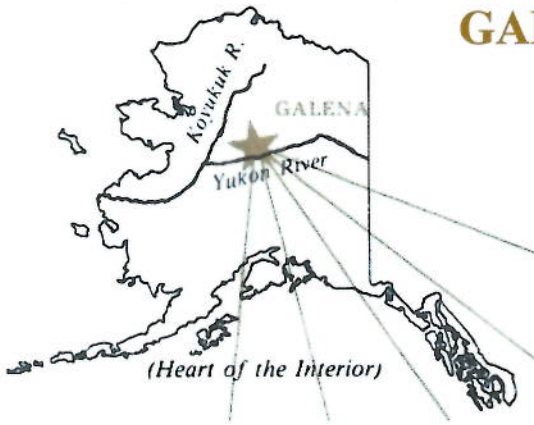


GALENA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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GALENA, ALASKA 99741
PHONE (907) 656-1205
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SUPERINTENDENT
Jim Merriner



December 13, 2018

Dear GCSD Families and Community Members:

I trust that your family enjoyed giving thanks during our recent national holiday and that everyone eagerly anticipates the imminent international holiday. Hard to believe that the first semester ends in a week. Remember the old adage ... time flies when you're having fun? Well, I must be having fun because it seems that yesterday I welcomed you all to a new school year. I hope that during the Christmas season we all can stop to smell the roses, spending quality time communing and communicating with friends and family.

Speaking of communication (ever important and never enough), please know that the GCSD School Board wants to hear from as many stakeholders as possible regarding all district operations and initiatives. The Board's three working committees (Budget Review Committee, Board Policy Committee, and Handbook Committee) each include parent representatives, staff representatives, an administrative representative, a Board representative, and student representatives (when applicable). Please look for emails from the district soliciting volunteers for these committees which provide recommendations to the Board and consider serving on one.

Additionally, the Board held a town hall meeting in Galena on December 3, 2018 as a way to provide an informal venue for community members to ask Board members or GCSD administrators questions about school district policies, programs, future plans, etc. The Board recognizes that our town hall meetings only provide an opportunity for our local community members to participate. To provide all district stakeholders a way to communicate directly and regularly with the GCSD School Board, the Board provides an email link located on the Board webpage located at <https://www.galenaalaska.org/school-board/>. To communicate directly with the Board, please click on the link located directly underneath "Contact the GCSD School Board."

All information regarding the GCSD School Board's work can be found at <https://www.galenaalaska.org/school-board/>. This webpage provides information about our current Board members and all Board meeting packets, which include Board meeting minutes. The GCSD Board wants to ensure that all stakeholders can easily access information pertinent to our students' educational programs.

Furthermore, school administrators live into the Board's Strategic Plan by providing regular monthly communications about Board decisions, district programs, and student learning. The

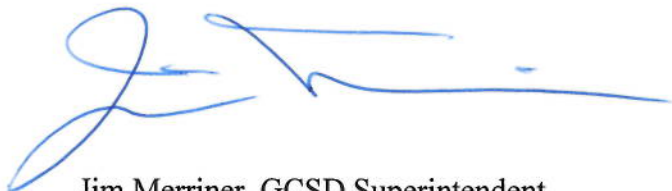
letters are emailed to all of our parent/guardian email addresses, mailed home to our parents/guardians, and posted on our school and district websites.

I will close with an attempt at some holiday cheer (from Readers Digest publication):

One Christmas my husband put an assortment of beauty products in my stocking. I tried one of the facial masks and was about to wash it off when my eight-year-old son walked in. I explained to him that it was a present from his dad and it would make me beautiful. He patiently waited by my side as I rinsed and patted my face dry. "Well, what do you think?" I asked. "Oh, Mom, it didn't work!" my son innocently replied.

Gotta love those kids! Have a blessed holiday as you savor the season with your "beautiful" friends and family!

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Merriner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Merriner, GCSO Superintendent
Email: jim.merriner@galenanet.com