

A letter from the Principal

Dear GFB,

Every March Women's History Month is celebrated in which we are reminded of the great accomplishments of women throughout history. What makes these accomplishments especially remarkable is that they were achieved despite what beliefs and preconceived notions others held of them by society at that time. It is important to note that both the conscious and unconscious beliefs behind these stereotypes, have a proven impact on achievement: stereotypes can influence how we see each other and ourselves, our abilities and our potential for greatness.

Dr. Claude Steele, in his 2012 work, *Whistling Vivaldi*, defines stereotype threat as, "the threat of being viewed through the lens of a negative stereotype, or the fear of doing something that would inadvertently confirm that stereotype." His work, grounded in numerous studies of achievement, supports the claim that how we see ourselves and the subtle messages we receive through society and interactions with others influences how we see our abilities and impacts the actions we do or do not take.

Our social identities are shaped in many different ways and with each comes expectations and biases (both conscious and unconscious) that are reinforced by society.

There are many different perspectives and theories on identity development and it's important to note that each journey is an individualistic one as no one person's experience is the same as another's.

As we transition from Black History Month to Women's History Month, I encourage us to consider the identities (and intersectionality of identities) of each celebrated individual. Think about what each individual had to encounter and push past in order to rise in their fields to achieve greatness.

This month's newsletter of happenings and highlights is organized by subject area. In addition to updates across the school, you will find short biographies on some remarkable women to celebrate this month. We celebrate not only their accomplishments but how they defied the expectations society placed on them to make their mark in history and carve better paths forward for future generations.

May their contributions remind you of your resilience and the importance of staying true to yourself. You are all capable of greatness with your future full of possibility and we're all here to cheer you on.

My very best,
Ms. Scariano

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DID YOU KNOW?

March 8th
International Women's Day

This day celebrates the advancement of women's rights throughout the world

CONNECTIONS

Digital Literacy with Ms. Mui

During Black History Month, students in Grade 7 read *The Undeclared* by Newbery Medal winning author Kwame Alexander and discussed what it meant to be "undeclared." Students then chose an influential figure from the book, conducted a mini research project about their life, and created a poster to share in our class gallery of *The Undeclared*.

Think & Reflect:

How might this story have been different if Kwame was a woman instead of a man?

HISTORY, GOVERNMENT & SOCIAL STUDIES @ GFB

A window into what students are learning across Ms. Jones' classes:

US History survived the Civil War and Reconstruction. We are currently exploring the West and experiencing the Gilded Age.

Global I has been studying the glory of Ancient Rome and the birth of Christianity. We are about to plunge into the Middle Ages.

Global II just left the trenches of WWI and is about to invade France and Russia in WWII.

AP Psychology did parent interviews and an "All about Me" project as part of Developmental Psychology.

Economics has been examining Macroeconomics and the US Budget by examining the allocation of funds and the causes of poverty in America.

Ms. Maretzo, History Student-Teacher, shares on the latest edition to our hallways:



"As part of the History department, we created this bulletin board to welcome back students into a hybrid learning setting. "We Are Better Together" reminds us that we are a community, even if we had to be separated physically due to COVID-19. The students, both virtual and in person, have made the student teaching experience amazing."

Mr. Fitzsimmons gives us a glimpse into the discussions his students are going deeper with:

US History 8 is exploring how the United States acquired territories across the world before we dive into the trenches of the Western Front in WWI.

US History 7 is trekking across the Louisiana Territory as we learn about the "revolution" ushered in by Thomas Jefferson and his Democratic-Republican Party.

AP Government is fresh off of an analysis of one of the great works of political science and sociology, *Democracy in America* by Alexis de Tocqueville. With this analysis of the core principles of American political life, we are discussing how citizens develop a political consciousness and what factors influence ideological development.

Grade 6 takes a journey back in time to the time of the ancient Greeks. Through both ELA and Social Studies, students make connections and build their knowledge on classic mythology and Greek society. Ms. Gissonna shares her excitement on this unit:

"Super Sixth Graders just finished the ever-exciting, popular novel, The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan. Percy Jackson, the main character, after discovering he is a demigod (half-human, half Greek god), goes on a quest of a lifetime to prove his innocence to Zeus, and prevent a war between the gods. A thrilling novel from start to finish as many thought-provoking questions were pondered!"

In Social Studies the students studied about the Ancient Greeks and their civilizations including their polytheism beliefs, famous philosophers and warriors, and their many contributions still practiced today. They have learned that our democratic government, trial by jury, and our Olympics have all originated with the Ancient Greeks including the architectural details of our GFB building. Curious about more? Just ask a super sixth grader!"

WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

Sonia Sotomayor

A Hispanic woman who grew up in a black and brown, low income neighborhood in the Bronx, New York, during a time when black and brown students from low income households were though less intelligent than their peers. This "poor girl from the Bronx" went on to study at Princeton and Yale and become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice

WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

A married mother of two children who pursued a law degree to become a lawyer during a time when women were expected to stay home full-time and take care of their husband and family. She went on to become a U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

SCIENCE & MATH @ GFB

In Ms. McGowan's class, Living Environment students got their craft on and made three dimensional cell models this past month! Each student was allowed to choose their materials and use their own creativity to represent each different part of a basic cell. Here are just a few of the great models that were made!!!

WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

*Katherine Johnson
Dorothy Vaughan
Mary Jackson*

Three Black women who made history for their accomplishments at NASA in the male-dominated fields of math, science and engineering during a time of racial segregation and the view of women as being inferior to men.

Mr. Sullivan shares on what students have been up to in Math Lab: "This month we finished our exploration of ratios and percents. We spent time learning about and discussing how these math skills are important to everyday life. Students practiced real-life skills such as calculating tips, sale prices, and profits. We are now shifting into tackling algebraic equations."

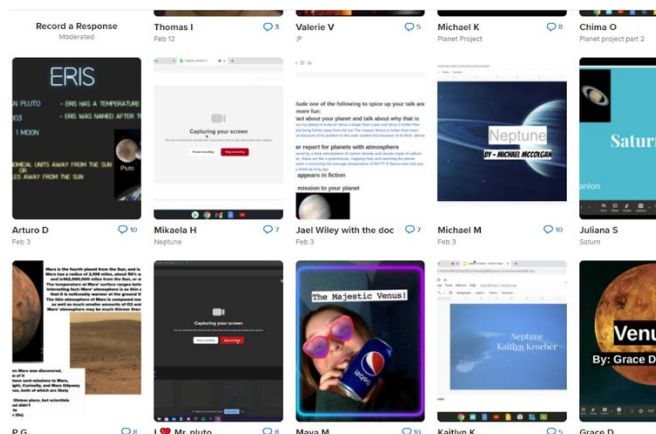
Ms. Sobel's Calculus and Statistic classes take students deeper with mathematics: AP Calculus: Students learned how to use the first and second derivatives of functions to analyze the relative extrema and concavity of those functions. AP Statistics: Students learned how to perform inference on categorical data by creating and interpreting confidence intervals for sample proportions. They studied ways in which such data can be biased and how we can improve both the accuracy and precision of their estimates.

Students make models of animal cells in Living Environment:



Mr. Roessel takes students out of this world in Astronomy class:

"In our astronomy elective, we've been learning about different objects in our solar system. Students recently recorded brief presentations on a planet or dwarf planet of their choosing and shared them on a video recording/sharing platform called Flipgrid. They watched each other's' videos and left comments and questions, which the creators then responded to. We're currently working on a similar project about moons in our solar system."



Student choice and voice in digital astronomy projects

WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

Temple Grandin

A woman with Autism who advanced the field of animal science. Temple grew up during a time when children with disabilities, such as Autism, were sent away to live in separate institutions, and during a time when women were thought less intelligent than men. Temple is known for the quote, "Different, not less."

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH (STEM)

Mr. Margotta's Technology and Engineering Class:

Over the past weeks the 7th graders worked on creating presentations on types of Technology. They were able to research, identify and find examples to compile a presentation which they would eventually later present the class.

There are also several students designing and testing out their engineering designs for whiteboxlearning.com an extension activity for many students to complete along with their weekly assignments.



Student designs with Whitebox learning

GFB STUDENT COUNCIL APPLIES DESIGN PRINCIPLES TO SNOWMAN BUILDING EVENT

We were able to host our first (socially-distanced) snowman building! The Middle School and High School Student Council came together to enjoy outdoor activities and build snowmen. These can be seen near the flagpole. Thank you to Mr. Reilly, Mr. Brunner, and Mr. Roessel for your participation!

Check out Student Council advisors, Ms. Castellanos, Ms. Park & Mr. Fitzsimmons in the snow for learning and fun!



THE ARTS @ GFB

Spring Musical Update from Mr. Chan:

This year we are putting on the musical "The Wedding Singer." The students have already begun rehearsal and will be filming a production that will be shown virtually.

Opening night is May 7th at 7pm! The show will also be available on demand until May 6th 2022.

Tickets can be purchased on the streaming site, link to come!



WOMEN TO CELEBRATE

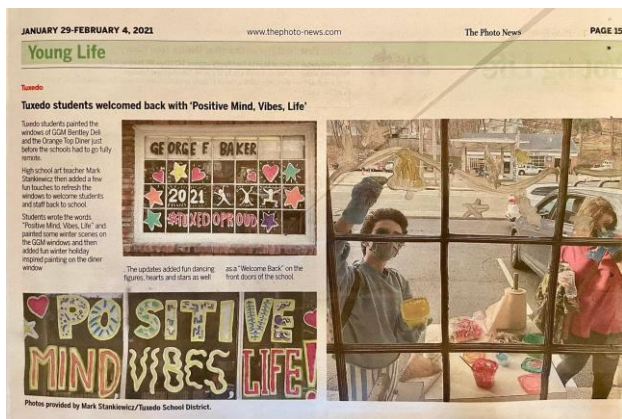
Misty Copeland

The first Black woman promoted to principal dancer for the prestigious American Ballet Theatre in 2015. Throughout her career as a Black ballet dancer Misty faced discrimination because of the color of her skin. She was once told she would have to lighten the color of her skin to fit in with the other dancers and said no.



Mr. Stankiewicz and GFB students painted windows around the community, to add a little brightness during these times. The painting on the GGM, The Orange Top Diner, and Bentley's Deli windows was done before we went home at Thanksgiving and updated for our return in January.

GFB IN THE NEWS!



ENGLISH & LITERATURE @ GFB

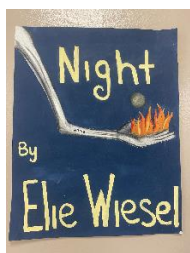
English classes with Ms. Hines:

9/10 Honors: The Honors class just wrapped up the novel Perks of Being a Wallflower, which truly examines the figurative saying, “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

We will be delving into the intricate Holocaust survival story of Elli in I Have Lived a Thousand Years, which is both chock full of suspense for our narrator as well as a heart wrenching true tale. The class will also learn the backstory of some of the locations detailed in the book, such as the Nagymagyar Ghetto and Auschwitz.

English 11: The class just finished Hawthorne’s heartbreaking tale of The Scarlet Letter and the purgatory that was Hester Prynne’s life for many years. They looked into the lives of what it meant to be a Puritan in the New World, and the strict rules people had to follow.

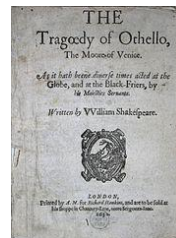
The class will now also turn to the Holocaust, reading Night, the true story of Elie Wiesel and his courage in surviving that never-ending darkness.



SAT/ACT Prep: Students are working hard reviewing topics and taking practice parts of the SAT exam to prep for their test!

AP Language with Ms. Park: This month, we focused on 1 on 1 meetings to emphasize opportunities and strengths of writing. Students also participated in multiple choice practice in a timed setting. They have studied new vocabulary and strategies to implement into writing.

English 12: The seniors have been getting their Shakespeare on! They are currently nearing the culminating act of Othello, a play plagued by jealousy, backstabbing, and murder! The students have been wonderful with reading different character parts and putting emphasis in their “stage voice!”



Science Fiction: After wrapping up a great half year of Survival, where we read Alas, Babylon and perused different methods and stories of how to survive in the wild, the group switches over to the Science Fiction half of the course.

We just started Stephen King’s The Mist, a harrowing tale of monsters, mayhem, and alternate dimensions in a Maine setting. What lurks in the mist is truly terrifying!



Reading and Writing Lab: The current creative writing project centers on creating a short story from a picture of choice. It is up to them whether their story culminates at the image they chose, or if that is the origin of the story, or somewhere in between!

The class has really done well with creative thinking and expression in their work this year!

OUT & ABOUT @ GFB

SRA. CASTELLANOS & SPANISH CLASSES:

All Spanish classes spent a period creating Valentine's Day cards in Spanish. We made over 75 cards! The cards were delivered to US Representative Sean Maloney for distribution to veterans as part of his Sixth Annual Valentines for Vets Program.



Students show off their valentines

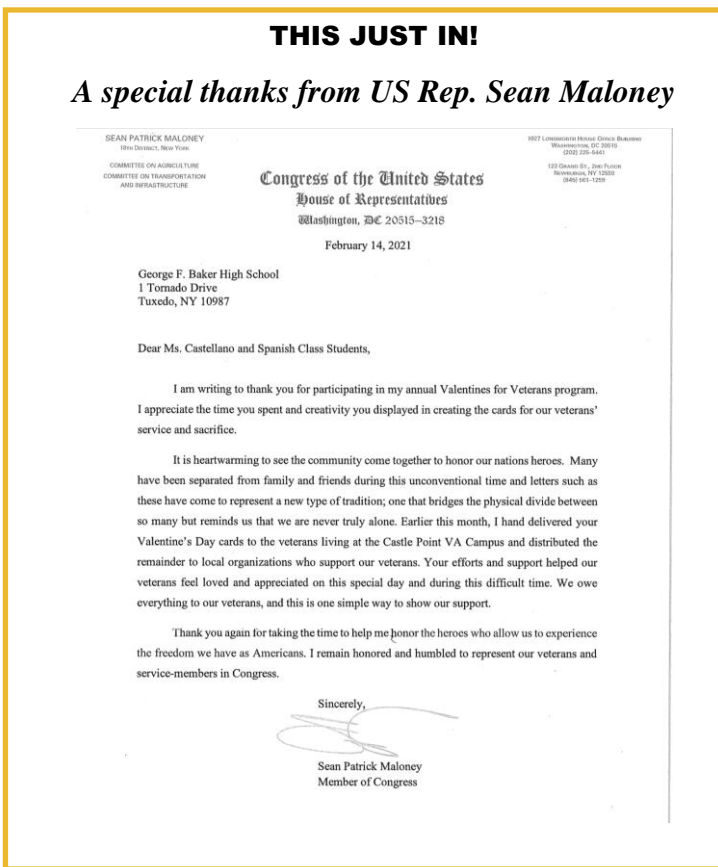
The NHS and NJHS have been busy this year helping our community. We donated over 500 cans, 600 boxes of pasta, 100 boxes of cereal, and 250 snack packs to the Sloatsburg Food Pantry. We are currently running a Pet Drive to collect supplies for the Middletown Humane Society's shelter pets.



Staying fit, having fun!

Students at home have been working on an online Physical Education course as well as tracking what physical activity that they have been doing throughout the week.

When students are in school we have been playing life sized foosball. This is a way for students to learn soccer skills while maintaining social distancing.



MESSAGE BOARD @ GFB

CONGRATULATIONS MS. WINNE
ON YOUR RETIREMENT!

Thank you for helping us grow, we will miss you!

