

# MARCH

## A NOTE FROM MRS. CORREA

Building strong fluency in math facts is an important part of helping students become confident and successful mathematicians. When students know their basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division facts automatically, they can spend less time on simple calculations and more time on problem-solving and deeper mathematical thinking. Math fact fluency supports accuracy, efficiency, and confidence in the classroom, and it lays the foundation for more advanced math concepts students will encounter in later grades.

Families can help support math fact fluency at home in many simple and fun ways. Practicing math facts for just a few minutes each day can make a big difference. Parents can use flashcards, math apps, or quick “fact challenges” during everyday moments such as car rides or while preparing dinner. Playing dice or card games, or even asking quick mental math questions, can make practice enjoyable. Encouraging children to explain how they solved a problem and celebrating their effort and growth helps build both skill and confidence in math. Working together, school and home can help students build strong math foundations for future success.

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**GARY  
ADMINISTRATORS**



## HIGHLIGHTS

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**PRINCIPAL  
MESSAGE**

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**SPIRIT DAYS**

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**A DAY IN THE  
LIFE OF A  
COUGAR**

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**NEWS FROM  
GRADE  
LEVELS**

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**NEWS FROM  
SPECIALS**

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**NEWS FROM  
BAND AND  
ORCHESTRA**

NEWSLETTER

**GARY SCHOOL**

**WEAR IT WEDNESDAY: STAFF AND STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN SCHOOL SPIRIT DAYS EACH WEEK ON WEDNESDAY.**

<b>11/19</b>	<b>Gary Gear - Wear Gary Gear or Gary Blue</b>
<b>12/3</b>	<b>Safari Day: Animal Print</b>
<b>12/10</b>	<b>Look alike Day</b>
<b>12/15</b>	<b>Grinch Day (Green)</b>
<b>12/16</b>	<b>Winter Wonderland (snowflakes, blue &amp; white)</b>
<b>12/17</b>	<b>Holiday Sweater Day/Holiday T-Shirt</b>
<b>12/18</b>	<b>Candy Cane (red &amp; white)</b>
<b>12/19</b>	<b>Winter PJ Day</b>
<b>1/7</b>	<b>Neon Day</b>
<b>1/14</b>	<b>Art Spirit Day: Dress like your favorite artist or in your favorite color</b>
<b>1/21</b>	<b>Book Character Day</b>
<b>1/28</b>	<b>College Gear Day</b>
<b>2/4</b>	<b>Where's the Love? Day - Red/Pink/White</b>
<b>2/11</b>	<b>Vaquero Day</b>
<b>2/18</b>	<b>Disney Day</b>
<b>2/25</b>	<b>Throwback Day (decades)</b>

# UN DÍA EN LA VIDA DE NUESTROS GARY COUGARS

DESDE UNA VISITA VIRTUAL CON UN CIENTÍFICO HASTA LA CLASE DE EDUCACIÓN FÍSICA CON NUESTRO NUEVO MAESTRO, EL SR. LOA, NUESTROS ESTUDIANTES ESTÁN TRABAJANDO ARDUAMENTE EN LA ESCRITURA, FORTALECIENDO SUS RUTINAS MATUTINAS E INCLUSO PREPARÁNDOSE PARA CONVERTIRSE EN FUTUROS SUPERINTENDENTES.





# Kinder News

March



## Dates:

- March 17: No school, there will be parent teacher conferences-not all will have conferences with their teacher
- March 30-April 3: No school-Spring break

## News:

-Our current theme is: **Kings and Queens**. We will learn about the role of the king and queen. We will also read different stories about kings and queens.

-In **Math**, we are working on addition and subtraction. We are using vocabulary such as put together, take away, total, minus, and number bond. We are still practicing counting with the goal of reaching 100 and we are identifying numbers to 20.

## Practice or consider this:

-Read together every day 15-20mins. Even if your little one can't read, he is learning from watching you!

We are now reading and writing cvc words (consonant vowel consonant) in English.

In Spanish the students are practicing syllables and how to read and write words with 2 syllables.

Have a wonderful month!

-*Kindergarten*

**Practice always:** Writing name, ID numbers 0-20, letter ID/sounds and syllables.

If your child already knows these skills, practice number ID 0-30, counting to 100.



# 1st Grade News

March 2026



## Reminders



- Read with your child at least 15 minutes every day. Please sign your initials on the homework chart to verify that your child read.
- Please practice addition and subtraction facts with your child.
- Send your child with a healthy snack (no nuts) and a bottle of water.

## Language Arts

Topic: Early American Civilizations

Focus: Students compare and contrast key features of the early civilizations of the Maya, Aztec, and Inca, and explore the development of cities such as Tenochtitlan and Machu Picchu. They are also introduced to the work of archaeologists who have unearthed ancient civilizations.

UFLI: English phonics and literacy development

Lectoescritura: Spanish literacy development

## — Math +

Topic and Focus: addition and subtraction to 20.

Working with place value, greater than, less than and equal than.

## First Grade Team

Mrs. Swierenga  
swierengab@wego33.org

Mrs. Meza Owens  
mezag@wego33.org

Ms. Jimenez  
jimenez@wego33.org

Ms. Ayala  
ayalar@wego33.org



## Upcoming Events

March 6: Field Museum Field trip

March 17: NO SCHOOL (parent teacher conferences)

March 30 - April 3: SPRING BREAK



# March 2026

Ms. Mexicano - [mexicanoy@wego33.org](mailto:mexicanoy@wego33.org)

Mrs. Uhlhorn - [uhlhorne@wego33.org](mailto:uhlhorne@wego33.org)

Mrs. Valdivia - [valdivial@wego33.org](mailto:valdivial@wego33.org)

Ms. Portillo - [portilloc@wego33.org](mailto:portilloc@wego33.org)

## Events

Tuesday, March 17 - No School -  
Parent/teacher conferences from 1pm  
until 8pm

Friday, March 20 - Spring Pictures

Friday, March 27 - PTO Coin Challenge

March 30 - April 4 - No School -  
Spring Break

## Reminders

- Read and fill out Reading Calendar for homework.
- Continue to send a fruit or veggie snack.
- Please make sure your child has a refillable water bottle each day.

## Learning Focus

### Reading:

- Ask and answer questions as who, what, where, when, why in an informational text.
- Identify the main topic of an informational text.
- We are continuing our Greek myth unit. Our next unit is The War of 1812.

### Math:

Módulo 8  
Tiempo, figuras y  
fracciones como partes  
iguales de figuras



# 3rd Grade News



March 2026

## Science

We are learning about the four stages of a life cycle: birth, growth, reproduction, and death. Some animals have longer life cycles than other animals, but all species experience the four stages.

We are also learning about inherited traits and learned behaviors of organisms. Ask your child what inherited traits they have from members of their family and what behaviors they have learned.



## Language Arts



**English Language Arts:** We are coming to the end of our unit on Ancient Rome. We end the unit by learning about the life and characteristics of Julius Caesar. Students will have a class debate and write their opinion to justify whether Julius Caesar should be viewed as a hero or a traitor.

**Writing:** During this unit, we have been focusing on opinion writing. When we write our opinion, we need to include an introduction, reasons and examples that support our opinion, and a conclusion.

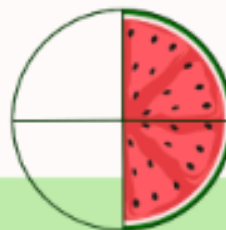
**Spelling:** We are practicing words that have the long sound /ee/ spelled "ee" and "e."

**Grammar:** We will review verb tenses and the verbs to be and to have as well as subject-verb agreement.

**Dictado in Spanish:** We practiced writing and editing two sentences in Spanish that connected to Julius Caesar. Our focus was verb endings.

## Math (English)

We are currently working on Module 5 which is an introduction to fractions. In third grade, we begin talking about what a fraction is, comparing fractions, equivalent fractions and fractions greater than one whole. We are learning about halves, third, fourths, sixths and eighths. Show your child how you use fractions in your life and how we use fractions everyday!



<b>C</b>	<b>CIRCLE</b> KEY NUMBERS
<b>U</b>	<b>UNDERLINE</b> THE QUESTION
<b>B</b>	<b>BOX</b> MATH ACTION WORDS
<b>E</b>	<b>EVALUATE</b> "WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE?"
<b>S</b>	<b>SOLVE AND CHECK!</b>

In 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, this is how we solve word problems.

# Upcoming Events

Spring Parent Teacher Conferences -  
March 17

PTO Coin Challenge - Begins March 18

Easter Sunday - April 5

Spring Break - March 28-April 5

Back to School - April 6



## Third Grade Team

Ms. Meyer  
meyerem@wego33.org

Mrs. Larson  
larsons@wego33.org

Ms. Jirovec  
jirovecl@wego33.org



Third Grade	
8:40 - 8:50	Morning Meeting
8:50-9:40	Specials
9:40-11:00	Language Arts: Amplify
11:00-11:40	Language Arts: WIN
11:40-12:10	Lunch and Recess
12:10-1:00	Guided Math
1:00-1:40	Math Core Lesson
1:40-1:55	3rd Grade Recess
1:55-2:20	Language Arts: Amplify
2:20-2:50	SLA
2:50-3:20	Social Studies/Science
3:20	Dismissal

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Red	PE	SEL	PE	Art	PE
	Library		Music		Music
Blue	Music	Music	Art	Library	SEL
	PE	PE		PE	
Yellow	Art	PE	SEL	PE	Library
		Music		Music	PE

## Reminders

As the weather gets warmer, please remember to send a water bottle to school each day with your child. Also, we know spring weather is unpredictable. Please be sure your child has wears a coat on cold days so they stay warm at recess.

Please send a healthy snack to school with your child for snack time (fruit, vegetable, crackers, granola bar, etc.)

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading goal: Read 30 minutes for 5 nights each week.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade math goal: Complete your math homework page each week and turn it in on Friday.



# 4th Grade

## Newsletter

### CALENDAR

3/17	Spring Parent Teacher Conferences
3/10 - 3/12, 3/18 - 3/19	IAR Testing
3/30 - 4/3	No School - Spring Break

### READING

This month, 4th grade will be working on our next Amplify unit about Geology in Spanish.

### MATH

In Math we are working on module 5 fractions. Students are learning how to find equivalent fractions, add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers.

Continue practicing math facts at home.

### Teachers' contact information

Mrs. Garcia [garcialo@wego33.org](mailto:garcialo@wego33.org)  
Ms. Rivera [riveraemily@wego33.org](mailto:riveraemily@wego33.org)  
Miss Brandt [brandtl@wego33.org](mailto:brandtl@wego33.org)

### REMINDERS

- Continue to have your student read at home for at least 40 min every night and sign their agenda.
- Send your child with a water bottle.

Contact Teacher:



# March 5th Grade Newsletter

## LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

Happy March! Last month, the school behavior focus was readiness to learn. In science, we started Unit 4, learning about Astronomy. We are also reviewing all science content in preparation for ISA in April. In Amplify, students participated in a poetry slam, reciting their favorite poem in front of the class. We have begun reading Don Quixote. In math, students are working on multiplying and dividing fractions.

Focus on the month:

- Amplify: Poetry (English)
- Math: Fraction operations
- Science: Earth Systems/ Astronomy
- Behavior: Readiness to Learn

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher.

## THE TEAM



## CONTACTS



(630) 293-6010



[jursichm@wego33.org](mailto:jursichm@wego33.org)

[reyesp@wego33.org](mailto:reyesp@wego33.org)

[rodriguezroberto@wego33.org](mailto:rodriguezroberto@wego33.org)

[wilsonv@wego33.org](mailto:wilsonv@wego33.org)



## IMPORTANT DATES

- PTO Meeting: March 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm
- IAR Testing: March 10, 11, 12, 18, 19, 20
- Conferences: March 17<sup>th</sup>
- No School: March 17<sup>th</sup>
- Coin Challenge: March 18- 25<sup>th</sup>
- Music Spirit Week : March 23-27



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

5th grade is always looking for volunteers to support learning in our classrooms! If you enjoy the writing process, reading with students, astronomy, or playing math games, please reach out to your child's teacher. We'd love to have you help.



## WE'RE "ALL IN!"

We're encouraging 5<sup>th</sup> graders to be "All In" on readiness to learn. We're working with students to prepare them to have materials and assignments ready when we begin a new subject. Please remind your child to bring all materials to class, remain seated and prepared when the teacher signals a change in activity, and stay engaged throughout the day. Thank you for partnering with us to keep our classroom focused and respectful.

# Specials Newsletter

March 2026

## Art with Mrs. Vaid

Get ready for ART Madness! Students will vote to see which famous artist will conquer the bracket and win! Who will it be? Kahlo, DaVinci, Degas or someone else?



Artist Spotlight also kicks off this month! Students have been busy making art with lots of craftsmanship to enter to win best artist for 2 weeks! Their art will be displayed in the hallway, they will get a certificate, and their names announced on the loudspeaker. What an honor!

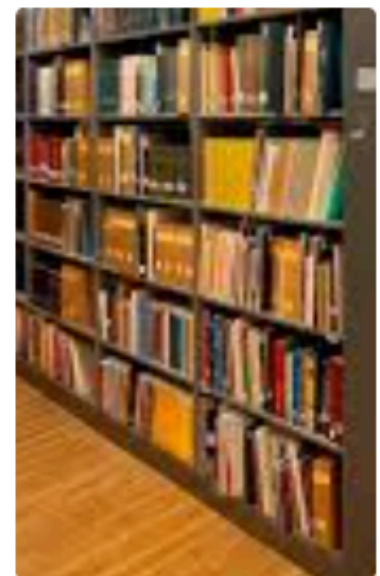
Save the date for two art shows! Our Gary Tiny Art Show for 2nd Trimester is on March 13th. Be sure to stop by and see the artwork during parent teacher conferences! On April 30, 2026, Art at the Arc will feature select outstanding Gary student artists with their art on display. It's a wonderful honor and capstone to the school art year!

Coming up this year, we will be trying printmaking and self-portraits!

## Library with Mrs. Hernandez

Happy March! This past month, the library focused on the Winter Olympics. Students learned about different winter sports and studied one in depth. They then created either a statement about what they learned or a trading card featuring an Olympic sport. Students watched video examples of the sports and completed research together in small groups.

Students should be working on their reading goals: 15 minutes per night (K-2) and 30 minutes per night (3-5). By meeting these goals, they can earn a free ticket to the Cougars Game. Please encourage your child to continue reading every night! The Cougars form is due on Thursday, March 26th.



## Music with Mrs. Cruz

### Save the Date!

Our **Spring Music Program** will be on **April 29, 2026**, and will feature our **Kindergarten, 2nd Grade, Band, and Gary Chorus** students. Mark your calendars—you won't want to miss it!



MARCH is Music in Our Schools Month! Music plays a vital role in our school community. Through singing, playing instruments, composing, and moving to rhythm, students build creativity, confidence, collaboration skills, and self-expression. Music strengthens memory, supports academic growth, and provides a space where every child can shine. Most importantly, it brings our school together—fostering joy, teamwork, and school spirit in ways that last far beyond the classroom. Coming soon MIOSM Spirit Week! Music Madness begins too!

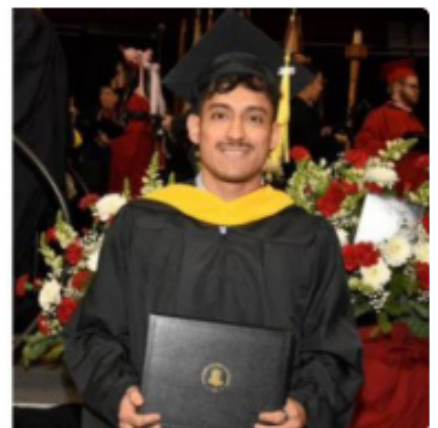
**Kindergarten & 1st Grade-** Through body movement, students are discovering opposites in music such as *fast/slow* and *high/low*. We will also play engaging musical games using classroom instruments and singing. First graders will explore reading iconic notation and creating their own musical pieces using words.

**2nd & 3rd Grade-** We will be developing our skills as composers and performers by using our notes and learning the different meters through body movement and games.

**4th & 5th Grade-** We will be reading and composing using a variety of meters while utilizing the pentatonic scales. Students will be using a variety of instruments in the classroom as well as their recorders.

## Gym with Mr. Loa

Hi everyone, my name is Alexis Loa, and I graduated from NIU in December. In my free time, I love working out, training in jiu-jitsu, playing chess, and golfing. I also enjoy spending time with my 3 sisters and parents. I love traveling with my friends, and I'm very excited about my trip to Europe this summer. I love trying new foods, but cookies are my favorite. I also grew up here in West Chicago, and I am excited to give back to this amazing community. I am very excited to meet all of you and be part of the team.



# Health / SEL (Social Emotional Learning) with Miss Samargis



## Disease and Illness Prevention

### Kindergarten:

Kindergarten students are learning how to recognize common signs of illness, such as sneezing and coughing. They also practice healthy habits like handwashing, covering coughs, and using tissues to help prevent the spread of germs.

### 1st Grade:

First graders are learning to recognize common signs of illness, such as fever, and understand how healthy habits like cleanliness and proper sleep help keep their bodies strong and prevent illness.

### 2nd Grade:

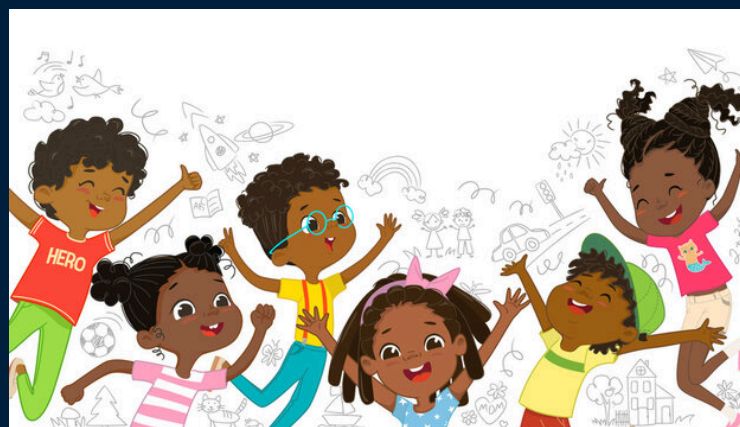
Second graders are learning how to take care of their bodies through healthy daily habits. Students practice good hygiene, make safe and healthy choices, and learn how their actions help prevent illness and keep themselves and others healthy.

### 3rd Grade:

Third graders are learning how preventive health measures and early detection help keep their bodies healthy. Students explore habits that protect against illness and support overall health and wellness.

**4th Grade:** Fourth graders are learning how healthy choices prevent illness and support well-being. Students explore disease prevention, the importance of early treatment, and how environmental factors like pollution and sun exposure can impact personal health.

### 5th Grade: Healthy Eating & Nutrition





# ELEMENTARY ORCHESTRA



## newsletter



### What are we learning in March?:

We are learning:

4th Grade Beginning Orchestra    5th Grade Intermediate Orchestra

- Bow Fundamentals
- Duets/Multi Part Songs
- Hops
- Slurring between different strings
- Dynamics
- Staccato
- Hooked Bowing



Mr. Klapp!

### Practice Logs Return

#### Practice Logs are Returning for ALL STUDENTS

Practice logs are returning for all students. Entering trimester 3 it's more important than ever that students are reinforcing their in-school instruction at home. Beginning in March, be aware that each week your student will need a parent signature on their log.

### Check in on your student!

Now that we're 2/3 through the year, check in with your student and ask how they are enjoying class. Should you wish a change in your students enrollment, please reach out.

### Contact

Charles Klapp

Contact via Parent Square!

### Rehearsals

5th Grade Intermediate

Mondays

4th Grade Beginner

Thursdays



# MARCH

## 5th Grade Band Newsletter



Happy March Band Families!

So lucky to have your student in band!

We are close to the end of the school year, which means close to our last concert! We are preparing our concert repertoire (music) by learning new concepts like...

- Dynamics
- Articulations
- Road Mapping
- Concert Bb scale



## PLEASE READ

We are in a heavier part of the year musically. At this point in the year, students have a better idea of their abilities on their instrument. Some may feel really good or some may feel they are struggling. Struggling does not mean bad! It means they are working hard at something new, which does not come easily, it comes with practice and time. Everyone is doing really well and trying, and that is all I ever ask for. You will not be perfect the first time you try something challenging, and the same goes for playing an instrument.

If your student is feeling discouraged, I suggest showing them this video as a motivator, and reassure them they are doing a great job: [VIDEOS OF PROGRESSION](#)



Students are wrapping up earning their Ireland stamps!

Scan the QR Code to learn about Celtic Music!



## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Optional Parent Teacher Conferences on March 17
  - Sign up on Parent Square
- Middle School Class Registration
  - Band is an elective, talk as a family to confirm your student wants to participate in band at Leman
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Instrument Try Outs, Week of April 20th
- Last Concert! May 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM @WCCHS

