

## February's Character Trait is:

Character Education

### Trustworthiness

- Be honest and always tell the truth
- Be reliable and keep your word
- Be a true friend
- Do what is right even when it seems difficult
- Have courage

Character Matters  
Horseheads Central School District



## Horseheads Central School District's Mission & Vision:



Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

**EXPLORE**

**EMPOWER**

**EXCEL**

## Welcome Ms. Zoerb

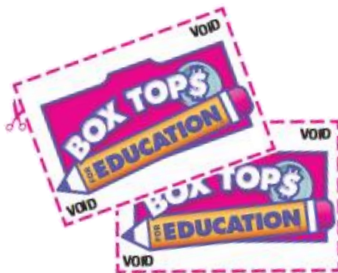
Hello Gardner Road! I am Megan Zoerb, a teacher from Horseheads Middle School. I have been granted the opportunity of learning from your wonderful principal Mr. Patterson. I have spent the last seven years teaching at Horseheads Middle School. I have been in the Special Education department since 2013. During my time teaching, I also coached varsity softball for Horseheads High School (2015-2018). I am looking forward to meeting and working with all of the wonderful teachers, staff members, students, and families that have so observably made Gardner Road an outstanding elementary school. I am honored to spend the six weeks being a part of the Golden Star team.



**SAFE  
SCHOOLS  
LINE**

795-2044 or  
1-800-305-4984

Report a concern, rumor, bullying incident, or any safety issue anonymously and confidentially, 24 hours a day.



Proud Supporter of  
**School Matters!**



Attend Today, Achieve Tomorrow

**To report child abuse or neglect  
call toll free 1-800-342-3720  
or  
[ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps)**



The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com). The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 - 6347.

## Report to PARENTS

# Setting Goals

**T**he middle of the school year is a great time for families to check in with students on goals. Setting academic and personal goals helps motivate, energize, and focus students, and it is a valuable skill that will benefit learners throughout their lives. Parents can help students set and achieve these goals.

Goal-setting can be tedious, even intimidating, for some students. Parents can support students in this process by following these steps: pick it, map it, do it, own it, and celebrate it.

**Pick it.** Encourage your child to consider his or her dreams and passions and pick goals that are important and meaningful. Guide your child to think about, “What motivates me? What would inspire me to give my best effort? What would make me feel good while I’m doing it? What achievement would make me feel proud?”

**Map it.** After your child picks a goal, help map the path from where he or she is now to where the child wants to be. Offer the following analogy: If we want to drive across the country from New York to California, we don’t just get in our car and start driving—we get a map, pick a route, and follow it until we get to California.

With your child, analyze different approaches and define clear steps to reach their goal. For instance, if the goal is to get a higher test grade in a tough subject, each quiz or project is a step on the path to the higher goal: earning an A.

**Do it.** Once you and your child have mapped a path to their goal, encourage him or her to take action, focus on the first step and give it his or her best effort. Remind your child that no goal is ever reached without focused action.

**Own it.** As your child makes progress toward their goal, help him or her to take responsibility for making it happen. Teach the mantra, “If it’s to be, it’s up to me!” Reflect with your child. Ask, “How are you doing? What’s

working? What’s not working? What can you or your family change to get to this goal?” From there, analyze the map, and make changes to the plan if necessary.



Help your child keep a positive attitude and own mistakes as well as successes. Remind your child that if something comes along that holds him or her back temporarily, to look at the experience as feedback. Failures, or bumps in the road, can provide us with information we need to succeed. Reinforce the message that we can learn from our mistakes and move on with new, valuable knowledge.

**Celebrate it.** Acknowledgment and celebration are huge parts of achieving goals. Acknowledge every effort and celebrate your child’s mini-successes along the way to achieving a goal. This builds his or her confidence and motivation. Your child will feel good and understand that perseverance will result in another mini-success and finally goal achievement.

Try going through the goal-setting process as a family. Pick a family goal (perhaps a charitable activity) and work together to achieve it. After the family experience, have each family member pick a personal goal. Support and acknowledge one another as you move through the above steps.

Success is assured when students believe in themselves and in their ability to achieve. Parents are key to helping them believe and succeed.

*This Report to Parents was written by Bobbi DePorter of Quantum Learning Network.*

There are lots of things happening in February!

### Presidents Day February 17th, 2020

Explore Digital Democracy. Look up information about some of our great presidents, or read about the upcoming election next November, or follow the current events in the Senate.

### Valentine's Day February 14th, 2020

Think of some new ways to celebrate Valentine's day as a Digital Citizen. Check out our Conversation Hearts poster.

### DigCit Commit February 11-12th, 2020

DIGCIT COMMIT is a FREE online global gathering of students and educators committed to redefining digcit that features a line up of speakers. You'll hear inspiring keynotes; student, educator and parent presenters; and showcase stories on digcit initiatives.

For more information:

Register for the event  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-commit>

Learn about DIGCIT  
COMMIT competencies  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-comps>

Join the conversation on  
Twitter using #digcitcommit



## Revisiting Familiar Topics – Spam & Phishing

Using Email is required of all Digital Citizens. Spam and Phishing continue to challenge us. Here are some more tips to help you understand and deal with Spam and Phishing.

### Use these tips to minimize how much spam you receive.

- **Try determine which messages are spam and avoid opening them.** Also, avoid clicking on links in those messages.
- **Don't be tempted to reply to spam messages.** Just delete them and forget about them.
- **Don't buy anything from a spammer.** You risk comprising your security and infecting your computer and you also reward and encourage the spammers.
- **Avoid 'unsubscribe' options.** Clicking them will confirm that your address is active and probably attract even more spam.
- **Be wary about giving out your main email address.** If in doubt, it is a good idea to use a alternate (anonymous or free account) email address.
- **Set up a disposable email address.** Use some of the free email services to set up these accounts. If they start to receive a lot of spam you can just delete the account.
- **Don't reveal your email address on your website.** Use a web contact form instead.



### Don't be tricked by phishing attempts. Use these tips to help.

- **Phishing scams** are messages that try to trick you into providing sensitive information. These often appear to come from a bank or another trusted source, and they'll usually want you to enter a password, verify a birth date, or confirm a credit card number. Phishing messages may look real enough at first glance, because it's surprisingly easy for scammers to create convincing details.
- **Scammers often create websites and email addresses that use slight variations of the real address** such as bankofamercan.com rather than bankofamerica.com.
- **Fraudulent emails often use subject lines that look important** and show concern for your safety. Who wouldn't be concerned about an alert on a bank account!
- **Be suspicious.** Just because what you are seeing looks identical to an official logo, doesn't make it authentic.
- **Phishing scams often suggest that failure to respond immediately will result in negative consequences,** like a freeze on your bank account.







# Reaching Today's Readers

In today's society, it is important to recognize that our students are connecting with the world in a different way. The Educators at ECSD are embracing the power that technology can have in order to engage today's students in this digital age. Literacy has been an important initiative in the Elmira City School District. As a result, the district has invested in some new interactive technologies for engaging today's learners in the area of literacy. The newest of these programs that are being implemented throughout ECSD include: **iRead** (Grades K-2), **Read180** and **System 44** (Grades 3-10), and **Newsela** (Grades 3-12).

Teachers have been engaged in numerous trainings across the district on using computer-based programming to successfully implement **Tier 2 literacy instruction**. Teachers have been provided trainings which have provided them with access to webinars, resources, and trainings greatly expanding their understanding of the programming.

Teachers have received training in using the **Read180**, **System 44** and **iRead** platforms. These platforms provide students with individually tailored learning opportunities that specifically target their learning needs. Helping teachers understand the ways that they can effectively use this program to drive instruction and support student needs has been a paramount focus of the Elmira City School District.

Additionally, ECSD's Supervisor of School Innovation, Alicia Bubb has been working to provide professional development support with **Newsela** and its integration with the district LMS, **Schoology**. She has coordinated even more offerings and support with the utilization of BOCES Instructional Support Teachers as well as ECSD Teacher Leaders.

**"IF WE TEACH TODAY'S STUDENTS AS WE TAUGHT YESTERDAY'S, WE ROB THEM OF TOMORROW."**

JOHN DEWEY (1859-1952)

20TH CENTURY AMERICAN PHILOSOPHER

	BENEFITS & OUTCOMES	TESTIMONIALS
<b>iRead</b>	Students often ask to go onto <b>iRead</b> throughout the day. <b>iRead</b> provides our students with individualized lessons that target skills to ensure progress to their next level of reading, and promotes a feeling of success and a positive view of learning to read!	"Kids are much more engaged with <b>iRead</b> than other computer programs. The lessons that are taught on iRead help to strengthen the foundational skills needed to become a fluent reader." - ECSD KDG Teacher  "The more you read, the more badges you get on <b>iRead</b> ." - ECSD 1st Grade Student
<b>Read180 / System 44</b>	Reading teachers like the structure that <b>these programs</b> provide, and are impressed with the gains made by students immersed in the programs. At Broadway Academy, 56% of the most struggling readers showed growth in accuracy and fluency. Overall, 54% of our students who received daily reading instruction with the <b>Read180</b> program exceeded average growth!	The different activities in <b>Read180</b> hold the students' interest and allow me the chance to meet with them as a small group to see how they are progressing. - ECSD 7th Grade Teacher  "I like <b>Read180</b> because you get to watch a video on the topic you're reading about." - ECSD Student
<b>Newsela</b>	Teachers and students alike are loving the opportunities and benefits that this new resource is providing like increasing student background knowledge, giving students choice in reading, and providing a reliable place to access informational text. In addition to these features, this program is adaptive to students Lexile reading levels based on students responses to standards based questions within <b>Newsela</b> .	"I love using <b>Newsela</b> . My favorite part is the ability to carry on a digital, instant and formative conversation with the students as they read the article." - ECSD 6th Grade Teacher  "We use <b>Newsela</b> often in class. I like it because we are allowed to pick an article that we are interested in and it is something I want to read." - ECSD 7th Grade Student



# Digital Citizenship: A Students Perspective \*\*

In this issue a student shares some of his knowledge about technology and digital citizenship.

Article by Josh, a student at Watkins Glen CSD



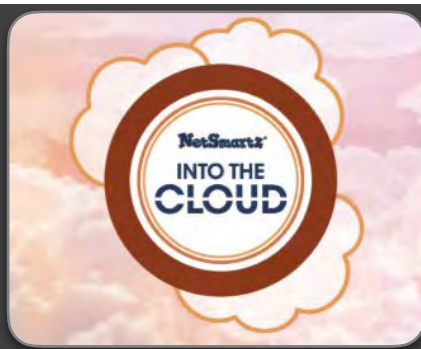
\*\* We got permission from Josh's parents before using his name and identifying his district.

Digital citizenship refers to the responsible use of technology by anyone who uses computers, the Internet, and digital devices to engage with society on any level. In my view digital citizenship means to make sure that when utilizing all digital equipment it is with the utmost professionalism. It is being responsible to tech, the internet and digital devices like printers and headphones.

The world of the internet is a big place and the internet has to be treated like a tool to get info on something like cats, ham or the time.

So, what is a digital device? Digital devices like headphones and mobile phones are high tech devices powered by a battery or cable and even outlets can power the devices and as the user you have to be taking care of your phone.

Take care of your devices and your safety.



From the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children

## NetSmartz® INTO THE CLOUD

Online Video Series

NetSmartz is NCMEC's online safety education program. It provides age-appropriate videos and activities to help teach children be safe online.

The Into the Cloud Home page  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSHome>

Into the Cloud Activities (PDF)  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSActivities>

Into the Cloud Program Resources  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSResources>

Episode Overviews  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSEpisodes>

Episode Discussion Guides  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSDiscGuides>

Classroom Educator Kit & Poster  
<http://go.gstric.org/306-NSPosterKit>



## DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP FLASHBACK

This was our poster from October 2017

### What are my Digital Rights and Responsibilities?

I have a right to freedom of expression

I have a responsibility to report bullying, harassing, sexting, or identity theft

I have a right to privacy

I have a responsibility to cite works used for resources and researching

I have a right to credit for personal works

I have a responsibility to model and teach students expectations of technology use

I have a right to digital access

I have a responsibility to download music, videos, and other material legally

I have a right to my identity

I have a responsibility to keep my data/information safe from hackers

I have a responsibility to not falsify my identity in any way



Learn to be a Good Digital Citizen (DC). Ask your Parents and Teachers to help you. More DC Resources for all ages are available at <http://dc.gstbooces.org>

The GST BOCES Digital Citizenship Initiative - October 2017

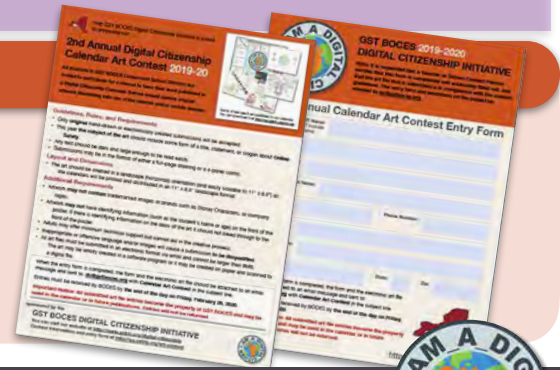
Download it from <http://go.gstric.org/306-rights>

## \*\* Calendar Art Contest Reminder

**Students Artists!** Create some original art on the topic of **Online Safety**. Enter it in our contest and if it is chosen - It will appear in our next Calendar. **Entries must be received by February 28th, 2020.**

**Get the full details on our website. Use the shortcut below:**

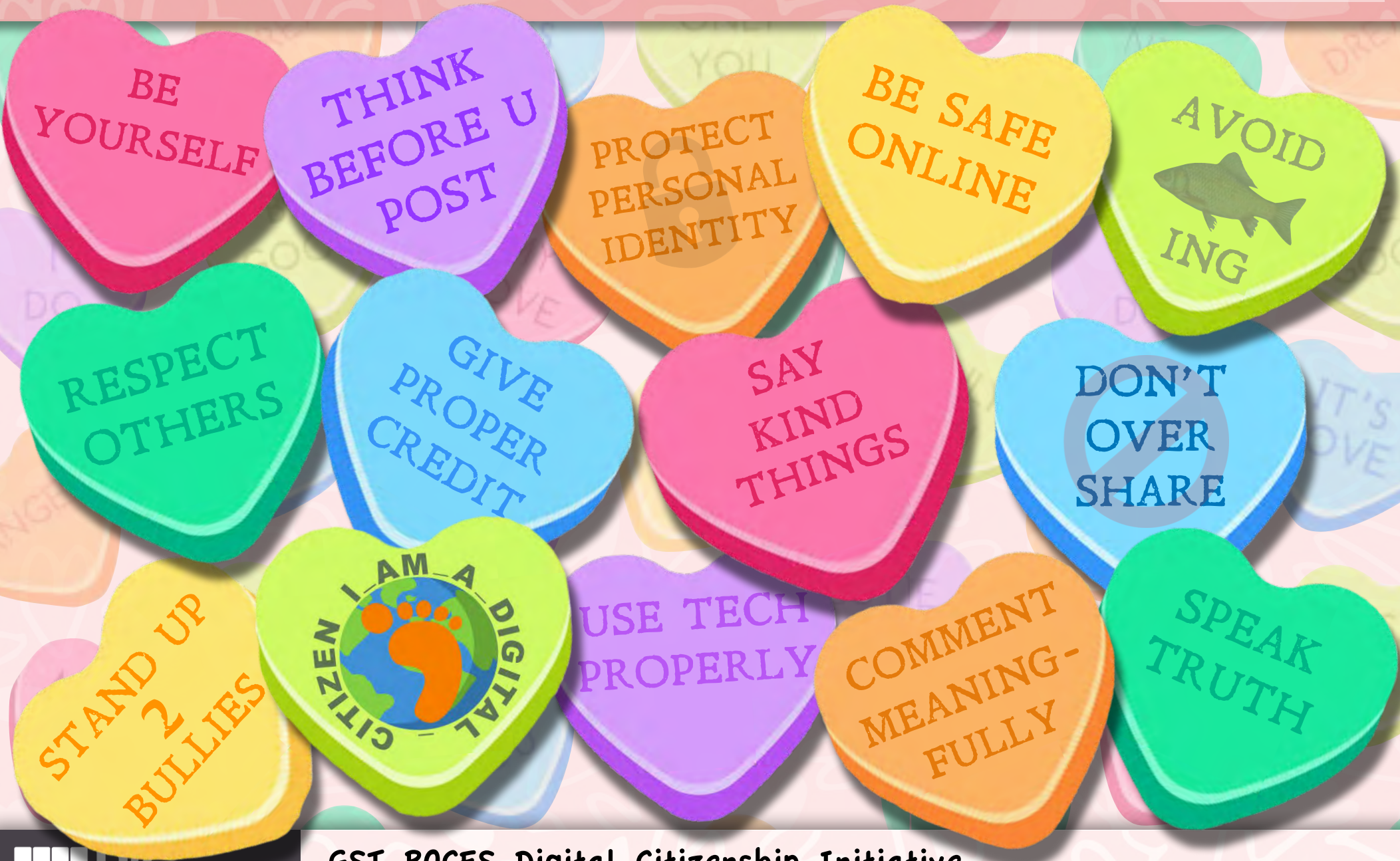
**<http://go.gstric.org/art-contest>**

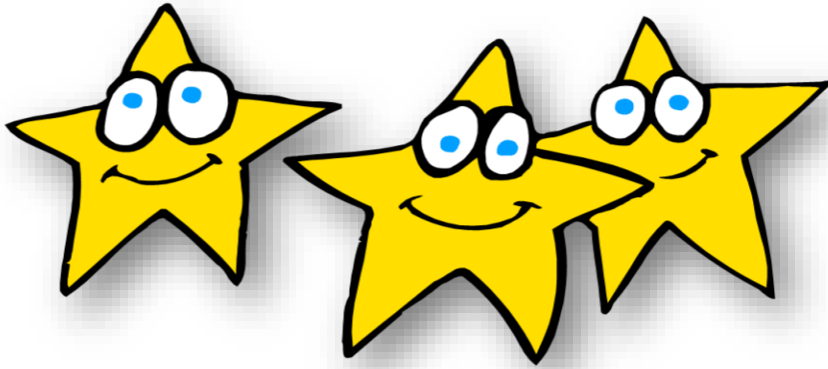




# If Conversation Hearts were made for Digital Citizens...

February  
2020





***GARDNER ROAD PTO FEBRUARY 2020  
NEWSLETTER***

***FEBRUARY FAMILY  
FUN NIGHT***



The Gardner Road February family fun night will be held at the Horseheads High School Swimming Pool. The date of the event is February 7<sup>th</sup>. There is NO CHARGE for this event. Bring the family!

Like us on Facebook Gardner Rd PTO

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**February 11:  
Principal Chat  
5:30  
PTO Meeting  
6:00**

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**February 17 & 18:  
No School**

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**February 20:  
Book Bingo  
Math Night  
6:00**

**PTO BOARD:**

President: Lita Mata  
Vice President: Stephanie Thomas  
Treasurer: Autumn Osborne  
Secretary: Stacy Witzel

[pto.gardnerroad@gmail.com](mailto:pto.gardnerroad@gmail.com)




# February 2020



## Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Day 6	4 Day 1	5 Day 2  WORLD READ ALoud DAY  	6 Day 3  BOE Budget Presentation HS MMC - 6:00	7  
10 Day 4	11 Day 5  Principal Chat - 5:30 GRPTO - 6:00 Library	12 Day 6	13 Day 1	14 Day 2  
17 No School  	18 No School  	19 Day 3 Andrus 4th Grade to Rock- well Museum	20 Day 4 Dauphinette 4th Grade to Rockwell Museum  Book Bingo & Math Night 6:30 - 7:00 Library/Gym	21 Day 5 Shutter 4th Grade to Rockwell Museum  
24 Day 6  <u>Character Education Tips for Home: Trustworthiness</u> *Have a family game night—Point out opportunities of trustworthiness *Honesty starts at home      *Model honesty in your everyday life *Be on time      *Focus on the “fun” of something instead of winning *Discuss how/why characters in books and/or movies are trustworthy	25 Day 1	26 Day 2	27 Day 3  BOE Meeting at HS MMC 6:00 PM	28 Day 4