

Williamsburg Students Compete in 11th Annual “Columbus Race”

Dear Parents,

Our 11th Annual “Race Against Columbus” begins Tuesday, Sept. 6th and ends on Columbus Day, Monday, Oct. 10th. This five-week school-wide reading and exercise program for the students has been a HUGE in the past and the kids are looking forward to competing again this year. For those of you who are new to the Columbus Race, here’s the scoop:

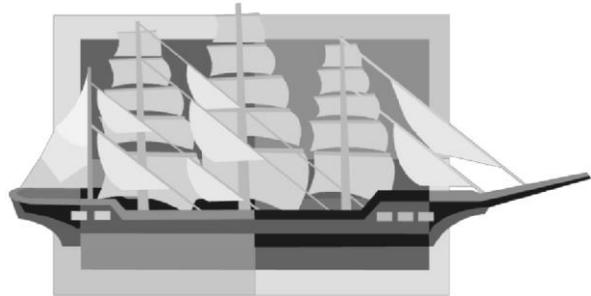
Students will be challenged to read and/or exercise outside of school each day for the next 5 weeks. Each class is a team and will have a boat that they will be sailing against Columbus. Students will earn “miles” for their class based on how many minutes they spend in reading or engaged in physical activity outside of school. Students will record the time they spend reading or exercising on a log sheet and have it “made official” by a parent signature. Once their log sheet is full, they turn it in and get a new one. Students can turn in as many sheets as they can fill during the 5 week period. I move their class boat based on the mileage they earned.

The goal is to be the class that accumulates the most miles by the time Columbus’ fleet arrives in the New World. Last year, Mr. Huffman’s 5th grade class traveled the most miles and was crowned the overall winner of the school. However, this year to encourage participation for all students, we have added separate grade level awards in addition to the overall winner!

I created this program to stress both the importance of education and fitness by encouraging your children to participate in reading and exercising at home. Continued involvement in these areas outside of school helps to better set our students up for success not only in school but in life. Help me share in the common goal of “excellence in education” here at Geneva public schools. It’s anyone’s game this year, so come join in the fun!

If you have any questions regarding the Columbus Race, please contact me!

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How can you earn miles??? Here are some examples:

Students may count any “ACTIVE” activity they do outside of school:

- Playing outside (riding bikes, tag games, hide-n-seek, jump rope, swing set, trampoline, swimming, etc...)
- Roller blading or skateboarding
- Going for a walk or jogging (walking your dog; or walking to school counts too!)
- Playing at a park
- Sports practices (soccer, gymnastics, football, baseball, karate, dance, cheerleading, etc...)

Any reading done outside of school also earns miles for your team:

- Reading to mom/dad or other adult
- Reading silently by yourself (let mom/dad know when you start and stop)
- Being read to by an adult (bedtime stories or any fun/leisure reading)

60 minutes of reading or physical activity = 10 miles earned