May 1, 2020

Dear Gess Families,

All the lessons learned in April will be applied in May! Welcome to bright flowers and warmer weather. A friendly reminder that we are here to help and serve you any way we can during this unprecedented time in our lives.

**How can I join the meal program?**

You may still join our meal program. Yes, it is free to everyone ages 0 to 18. Please contact the district office to sign up at (509) 685-6800 ext. 1002.

 **What are we going to do about class pictures?**

We are working with Leo's Photography to create a composite class picture artifact for your elementary aged student. More information to come soon.

**How can we celebrate ongoing learning?**

Students and staff are working hard on their continuous learning. If you would like to share student work, activities, or pictures of your student engaged in learning please send to Gess Elementary and we may highlight your student's learning on the website, in the Chewelah Independent, or the Gess Elementary Facebook page. Send this information to Bgregerson@chewelahk12.us .

**Are we technology connected?**

Are we really as connected through technology as the state believes? The State of Washington believes we have great technology access. Please take time to do the following test to help determine the level of access we have.

The Stevens County / Spokane Tribe Broadband Action Team (BAT) in partnership with the Washington State Broadband Office, is launching a county-wide crowdsourcing broadband speed test.

 It takes about a minute to do. You can do it more than once, and it averages your speed.

Take the test and share the link! [https://expressoptimizer.net/public/](https://nam04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Furldefense.com%2Fv3%2F__https%3A%2Fexpressoptimizer.net%2Fpublic%2F__%3B!!JmPEgBY0HMszNaDT!-MFPXaeCnq9b2_s08j0B3LWmzjGFqvtKwRfeFT6-7ClHjBDbptX_yERow9ezEkHZ9w%24&data=01%7C01%7Crmcfarland%40chewelahk12.us%7C2a969b6000c34206d5d308d7edec860a%7C3f4f7915e3a242a29920fb99db819033%7C0&sdata=9hMFt2FLklFWoYq7ZsQ6vHVp2nvZNl6Ktc0DkleB5x4%3D&reserved=0)

There is no deadline to do the test. But the sooner it's done, the more data we can start collecting. Debra Hansen, executive director of BAT, said, “This will be an important component in any grant application, and immensely helpful for planning (and getting) broadband.”

This test is different from others we’ve asked you to do: the technology has improved, GEO partners has the ability to analyze and plan future projects, and we have a new Washington State Broadband Office that is here to support capturing funding being allocated from the COVID-19 CARES Act and other legislation/sources.

**You have the option to fill in your real address or keep it private,** but the more accurate the data is the more likely we can get something done for everyone. They discard the addressing data as soon as it hits the map and don’t collect any personal information.

If you know of families that do not have internet connections, please contact Debra at debra.hansen@wsu.edu and bgregerson@chewelahk12.us

**When can I start sending work and library books back?**

May 4 - you may start sending work back on Monday's through the bus routes. Tuesday through Friday a bin will be out front for any work until 2 p.m.

**Did you get your prizes from the chocolate sale?**

The rest of the prizes are in and families will be contacted and arrangements for delivery made.

Have a great week and enjoy your families. Take care and be well,

Julie Price, Principal

Imperfections are not inadequacies; they are reminders that we're all in this together.

Brene' Brown