

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,

In 1926 a Harvard trained historian named Carter G. Woodson conceived an idea to celebrate and raise awareness of contributions made by African Americans. This celebration took place during a week in February that encompassed Frederick Douglass's and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays. In 1976, 50 years after the first celebration and 200 years after the birth of the United States, the celebration was expanded to a month and now every February we celebrate Black History Month.

During this month we will continue the tradition of commemorating Black History Month at GGM. In our classrooms we will study many of the contributions that African Americans have made to history and our society. We will take time to remember, educate, and celebrate the achievements of African Americans in our country.

PTO On the Go

Our teachers were so appreciative of the holiday gifts we sent out before break. Thank you again to everyone who helped us make that happen.

Earlier this month, the PTO partnered with Ms. Scariano in presenting Moving Forward with Ms. Scariano where parents had an opportunity to hear more about our interim superintendent's background and plans to move the district forward in a positive direction. We will continue to work with Ms. Scariano to set up parent meetings each month. Please check our Facebook page regularly for updates on meeting dates and times as well as other PTO events.

Our next PTO meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, February 3 at 7:15 pm. First on the agenda is an opportunity to meet Ms. Nicole Clark, our new school psychologist. Please tune in to learn more about her and her role at GGM and GFB.

Finally, students and teachers were greeted with balloons in the school lobbies to welcome them back after the extended Holiday Pause. It gives us great joy to spread a little sunshine and smiles during this challenging time!



Upcoming Events

February 2-5 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Day (Crimson Cohort is In-Person)

February 3 PTO Meeting at 7:15pm

February 5 Picture Day (Crimson Cohort)

February 9 Picture Day (Gray Cohort)

February 8 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

February 9-12 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Day (Gray Cohort is In-Person)

February 1 Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7pm

February 15-19 Presidents' Week – No school

February 22 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

February 9-12 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Day (Crimson Cohort is In-Person)



Pre-K: Mrs. Sayles

PreK students have been continuing to work on writing their names. We practice several times a day. We are also studying a letter a week. We are all the way up to the letter "u." We practice writing the uppercase letters and we practice each letter sound every day. In math we count our days of school out loud by tens. We practice writing and counting to 20. We are studying the animal groups: mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, and insects. We are working to classify animals based on their characteristics.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to learn every single day! We have been learning something new about our school community since September! We started off the New Year learning all about community helpers! We have been talking and learning about the helpers from right here in our school to the helpers in our wonderful town, including our police officers, dentists, sanitation workers, and even ourselves! In January, Kindergarten took a virtual field trip to see how our school community helper, the school nurse, helps us here at school. Mrs. Castricone demonstrated some of the many ways she helps students and staff here at school. Kindergarten enjoyed learning about the ways our very own community helper takes care of us when we are not feeling well! We are especially thankful for all of the community helpers who keep us safe and healthy!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Welcome, Families!

Can you believe we are already in the month of February? I can't! We have been so busy in the first grade! In ELA we have been writing, writing, writing! We are learning how to write sentences with more details. Recently, we have discussed Martin Luther King Jr. and Black History Month and some of the activities we will be working on. One of the activities includes writing a short book report on one of the many Black scientists we will be learning about. All the writing we will be doing will help us with the upcoming book report. We are also

learning how to find facts and document the information. This helps us when we are learning how to research something specific. For example, we will be working on animal projects soon and this will help us understand how to search for factual information to document and discuss. In math we are subtracting numbers over ten! Can you believe it? We were just learning how to make a ten a few weeks ago and now we are subtracting numbers over ten using the "Make a Ten" strategy and ten frames! In science we are learning how to research animals and use the information to make a project we can share with the rest of the class. In social studies we are learning how the voting system in our country works. We are going to learn about the the three branches of government and how they help our country function. Phonics has been super busy with words that begin with letter "s" blend sounds and the long "u" sound. For example, spot, smile, and sweat as well as cute, cube, and huge. As you can see we have been super busy learning so much! Thank you for all of your support families! All this learning would not be possible without all of your help! First grade sends a big thank you to all!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume & Ms. Klimowich

Since the beginning of the year second graders have been working diligently on their math fact fluency. Math fact fluency is being able to solve one-digit addition and subtraction problems quickly. This has made solving 2 and 3-digit addition and subtraction equations so much easier and faster! We are continually impressed with the math work the students are doing in school and from home.

Second graders were able to go on a virtual field trip to The American Museum of Natural History to view the Butterfly Conservatory. What a delight on these cold, wintery days! While visiting the conservatory, second graders observed many different types of butterflies by noticing their patterns and colors. Mrs. Lyons then taught them how to draw a butterfly! Can you spot patterns in nature? Patterns are everywhere!

Third Grade: Ms. Stasiak

Wow, it is hard to believe we are halfway through the year! In math, we will be continuing our study of area and perimeter. We will take a closer look at all the ways to solve for area and perimeter and discuss what to do if we have irregular shapes. To celebrate Black History Month, we will explore biographies and informational texts in ELA. Then we will be creating a book of facts to show what we know! In social studies, we are studying the United States. We have discussed the Northeast and we will now be studying the Southeast. In Science, we are studying space. We have discussed the sun and the moon. The students are very excited to continue their study of space and explore the planets. My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has been hard at work!! Students have learned all about factors, multiples, and patterns in math. It is a fun chapter! We are now moving into division and after that we will spend some time exploring fractions. In ELA we will be reading a variety of different texts and working on a research project in order to celebrate Black History Month. Students will also be using their knowledge of the Iroquois to create a FlipGrid to share with the class. Finally, in science, we have begun to learn about the states of matter. The students are doing a great job!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finfrock

In 5th grade, we have been working very diligently on multiplying decimals. We have also begun reading non-fiction texts and learning about how text features help us to understand the text more deeply. In social studies we have been learning about the causes of the American Revolution and reading *Ben and Me*, a novel about Benjamin Franklin and his mouse friend. We are looking forward to doing research projects about different African American figures in history and their impact on today's world.

Spanish Class: Mrs. Golden

Wow and just like that it is Febrero/February. I am so proud of all my students and how hard they have been working and adjusting to so many changes. They all have such great dispositions and beautiful smiles ready to greet me. It has been great to see so many in person again!

Kinder: Will continue learning their alphabet in Spanish. We are building a virtual word wall as well as learning the sounds of each letter and learning to put them together with the vowels we already know to start sounding out words in Spanish.

First: Has continued to learn classroom objects vocabulary. They really got it down! We will end the chapter soon and finish with a fun "En mi mochila" (in my backpack) project.

Second: We are completing our "la familia" unit. Some students have created family trees to share with the class. Soon we will be starting our new unit "Mis amigos" where we will learn to describe people using descriptive vocabulary.

Third: Is focusing on completing the unit for "la ropa" and soon we will combine "la ropa" and "las estaciones" to start talking about the weather and what type of clothes we wear depending on the weather.

Fourth: We are now putting our time telling skills into practice by combining them with school subjects and school schedules. Students are learning to talk about the classes they take in school and what time those classes are.

Fifth: We finished our "el dinero" unit. Students learned how to read prices, ask how much something is, and even calculate their total and or change when purchasing. Now we are moving into our new chapter "la enfermeria" this chapter will focus on reviewing body parts and also will teach how to say when something hurts, or how we are feeling.

I can't wait to see all grades continue to expand and master their Spanish speaking, reading and writing skills.

Art: Mrs. Lyons

The month of January, pre-K, kindergarten, grades 1, 2, and 3 studied the work of artist Georgia O'Keefe. We created pictures of the desert in warm colors. We drew a cow's skull with horns and painted a patterned background. Lastly, we created a floral drawing. Grade 4 worked on drawing different arctic animals and grade 5 is working on perspective

drawing. We will be looking at the works of Romare Bearden, Kehinde Wiley, Betye Saar, Faith Ringgold and Jacob Lawrence during the month of February.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

This past month my 2nd grade students and I have been experimenting with a new feature on Google Meet called "break out rooms". I assign small groups of students to a "breakout room" with a time limit to work on a task together. For example, they might need to complete 3 addition problems together within a 3-minute time limit. As the teacher, I can "listen in" to their conversation to make sure they are completing the task correctly and comment, if necessary. This basically re-creates small groups working in my physical classroom together, but online.

Not only do the students love breakout rooms, they really work so well together comparing answers and helping each other – even without my support! It is so nice to "eavesdrop" and hear them guiding and encouraging each other! They are also eager to work independently in the breakout rooms, which is my ultimate goal – independence!

Multi-Subject: Ms. Stokrocki

Our class has been determining themes within stories and poems, author's purpose, and exploring our social/emotional responses to these themes. We have also explored informative text and text features in the presentation of factual information. It's great to be back in our school building and thank you for all your support!

Library: Mrs. Mui

February is a month filled with holidays! In Digital Literacy we will continue to celebrate our diversity and learn through both fiction and nonfiction texts. During Black History Month we will read biographies and study the hardships endured and perseverance shown by those who have fought for equal rights for all. We will continue to read biographies as we honor the leadership of our presidents, both past and present. Students will also be able to share their traditions and make personal connections as we

celebrate Groundhog Day, Lunar New Year, and Valentine's Day.

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

We have transitioned back to hybrid again. Students are still doing exercises both in school and at home. Students will also occasionally do some yoga. Looking forward to seeing everyone back in school in their cohorts!

Music

Greetings from Ms. Rao's Music Class!

All the musical days have been filled with fun...here is what's new.

Pre K and K are working hard on their rhythm, counting and resting on beats and musical rests. The K will be using their newly made maracas to explore percussion instruments and how they make sound and rest. Pre K will begin their maraca making in the first week of February as well!

First and Second Grade are working steady beats and finding great musical melodies to sing along to!

Third, Fourth, and Fifth grades are continuing their work on their MUSIC FAMILIES of instruments and taking the extra step of familiarizing themselves on those instruments and when they hear them in songs. Grade 3-5 is working on a MUSIC COMMERCIAL timeline project where they are researching music commercials and the music heard in them. They will think about and identify instruments and singing and explain how they feel that the music helps sell the product from various decades from the 1950's -1990's.

CHORUS is working on STAND BY ME and ELEANOR RIGBY to sing for a virtual concert coming up!

ORCHESTRA is working on great tunes like Eleanor Rigby, Greensleeves, and more, and their goal is to have something recorded virtually to send out to our community by February with the chorus included!