

George Grant Mason School

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Walkabout with Mr. Brown

Hello Tuxedo Families,

As we transition out of February and Black History Month, we move into March, which celebrates the accomplishments of women throughout history. Women's History Month began as a national celebration in 1981 when Congress authorized and requested the President to proclaim the week beginning March 7, 1982 as "Women's History Week." In 1987 the Notional Women's History Project petitioned Congress to designate the month of March as "Women's History Month." From this date forward we have celebrated the contributions women have made to the United States and recognized the specific achievements women have made over the course of American history. As we celebrate the positive influences and impacts the great women throughout history have made, we encourage our students to follow in their footsteps and achieve the skills, goals, and knowledge that we know our students are capable of.

PTO On the Go

Last month the PTO created a Classroom Fun Fund to provide fun and functional supplies for our teachers to use with their students. So far we've raised more than \$500! Thank you to all of the parents who donated to our Fun Fund. If you'd still like to contribute, please visit <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/classroom-fun-fund-24079>.

In March, we'll be running another Spirit Wear sale, which will include some new items (Leggings! Cropped hoodies! Joggers!) In addition to our virtual monthly meeting on March 3rd at 7pm (<https://meet.google.com/iik-suoi-wye>) we'll also host a combined Parent Academy/Moving Forward with Ms. Scariano on Tuesday, March 16th at 7pm. We hope to see you there!



Upcoming Events

March 2-5 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Days (Gray Cohort is In-Person)

March 2 Picture Day (Gray Cohort)

March 2 Board of Education Workshop at 7pm

March 3 SAT (11th Grade)

March 3 PTO Meeting at 7:15pm

March 5 Progress Report Period 3 ends for Grades 5-12

March 8 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

March 9-12 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Days (Crimson Cohort is In-Person)

March 15 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

March 16-19 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Days (Gray Cohort is In-Person)

March 17 PTO Parent Academy and Moving Forward with Ms. Scariano 7pm

March 18 Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7pm

March 22 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

March 23-26 Synchronous Hybrid Learning Days (Gray Cohort is In-Person)

March 29-April 5 Spring Recess

Pre-K: Mrs. Sayles

Pre-K is looking forward to learning in March. We will continue to study different groups of animals. We will learn about reptiles, amphibians, fish, and insects. Pre-K students will also be planting something in our classroom for a St. Patrick's Day surprise! We will continue to learn about our capital letters. We are almost finished with the whole alphabet!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

What do you need? What do you want? We all have needs and wants! Kindergarten will be learning all about needs and wants – we will be learning that all of our basic needs are all the same, but the things we want are different. We all need food to eat, but do we NEED that ice cream? In Kindergarten we will see that the things we need to survive are few, but we can certainly make a long list of things that we want, as we read in If You Give a Mouse a Cookie. Kindergarten is also realizing that we are lucky to have all the things we need and we are just as lucky to often earn the rewards of the things we want! From wanting more recess to wanting a new bike, Kindergarten is noticing that they don't NEED these things, but they want them. Kindergarten is beginning to understand that they need to work hard to get the things they want.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Can you believe we are already in the month of March? We have been extremely busy this past month working on our animal projects! The students completed their projects and then presented their projects to the class. The presentations were wonderful and the students had so much fun! We learned facts about all kinds of animals such as the polar bear, sea lion and even goldfish! We all had so much fun. In ELA, we will be learning about ourselves and the many skills we have! We will discuss different things we can do such as chores and cooking and even singing and dancing! In conjunction with the lessons, we will have a talent show! I can't wait! This will be so much fun! The students will have the opportunity to showcase their skill; whatever that may be. They can sing,

dance or even just make a peanut butter and jelly sandwich! In math, we are really diving into subtraction word problems. The friends are getting good at subtraction math. We are beginning to subtract numbers over 10! I have introduced the Math Jeopardy game in the classroom to help them retain what they learn. They love it! They have the opportunity to challenge themselves and solve the word problems for a large amount of points! The friends cheer each other on and help each other solve the problem! It demonstrates the fantastic teamwork this class has! I am so very proud of all of them! :) In science, we will be learning about the seasons and how the temperature changes from one season to the next. We will learn how the change of seasons affects everything from the clothes we wear to how the sun rises and sets. It will also help us to understand dark and night and the moons different stages. In social studies, we continue to learn about the three branches of government and each role they have! We will learn how all of this is relevant to us as Americans. Last but not least, it is March! We cannot forget the celebration of St. Patrick's Day! We will learn about the real St. Patrick and why we celebrate him every year and why he so important to American culture!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume & Ms. Klimowich

During the month of March, second grade students will be learning about Mars! After the recent landing of the NASA Perseverance Rover, the students will be planning their own "mission" to the planet! The students will use the Engineering Design Process to plan and create a prototype of a parachute modeled after the parachute that was used in the recent NASA mission! The classes will brainstorm and sketch ideas for the design, create a model and make improvements to their prototype after testing it.

Third Grade: Ms. Stasiak

I can't believe we are already in the month of March. Let's hope Spring weather is on the way! In Math, we will start to study Fractions. We will define what a fraction is, as well identify different fractions using fraction blocks and pictures. In ELA, we will also

start a new unit, Life Depends on Water . We will read and analyze texts about the oceans. Similarly in Science, we will study the oceans! We will discuss how to preserve the oceans, as well as all the creatures that live there. In Social Studies, we will explore economics by discussing the topic of Trading and Bartering. My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade had a productive February. The students are wrapping up Black History Month by completing a research project on Influential Leaders. Each student has been assigned a different historical figure and will conduct research to prepare on that individual. We have also been working on our writing and responding to questions by practicing the RACE strategy. It's a great tool to help students organize their written responses. In Math we are finishing up our division chapter and will soon begin working on fractions This is a large portion of our Fourth Grade Math curriculum, so we will be working on this for some time. In Science we are just starting to learn about the Water Cycle and the importance of water in our lives. Finally, Third, Fourth, Fourth, and Fifth Grade worked together to create a bulletin board for the school - our theme was "All You Need is Love". The students did a great job!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finfrock

I am so proud of how our Biography projects turned out! I am so impressed with the students' research and hard work! We are moving into a science unit on space, just in time for the Mars Rover landing. We have also moved into dividing decimals. In ELA we are still reading informational texts and looking at answering questions using the RACES strategy. Please feel free to ask the students what RACES stands for and maybe they'll even use the strategy to answer you.

Spanish Class: Mrs. Golden

All grades are continuing to work hard in their respective units and we are putting to use our Spanish language skills with our One School One Book: Stella Diaz has something to say.

Art: Mrs. Lyons

GGM Art during the month of March will explore some women artists. We will look at artist Yayoi Kusama, more Betye Saar, Celtic knots and one point perspective combined with Surrealism.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

The GGM Yearbook Club is always looking for photos to be included in this year's one-of-a-kind yearbook. You can send in photos of what distance learning looks like in your families – from attending Google Meets on Chromebooks/iPads, to completing at home learning projects to cuddling with pets while "in class". If you send in photos, you give the GGM Yearbook Club permission to use the photos in the 2021 GGM Yearbook. Please attach to an email addressed to: ndonnelly@tuxedoufsd.org. Thank you for your support of the GGM Yearbook!

Multi-Subject: Ms. Stokrocki

Our class has been reading non-fiction articles on famous people, crime scene investigation, and fossilized insects. We are learning how to make inferences from our background knowledge and what we read. It's so exciting to see what good writers we are!

Library: Mrs. Mui

March is National Reading Month! Here at GGM, we have a lot to celebrate! We will be kicking off National Reading Month with our Read Across America celebration taking place March 5th-March 9th. Dress up as your favorite story character on March 5th, submit a "shelfie" through Google Classroom on March 8th, and cozy up to a good book and wear pajamas on March 9th. Throughout the month of March, we will have a March Madness Book Tournament to see which book is our GGM favorite! Every student will be going home with Stella Diaz Has Something to Say, our selection for our One School One Book program, along with a calendar to follow as the whole school reads the book together. Help us create a community of readers by signing up here to be a Mystery Virtual Guest Reader in your child's class through Google Meet or by prerecording a read aloud. We look forward to your virtual visit!

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

Students at home have been working out online and in person for the younger grades. For the older students they have been learning soccer games through life sized foosball. This allows for students to learn basic skills soccer skills while maintaining social distancing. In the coming weeks we are looking to start doing a variation of miniature golf.

Music

So for the music department here, we have been busy musicians indeed!

Pre K and K

Students are beginning to work on tempos and rhythm patterns using their homemade instruments ie: Maracas and soon to be guitars! The development of linking stories to musical sound effects is our task for this month. The musical connection is so much fun and exercises the students creativity!

1st and 2nd grade

Students are beginning to work on sound effects with their homemade instruments and learning how to read musical notes that are a result of patterns the teacher creates as well as what they create. Students have been learning to dance the "cha cha" with their instruments in hand.

3rd

Students are learning how to write musical note patterns and then walking, dancing, tapping, and clapping their own original rhythm patterns. Students are working on a music timeline project that helps them listen to different instrumentation and how it describes a product sale or helps to create a product to be sold in a commercial. Students will create a power point of their findings.

4th

Students are learning how to read music and apply those notes to various rhythm patterns they create. This will lead to music writing and poetry. Students are working a music commercial timeline project that will enhance their research skills on music and the change occurring decade to decade in historical musical. Students music timeline project will showcase commercials they have found to be interesting because of the music.

5th

Students are learning how to develop their own musical knowledge by researching music of the decades in commercials that use music to sell their product. This is a lengthy project that will keep them involved with creating their own musical commercial eventually while adding their own music created post learning how to make music in a music program we are using with voice and audio on the chrome books. Students are continuously learning how to read music as well as sharpen their rhythm skills linked to musical notes, phrases, and written patterns that the teacher gives them to explore weekly.

Orchestras are learning a great deal about music transposing by studying the great Burt Bacharach's musical style and how he is known for music key change in his writing. With this there is great reflection on wonderful songs of the past "What the world needs now sung by Dionne Warwick, as well as songs sung by the Carpenters". The students are learning a modern song as well as dipping into these classics for a better understanding of how music key changes happen in music no matter the decade and the need for it is the same. Students are preparing for a virtual concert and submitting home made videos of their work with a backing track provided by the teacher playing piano for them to follow.

Choir students are learning about singing in harmony, and solo work for melody accuracy. Choir students are learning about pitch and their own relative and perfect pitch to develop. Choir students are preparing for a virtual concert and pairing up with one another to sing and act some of the lyrics for an effect that will give a new twist to the performance concert for this Spring. Students have been submitting homemade videos to show their new abilities as well as sing along to a backing track that was created by the teacher for accuracy on a song to be performed with the orchestra.