

What's Happening at G.T. Norman Elementary

by David Vander Goot, Principal
G. T. Norman Elementary School

It has been a whirlwind trip so far this year at GT Norman Elementary. For the first time in over 15 years, GT. Norman is not being led by Sharon Moritz. Sharon has retired and is now thoroughly enjoying her grandchildren every day. But life goes on at Norman. I am now the new principal with Kris Griffin as the assistant principal.

So what is happening at GT. Norman?

- Universal breakfast is now supplied to all students in K-5 for free. This is a wonderful program where our students get a healthy breakfast to start the day and, we hope, do better in school. Initially our numbers were low, but now we serve approximately 400 breakfasts every day. This is great for our students.
- Family nights continue to be successful. If you haven't ever been to one and experienced the joy and excitement of learning, please plan to attend November's social studies night on November 19 beginning at 5 p.m. These are great times for parents and children. A lot of the credit for our successful Family Nights goes to Vicky Bowman who works tirelessly to secure grants and funding to make these nights a success. Just recently, Mrs. Bowman received a \$12,500 grant to continue Family Night.
- Another change to Norman this year was the adding classes in Kindergarten and 2nd grade to continue with our decision to have small class sizes to further enhance the education that our students receive. This goal of small class size is most important to us at Norman as we can reach students better and get to know them better. This allows us to better educate the children of the school. We at Norman thank the board and superintendent Westhoff for working with us on this important aspect of elementary education.

There is one more topic that needs to be addressed and this concerns education in general in the state of Michigan. We are being cut \$292 per student in November. We anticipate another cut in June of \$400. It is time that parents, grandparents, community members and students let our leaders know in Lansing that it is enough. There will massive cuts state wide in the field of education. Students beginning kindergarten will see education change dramatically by the time they are seniors in high school. We need to bring sensibility back to education. Write, email or call your state leaders. Enough is enough!

If you get the chance, come on down and visit us at Norman Elementary.