

George Grant Mason School

1 Tornado Drive, Tuxedo NY 10987

Phone: (845) 351-4786

Mr. Paul Brown, Principal

email: pbrown@tuxedoufsd.org

Website: Tuxedoschools.org

Walkabout with Mr. Brown

Hello Tuxedo Families,

I hope that everyone had a great Thanksgiving Break and was able to rest and relax. As we move from the Thanksgiving Holiday and into December I would like to take a minute to thank all of our families. As you continue to navigate through these recent events you continue to support your children's education and support the Tuxedo UFSD. We appreciate the sacrifices you have made and all the hard work that has gone into make sure your children continue to learn and grow. From everyone here at GGM, we would like to wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Thanks

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 \(Click Here\)](#)

Board of Education Meeting:

The next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting will be held on Thursday, December 17th at 7:00 p.m.

Pre-K: Mrs. Sayles

Our students in PreK have been working very hard to practice our letters and our sounds. We are even learning how to do the sign language to go along with each letter that we learn. We are also practicing writing our numbers and counting groups of objects. In November we learned about our 5 senses. PreK students listened to different sounds to try to identify what they were hearing. We also touched items that felt different and described how they felt to us. We continue to practice cutting daily while holding our scissors properly.



Upcoming Events

December 1- Board of Education Workshop 7pm

December 4: End of the first trimester

December 10: Parent-Teacher Conferences

December 17- Board of Education Regular Meeting 7pm

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

January 6th- PTO Meeting 7:15pm

January 18- Martin Luther King Jr Day- No school

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Winter, spring, summer or fall....Kindergarten has been learning all about the four seasons. What kind of weather do we have? What do we see, feel and wear during the different seasons? Kindergarten can tell you all about the four seasons and how we adapt to the different seasons. We made our own four seasons book and we talked, drew and wrote about our favorite season. It was a tie between winter and summer as the favorite seasons with some fall and spring sprinkled in. No matter what the season, Kindergarten is excited to know all about it! So, if you see a Kindergartener ask them to tell you all about the four seasons.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Hello Families!

Mrs. Matthies, Mrs. Rivera and the friends have been super busy in the first grade! In ELA we have been learning about thinking strategies to help us dig deeper and better understand what we read. We have also been using many different graphic organizers to help us organize our thinking and organize how to write about what we read. In math we have been working hard on math facts and math drills. The most recent drill we are working on are doubles facts drills. Using drills to learn math facts helps us to become fluent and also helps us to solve math equations more quickly as we build that fluency. In science we have been learning about plant adaptations and how they survive in different climates. This will help us understand how animals also survive in their different environments. For example, whales survive the winters because of their blubber and how it keeps them warm. In phonics we are digging deeper into digraphs such as th, sh, and ch. We are learning to spell bigger words and we are also putting these words into sentences. In social studies we have been learning about The First Thanksgiving and why it took place. We also watched a short video about two girls and their families who continue to share how they live in their Native American tribe named the Wampanoags. The video was very informative and we are going to learn more about how the Native Americans and how they lived a long time ago.

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 are continuing our study of multiplication and relating it to division. The students have discussed the relationship between multiplication and division and have talked about how it reminds them of the relationship between addition and subtraction. In ELA, we have continued to work with a variety of texts from Scholastic. We will be starting a new unit on fables and folktales. In Social Studies, we are going to continue our study of continents, but with the Holidays quickly approaching, we will start to study Holidays around the world. In Science, we are continuing to study animals and where they live. We have already explored the tundra and the rainforest! My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has been working extremely hard these past few weeks!! We have learned several different strategies to multiply 3- and 4-digit numbers by a 1-digit number. We are continuing to grow in Math and will soon begin to multiply 2-digit by 2-digit numbers. In ELA we completed our scary stories (and scary is an apt description!!). We will be learning more about Cause and Effect and Figurative Language over the next few weeks. Students have continued to learn about the Iroquois of NY and will be using FlipGrid to present what they have learned to each other. Finally, in Science we have been learning about plants and animals. The students have been doing a wonderful job and I am so proud of them!!

Fifth Grade: Mrs. Tartaglione

November has been a busy month in fifth grade. In math, we have been working on adding, subtracting, rounding, and comparing decimals. In addition, we are always working on problem solving strategies. In ELA, the students have been reading their own books and listening to the first book in the Percy Jackson series, The Lightning Thief. This fantasy novel combines elements of modern life with the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece. Our last Social Studies unit focused on life in the original thirteen colonies and in Science students will be learning about different biomes including deserts, rain forests, and tundra.

Spanish Class: Mrs. Golden

Spanish classes in GGM are continuing with their units and practicing their conversation skills and Spanish vocabulary. They are all doing awesome work and progressing nicely! Buen trabajo chicos!

Art: Mrs. Lyons

Preschoolers are adding to their skills as artists. They created snail bodies with colorful patterns in crayon. After that they painted black watercolor over the crayon for a resist technique. They thought it was like "magic". Well worth the mess!! Thanks to Mrs. Hekl and Mrs. Fiat for their assistance with a lively bunch of artists.

Multi-Subject: Ms. Stokrocki

Hello Tuxedo UFSD families! We have been working hard in our ELA and Study Skills classes, reading various text genres and improving writing skills. Our Study Skills class has enabled students to work on assignments, reread, and gain deeper understanding of the reading material beyond our ELA class to give each of them some extra help where needed and gain more confidence in their abilities. Thanks for all your continued support, you are amazing parents with amazing children.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Update from Mrs. Donnelly's Virtual Classroom: It was wonderful to see everyone in person during November! While it saddens me that I need to teach remotely for the next few weeks, I am

determined to still have some holiday fun – with a remote teaching twist.

In the month of December, my 2nd graders will be reading and comparing/contrasting a variety of fables and fairy tales. They will then write their own fable or fairy tale with Lego StoryStarter kits. Students will have 3 platforms for a beginning, middle and ending of their tales. They will then use Lego bricks (from my vast Lego collection!) to create characters, settings and dramatic plots for their tales. After the fun of planning their stories, they will write their stories. It should be a wonderful, creative way learn about fables and fairy tales!

A big belated Thanksgiving thank-you to Mrs. Martin and her "delivery elves" for delivering my materials to my students several times a month. Be on the look-out for your Lego kit delivery soon!

Library: Mrs. Mui

In Digital Literacy, we are gearing up for Computer Science Education Week! Computer Science Education Week runs from December 7-13. During the month of December, we will be working on exciting coding projects. Code.org is a great resource that makes coding accessible at all abilities and grade levels. It provides links to many different coding apps and websites such as Scratch and CodeSpark. We cannot wait to show you what we create! Happy Coding!

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

This month we welcomed student back into physical education in person! In class we continued to do workouts on this time with a bit of a twist. Students were playing a trivia game where they would test their knowledge against the rest of the class to have the power to give their classmates an exercise to do! Students in person would test their knowledge against the students in the cohort that would be home. With us now transitioning back home, students will be back to doing workouts from behind the computer. We will be counting down the days till the students return once again.

Music

Greetings from the music room with Ms. Rao!

Grade Pre K - 5 and ensembles of orchestra and choir overall included with their lessons weekly, will be learning and reviewing, reading a music staff, rhythm patterns, notes, note values, how to create and have fun with music anywhere they go. It is my strong belief that everyone is musical, we all express and perform in our own ways.

As the Pre K, K, and 1st grade are learning to grow and learn about feelings of characters in books, new words, and overall new beginnings, we are working on basic music words while we play instruments like soft and loud "piano and forte", fast and slow "presto and largo". When students learn to combine characters in stories they are reading along with the emotion of playing and expressing music, they are masters of their own music! This will be a focus during music time the entire school year.

As the 2nd grade learns about percussion instruments, there will be incorporation of a song titled "It's a Rainy Day" to tap into their prior knowledge of learning about plants and the living environment of those plants.

3rd, 4th and 5th grade students will also be joining in on percussion instruments and learning how to play steady beats as soloists, duets, and more! The plan is to tap into their prior knowledge of reading the music staff and further enhance their experience, and possibly work toward writing their own poetry to put to a musical melody!

The ensembles for orchestra and chorus will be working on several songs with great opportunities to work toward self goals as well as required ones. The students are each so very talented and I am so excited to have this time with them to work on a virtual performance and hopefully more!

PTO On the Go

Thank you to everyone who purchased a holiday wreath to support our music department! We sold a record number this year! The PTO also held our second Parent Academy this month, which featured a roundtable discussion with Mrs. Blume, Mrs. Rota, Mrs. Rush and Mrs. Sayles. It was an insightful and honest discussion and we are grateful to all who participated. The link is posted on social media for anyone who missed it so give it a listen when you have a moment. Keep an eye out for our spirit wear sale coming in December, which will feature new items such as hats and blankets. Finally, we'd like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful holiday season. We look forward to seeing you all in 2021! (Fingers crossed.)