Academics are important, but GSD students learn more, such as essential life skills that will help them be successful in their futures. Here, Jaydon works on using a cane to walk down the hall with the Orientation and Mobility specialist. You’ve probably seen white canes used by people who are blind, but did you know ones marked with red indicate the user is deafblind?

Octavious has the right attitude! Standing in front of a colorful poster in the dorm that says, “Yes You Can,” he signs ILY.

Welcome back, Cole! Cole is in 4th grade.

Nolan is a 2nd grader.

New Tigers!

Meet some of the newest faces at GSD! We welcome these new Tigers!

Thank You

A big Tiger THANK YOU to two great people, Katharine Kennedy and an anonymous donor, who recently made donations of school and art supplies, back-packs, and other useful items! Your generosity is very much appreciated!
Learning in Lower Elementary

The Lower Elementary students have had a big week of learning! Geography was a focus in Social Studies, with students learning how to use a map. Want to reinforce your child’s learning at home? Get out a map! Practice identifying familiar places, such as states and towns they have visited. There are also fun map games kids can play online or with an app.

Allie Kate carefully marks Georgia on the US map.

Sinclare identifies the lines of latitude in red on the Smart Board.

Layla uses the Smart Board pen to color Georgia on the US map.

It’s not all Social Studies! Waylon looks like he is having a lot of fun solving a problem in Math RTI!

Victor and Braydence stand by the creative autumn board in the dorm. Beautiful fall leaves, an eagle and an owl set off this lovely display!

Get To Know GSD’s New Staff Members!
Jamie Herston, Special Education Director

Jamie Herston isn’t new to GSD, but she does have a new position! Jamie is originally from Pensacola, FL. As she still has family there, she visits there often with her husband Steven (GSD P.E. teacher) and two sons, 13-year-old Abraham (GSD student) and 2-year-old Hosea. The Herstons have 2 dogs- Daisy (a boxer, age 12), and Toby (long-haired dachshund, age 13). Jamie says she looks forward to working with all of the students and students’ families this year.

Upcoming Events
- Fri 9/18 Mid-quarter 1
- Thurs 10/8 Transportation Day
- Fri 10/9 No classes/ Teacher workday
- Fri 10/16 End Quarter 1
Online Safety

Did you know child predators are taking advantage of the coronavirus pandemic? With children spending more time online than ever, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) reports a 93% increase in reports about online enticement of children compared with the same time period (Jan-June) of last year. Likewise, several organizations, including the FBI, are reporting increases in human trafficking, including sex trafficking of adults and children—many of whom were lured online.

Be sure to talk with your child about internet safety, privacy, and never meeting an “online friend” in real life. Here are links to a few good resources for parents:

FTC: https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/topics/protecting-kids-online
GCF Global: https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/internetsafetyforkids/

RULES ‘N TOOLS® CHECKLIST
FOR PARENTS, EDUCATORS, AND OTHER CARING ADULTS

Implement both safety rules and software tools to protect children online. Focus on the positives of Internet use while teaching children about the dangers and how to make wise choices online.

“Rules”

- Establish an ongoing dialogue and keep lines of communication open.
- Supervise use of all Internet-enabled devices.
- Know your child’s online activities and friends.
- Regularly check the online communities your children use, such as social networking and gaming sites, to see what information they are posting.
- Supervise the photos and videos your kids post and send online.
- Discourage the use of webcams and mobile video devices for younger kids, and guide your teens and tweens in ways to use video safely.
- Teach your children how to protect personal information posted online and to follow the same rules with respect to the personal information of others.
- Be sure your children use privacy settings on all social media platforms.
- Instruct your children to avoid meeting face-to-face with someone they only know online or through their mobile device. You cannot recognize a disguised predator.
- Teach your children how to respond to cyberbullies.
- Establish an agreement with your children about Internet use at home and outside of the home (see Rules ‘N Tools® Youth Pledge).

“Tools”

- Set age-appropriate filters.
- Consider using monitoring software, especially if you sense your child is at risk.
- Periodically check your child’s online activity by viewing your browser’s history.
- Set time limits and consider using time-limiting software.
- Disallow access to chat rooms and only allow live audio chat with extreme caution.
- Limit your child’s instant messaging (IM) contacts to a parent-approved buddy list.
- Use safe search engines.
- Set up the family’s cyber-security protections.
- Utilize parental controls on your child’s mobile phone and other mobile devices.
- Parental controls should be utilized on all Internet-enabled devices (desktops, laptops; and gaming, mobile, and music devices). However, these resources are not a substitute for parental supervision.

Report any content or activity that you suspect as illegal or criminal to local law enforcement and to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at www.cybertipline.com or at 1-800-843-5678.

How Can Parents KEEP KIDS SAFE ONLINE?

Copyright 2018 Enough is Enough www.enough.org

Rules ‘N Tools® Checklist