

# George Grant Mason School

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## Walkabout with Mr. Brown

Hello Tuxedo Families,

Can you believe that we are already through the first two months of the school year and have had our first dusting of snow?

As we return to school there are a couple of reminders that we would like to share with our families.

Please remember:

- To complete the COVID Student Questionnaire Form every morning
- While on the bus your children should move to the farthest seat back that is open and sit directly next to the window
- For parents who are dropping students off please enter on Hillside Avenue and pull up next to the cones for drop off
- All students and faculty must wear facial coverings
- Please send in extra masks, just in case
- Review with your children proper hand washing techniques
- Review with your children proper social distancing techniques
- Please make sure that students are sent in with all materials they need for the day (ex. musical instruments, lunch, etc.)
- If you need to come on campus, please make an appointment and complete the Visitor Questionnaire on the district website.
- Students are not allowed to ride any bus that is not their assigned bus.

Please make sure to check the GGM Virtual Main Office for updates and information. This can be accessed with the link below.

[GGM Virtual Main Office \(Click Here\)](#)

For the start of November, we are excited to welcome back our students in our hybrid model. From everyone at GGM we cannot wait to have our students back in our classrooms and see their smiling faces.

## Board of Education Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, November 19th at 7:00 p.m.

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## Upcoming Events

**November 2:** Annual Wreath Fundraiser begins

**November 3:** Welcome back grades 1 to 5

**November 4:** PTO Meeting

**November 11:** Veteran's Day (school closed)

**November 19:** Board of Education Meeting

**November 25:** Asynchronous Day

**November 26-27:** Thanksgiving Break (school closed)

**December 4 and 8:** School pictures

**December 4:** End of the first trimester

**December 10:** Parent-Teacher Conferences

**December 14:** School picture retakes

**December 24-January 1:** Winter Recess (school closed)

## **Pre-K: Mrs. Sayles**

Pre-K students have been working hard at home and also at school. In October, we studied nocturnal animals such as bats and owls. We read books about each animal and learned about them. We drew our owls and bats and labeled their body parts. We learned about their babies, their diets, and their habitats. We also studied pumpkins. We learned about the life cycle of a pumpkin and even measured a pumpkin. We also predicted, then tested, whether our pumpkins sank or floated. Overall, we have been learning and growing together. We learned how to mute and unmute during Google Meets and we finally got to welcome back most of our classmates in person.

## **Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush**

Kindergarten students are continuing to grow and learn in their new school and at their school at home! We have been learning about the different feelings that we have as individuals, as well as the feelings of the characters in the books we are reading. We have been reading books and talking about characters and their feelings. Kindergarten is learning that not all people like the same things or have the same feelings all the time. While students are getting used to working hard on academics by recognizing letters, practicing letter sounds, and writing short words, students are also learning daily how to be a good friend and citizen to their classmates and school community.

## **First Grade: Mrs. Matthies**

First Grade is Pressing On!

Families, first grade has been super busy pressing on! What does that look like? Although our situations have changed drastically, we continue to work hard throughout all subject areas. In reading/language arts we are working on our word reading. We have been breaking words apart to put them back together while at the same time learning the sounds to build phonemic awareness. We have been working on story structure. For example, we have been learning to dig deeper into a story and learning about the characters, the setting and events in a story. We have also been learning how to find the main idea in a story

coupled with three details that support the main idea. Additionally as we read a story, we look for story patterns within the story. For example, we look for rhyming words, we look for sound words, we look for words that repeat. These are all writing patterns that help us to understand story structure, and what makes a story fun to read. This will also help us when we write our own story summaries.

In math we are working in our Go Math books. We are on chapter 2. We are learning many different strategies to solve a math equation. We have used cubes to solve addition and subtraction problems. Recently, we have been working on modeling our math equations. What does that look like? We draw cubes, we draw circles to represent different things. We also draw bar models to help us understand and compare the bigger numbers to the smaller in our equations. We have been doing a lot of comparing the words more to fewer and using circle models to represent numbers to show the difference. It's quite challenging but so much fun. In science we are learning about plants and continue to understand how important they are to our environment. Last week we learned about each plant part and how that plant part helps the plant to survive. This week we are learning that plants like people have traits. For example, some have pretty smells like roses, and some have vibrant colors but do not smell at all. As scientists we ask questions like why. What makes a flower smell pretty while another does not? Next week we continue to learn that there are many plants that we also eat. That will be so much fun! The fall is the perfect season to discuss plants that we eat during the season such as pumpkin and carrots. In social studies we have been learning about great American symbols. We have talked about the American flag and why it is important to America. Additionally, we talked about qualities that make us a good citizen. These qualities include things such as helping a neighbor, picking up litter or even just being kind to a sibling or family member. As you can see, we have been super busy! We will continue to press on so that we continue to grow and be better citizens, scientists, mathematicians, readers, and writers.

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together". (Van Gogh)

## **Second Grade: Mrs. Blume & Ms. Klimowich**

Second Grade students have been conducting a seed investigation! Each student planted seeds in cups that were placed in direct sunlight, partial sunlight, and no sunlight at all. Every two days the students measure and water their plants and record their measurements on their data table. Although we are making sure to give the plants the same amount of water each day, there are noticeable differences in each plant due to the amount of light they are exposed to!

## **Third Grade: Ms. Stasiak**

We have been very busy in third grade! In math, we have started our study of multiplication. The students have discussed arrays, repeated addition, and equal groups; they are now starting their "Times Table Adventure." Please remind your student to practice their multiplication facts each day. In ELA, we have been working with a variety of texts from Scholastic. We have been working on answering questions with text evidence as well as comparing and contrasting. In social studies, we have started our study of the continents. Recently, we have been studying North America's climate and geography. In science, we have been studying animals and where they live. My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

## **Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota**

Fourth grade has gotten off to a great start this year! Students have been learning all about numbers, place value, multi-digit addition and subtraction in math. They have quickly grasped the concepts presented and have been able to apply them as we move through the chapter. In ELA we have been working on our writing skills. In order to prepare for Halloween, we have been working on a scary story!! The students have gotten quite creative with their thoughts. We are learning about plants and animals in science and have begun to explore some early NY history. They have all been working hard and I am very proud of them!!

## **Fifth Grade: Mrs. Tartaglione**

The fifth graders have been working hard since September. In math, students looked at place value patterns. In addition, we have worked on

multiplication and division skills with multi-digit numbers. In ELA students have been exposed to a variety of non-fiction and fiction excerpts. With a focus on adding descriptive details, students also wrote personal narratives this month. In science, students learned about ecosystems, biotic and abiotic factors, photosynthesis, adaptations, and symbiosis. Our social studies units have focused on learning about Native Americans and the impact of the Age of Exploration.

## **Spanish Class: Mrs. Golden**

In Spanish class all grades have been doing a great job! Kinder has started to learn their numbers and their greetings as well as getting into our circle time routine where we do our days of the week, months of the year, calendar, season and weather. 1st grade has practiced all their body parts in Spanish by doing worksheets, playing Simon says and head and shoulders. 2nd grade has been working on learning vocabulary about our homes. 3rd grade has been working on practicing greetings in Spanish, the seasons and now we are working on articles of clothing. 4th grade has started learning a vocabulary word each class, our word of the day, taking notes and reviewing the months of the year, celebrations in those months, writing the date all in Spanish. Lastly 5th grade has continued to learn their word of the day and reviewed giving directions and telling where things are. So proud of all of them!

## **Art: Mrs. Lyons**

We welcomed our Pre K and Kindergarten students to GGM on October 27, 2020. Pre K Art read, "Perfect Square" by Michael Hall. The students then tore, cut, and crumpled a square to create another work of art. Our Kindergarten students traced the school mascot, a tornado, and created different facial expressions for it. It's great to be creating on and offline!

## **Multi-Subject: Ms. Stokrocki**

I am new to GGM this year as a teacher. My classes have been working diligently on understanding text and applying this to their writing and verbal expression of ideas. They have also been learning new study skills to enable each student to grasp knowledge quicker and easier. Thank you for your warm welcome to Tuxedo UFSD.

## **Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly**

Update from Mrs. Donnelly's Virtual Classroom: First, I want to thank all my students' parents and caregivers for helping your children get organized and ready for distance learning every day. I am so impressed that everyone logs into my virtual classroom on time and completes their daily work – with wide smiles on their faces! The last few months have been a challenge for all of us, and your support has made the difference. While the distance learning model isn't ideal, I have found some "bright spots". My students are learning to organize their own materials. They are learning the importance of time management. They are becoming independent thinkers and learners. They are self-correcting and self-advocating. Not bad for 2nd graders! These are all important life skills that have been enhanced in the last several weeks and we will continue to develop when we return to school in the upcoming weeks.

## **Library: Mrs. Mui**

In Digital Literacy, we are off to a wonderful start! Students in Kindergarten through 5th grade are learning how to be safe and responsible when using devices. From learning how to find balance between online and offline activities to keeping private information to ourselves, students are becoming upstanding digital citizens. We are also enjoying reading online! Read e-books and audiobooks with Sora ([soraapp.com](http://soraapp.com)) or Epic! ([getepic.com](http://getepic.com)). Information to log in to Sora and Epic can be found in your child's Google Classroom. Audiobooks are also available for free through Audible Stories ([stories.audible.com](http://stories.audible.com)). If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [Valerie.Mui@TuxedoSchools.org](mailto:Valerie.Mui@TuxedoSchools.org). Happy Reading!

## **School Psychologist: Ms. Mancini**

Students have been participating in Red Ribbon week following fun themes to show support for drug awareness. Last month the PTO hosted a parent academy where I presented on tips that can be tried at home to assist with some of the challenges of remote learning. Check this out on our website! There you will also find resources for social emotional well-being to utilize for teachers, students, and parents.

## **Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro**

Students have been doing workouts from behind a camera. We have done different ways for students to do these workouts and one of the favorites is trivia. Students are split into 2 teams and have to answer a trivia question. If correct they get to pick what exercise they want the other team to do. Students will be returning soon in person where we will be continuing to do socially distanced workouts. Can't wait to have your children back in class!

## **PTO On the Go**

Hello GGM Parents! Despite the fact that the start to this school year looked markedly different, the PTO is still going strong, as we continue to be a resource and advocate for parents. In September, we held our Boo Hoo Yahoo Picnic and Welcome Back Grab and Go table for the teachers and staff. It was amazing to see the new K students (masked up, of course) and wish them well on their new adventure. In October, we had a table at Tuxedo Family Fun Day and hosted a successful Fall Fundraiser with Boon Supply. A big thank you to the parents, teachers and staff who supported us! We also hosted our first virtual Parent Academy. Thank you to all who attended, to Mr. Brown for facilitating and to Mrs. Mancini for providing an awesome presentation on developing coping skills during remote learning.

We've also decided to continue the Music Department's Annual Wreath Fundraiser at the beginning of November. Look for details in your child's backpack or on our social media pages. Also, if you haven't become a member of the PTO, and can't find your form, no worries! A copy is available on the TUFSD website, under the "Parents" section.

Finally, the PTO would like to say a special thank you to our teachers.

"Tell me and I forget; show me and I may remember; involve me and I understand." Thank you for finding creative ways to "involve" our students in remote learning. We know that it's not easy and we acknowledge you for your efforts!