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# **GISD WEEKLY NEWSLETTER**

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*GISD – Achieving Excellence Together!*

## **GISD Goes “Blue for Brock”**

There is so much that goes into educating children and teenagers in the 21st century. The process involves a lot of moving parts. State and federal mandates have transformed education into an assembly line of hoops through which students (and all of us) must jump. Education has never been a simple process, but it boggles the mind how complicated it has become.

When I was growing up, the focus was on heavy doses of the 3 Rs - ‘readin’, ‘ritin’, and ‘rithmetic’ - with a generous helping of science, social studies, physical exertion (and, yes, competition), courtesy, discipline, and respect. Good luck trying to convince me that young people today need much more than that...but that’s a soapbox speech for another day. With all that is required of us and our students, it’s very easy to lose sight of things that are equally important, but less emphasized.

With this in mind, I was very proud of the overwhelming response to our Blue-Out for Brock day last Friday. It gave us a chance to refocus, reset, and consider what things are truly important. If it brought even a few minutes of joy, hope, or encouragement to this brave young man and his family, it was well worth the effort. Our gesture of friendship was also a teaching moment for our students as we asked them to think of someone other than themselves - someone else’s difficulties and someone else’s happiness. Basically, it allowed us to teach a lesson on valuable attributes that are not found in any federal mandate or state standard. If we haven’t made the effort to teach them kindness, compassion, selflessness, and teamwork, can we really say we’ve given them our best?

You are all valued and appreciated for striving to maintain exceptional quality in your work at a time when the state of education seems to stress quantity over quality. Let us never forget why we are here and, as quoted by the apostle Paul and Chris Langford, “Keep fighting the good fight!” Have a great week!

– **J. Cliff Lightfoot, Ed.D.**, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Student Services

## GISD Events

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
4 STAAR/EOC Testing  GMS GBB v Chapel Hill (A) 4:30  GMS BBB v Chapel Hill (A) 4:30	5 STAAR/EOC Testing  Lady Bear Basketball v Pine Tree (H) 5:00  Bear Basketball v Brownsboro (H) 5:00	6 STAAR/EOC Testing	7 STAAR/EOC Testing  Lady Bear Basketball – Brownsboro Tournament	8 STAAR/EOC Testing  Lady Bear Basketball- Brownsboro Tournament
11 GMS GBB v Gilmer (A) 4:30  Bear Basketball v Union Grove (A) 5:30	12 Lady Bear Basketball v Hawkins (H) 5:00	13	14 GISD Administrative Leadership Team Meeting, Central Office @ 9:00	15 Lady Bear Basketball v Van (A) 5:00
18 GISD School Board Meeting-6:00	19 Lady Bear Basketball v Carthage (H) 5:00	20	21	22 Early Release: WES/GMS – 12:00 GPS/GHS – 12:15  Bear Basketball v Atlanta (A) 4:00
25 Christmas	26 Christmas Holidays	27 Christmas Holidays	28 Christmas Holidays	29 Christmas Holidays

**Have a Great Week!**