

A letter from the Principal

Dear GFB,

There are many months throughout the year that are designated as awareness months. Their purpose is to help others understand the challenges that some people face every day that we may not. Only you can tell your own story from your lived experience. Our challenges and the different experiences, interests and hobbies are what make conversations more enjoyable, learning more interesting and the future more bright.

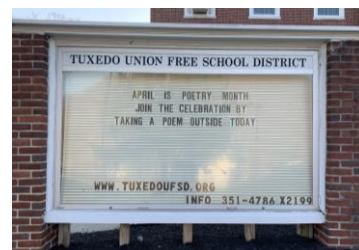
This month is Autism Awareness Month and it brings attention to our neighbors, friends and family members who have Autism. One of my favorite quotes comes from Temple Grandin, an American scientist with Autism, who said, "Different, not less." Autism is a disability that you often cannot see. A friend with Autism might have trouble understanding why you might get upset or why you might have a different opinion. It can be hard for our friends with Autism to read your emotions or understand your jokes. It is important to know that only you know what it's like to walk in your own shoes. The same goes for people with Autism.

Here's another way to think about it: Think of something you do every day, that's easy and something you don't think much about. Something like brushing your teeth, opening a jar, arguing with a sibling or eating with a fork. Now imagine what these situations would be like if you: suddenly had to do them with your left instead of your right hand, if you couldn't see your sibling getting more and more upset with what you said. Now imagine if that had to be your experience every day. Being left-handed in a right-handed world can be very difficult. It can also provide an experience that others can appreciate. Difference makes conversation, learning and fun that much more enjoyable. In the words of Temple Grandin, let's not forget that different does not mean less: it means *more*.

My very best,
Ms. Scariano

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APRIL 29th

Poem in Your Pocket Day

Poem in Your Pocket Day is celebrated every year during National Poetry Month.

Celebrate at a safe distance:

- ✓ Post a poem\ on social media
- ✓ [Add an illustration to a poem](#)
- ✓ Schedule a Google Meet and read a poem aloud to your friends and family
- ✓ Take a poem outside and read it aloud to yourself

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

The organization Autism Speaks shares a lot of great ways to participate in celebrating Autism Awareness Month. Here are a few for kids and adults from their website, [autismspeaks.org](https://www.autismspeaks.org).

“ ”

- ♥ Commit to take action toward a kinder world
- ♥ Lead with kindness by advocating to help advance policies that positively impact the autism community or starting a kindness campaign
- ♥ Learn with kindness in the classroom with daily kind acts and fundraising activities
- ♥ Connect with kindness by sharing resources and stories on social media to increase global understanding
- ♥ Wear blue to show your support this month!

SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATH @ GFB

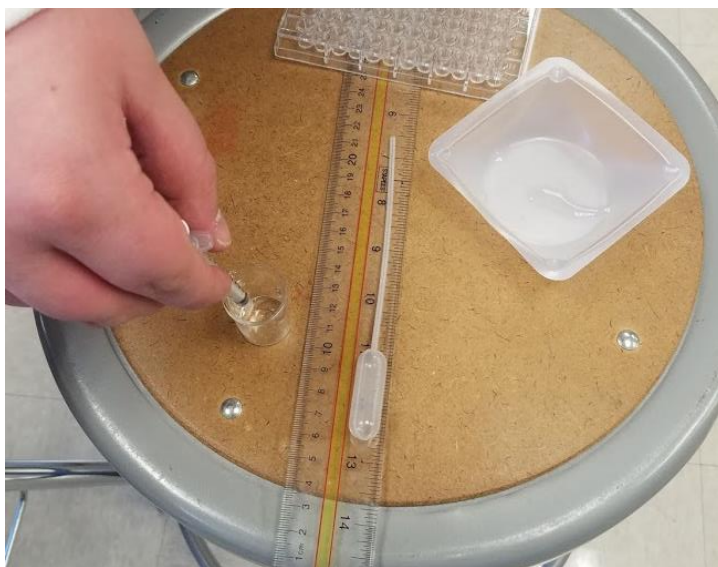
Mrs. McGowan's 8th grade class is out-of-this-world!

Science 8 has begun to study Astronomy. Students prepared timelines showcasing major events in the history of the study of space. We have learned about the basics of space, the Sun, Earth, and Moon, and looked into the current Rovers that were launched to Mars recently. Students have learned about Moon phases and what causes them. This month we are talking about features of the different planets and why poor Pluto is no longer considered a main planet.

Mr. Roessel's Chemistry class learns about atoms on an atomic scale:

In chemistry, we've been learning about how the bonds between atoms influence the large-scale material properties of substances -- like how water and oil don't mix, because water is made of polar hydrogen-oxygen bonds while oils are mostly non-polar carbon-carbon and carbon-hydrogen bonds.

We measured how large the drops are and how much the liquid spread out on a plastic surface; these measurements give indications of how much the molecules of a substance attract to each other vs how strong they attract to other materials.



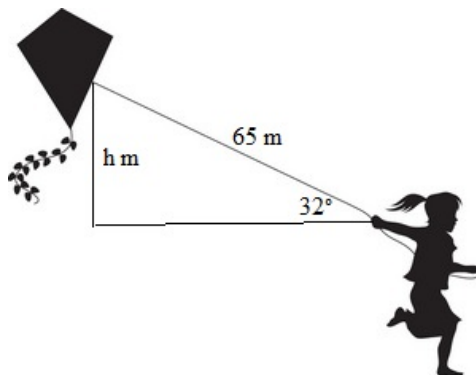
Above: Through creative socially-distant lab set-up, students compare different liquids, using stools as mini-lab tables

Mr. Sullivan's Algebraic Detectives take charge of new challenges:

In Math Lab, students began our investigation into algebra. Students practiced solving for variables in one and two step equations. The class stepped up to the challenge and through different online activities they were able to excel at being ***Algebraic Detectives***. We have now entered into the world of chance as we study probability.

Mrs. Sobel's class is RIGHT on target:

Geometry students is in their unit on right triangle trigonometry applications. Students are finding the distance between moving objects, the lengths of kite strings and the heights of buildings using the sine, cosine and tangent functions. We will continue to learn more complex ways of using trig to solve real world problems.



DIGITAL LITERACY & LITERATURE @ GFB

Ms. Mui engages the 6th grade class in deep thinking and learning about the world around them:

In Digital Literacy, 6th graders completed social media profiles of an influential figure that is a part of a marginalized group in celebration of Black History Month and Women's History Month. Conducting research to imagine and curate their influential figure's social media presence led to many questions. Students evaluated the impact of what their influential figure might post on social media and the digital footprint it leaves behind. Finally, students reflected on what message their own digital footprint sends to others.

Where would my influential figure visit?

Who would they follow or friend?

What events would they participate in and promote on social media?

Mrs. Hines shares an update on what our students have been reading:

In English 9/10 Honors, the class is coming to the end of **I Have Lived a Thousand Years**, and the unit will be culminating in a research project connected to important people/places in the Holocaust related to the memoir. Following this, we will focus more on Regents preparation as well as our next novel, **One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey.

In English 11, the class is approaching the conclusion of the memoir, **Night**, by Elie Wiesel. The group will complete a unit project on the book as well. From there we will be focusing on Regents preparation as well as our final novel for the year, **19 Minutes**, by Jodi Piccoult.

In English 12, after finishing William Shakespeare's **Othello**, we have now moved on to reading **Where the Heart Is** by Billie Letts.

The Science Fiction class is immersed in Stephen King's, **The Mist**, and all the terrifying creatures only the author could imagine!

In Reading & Writing Lab students have been writing detailed descriptions of a room unique to them. From here, the depictions will be shuffled and students will randomly be assigned other room descriptions that they will then have to sketch! This will be a lesson/challenge to see how important inserting details are into your work!

HISTORY & SOCIAL STUDIES @ GFB

Mrs. Jones integrates Art History into Global I's unit on Renaissance Europe:

Global I is studying the art of Renaissance Europe like Leonardo, Michelangelo, Raphael and Botticelli. We will also study literature through writers like Castiglione, Rabelais, Machiavelli, etc.



Some updates on what else Mrs. Jones's students are learning about:

AP Psychology is starting the study of Clinical Psychology and Therapies. We are prepping for the AP exam by doing practice quizzes and studying a monster review sheet.

Global II is deep in the Cold War. We are examining proxy wars, the Space Race, satellite nations, the Nuclear Race, etc.

Economics is studying the Stock Market and how to navigate investing. We will also examine crypto currency.

US History is looking at American Imperialism and the road to World War I. We are examining why the US decided to step outside of the Western Hemisphere.

With Mr. Fitzsimmons, history certainly with not repeat itself. Students learn key lessons of America's past and skills needed for an engaged citizenship:

US 8 has roared to the end of the 1920's after examining jazz, celebrity culture and the "Lost Generation" embodied by authors like F. Scott Fitzgerald. Students are now entering the Great Depression, where we will be learning about FDR's "alphabet soup" programs starting next week.

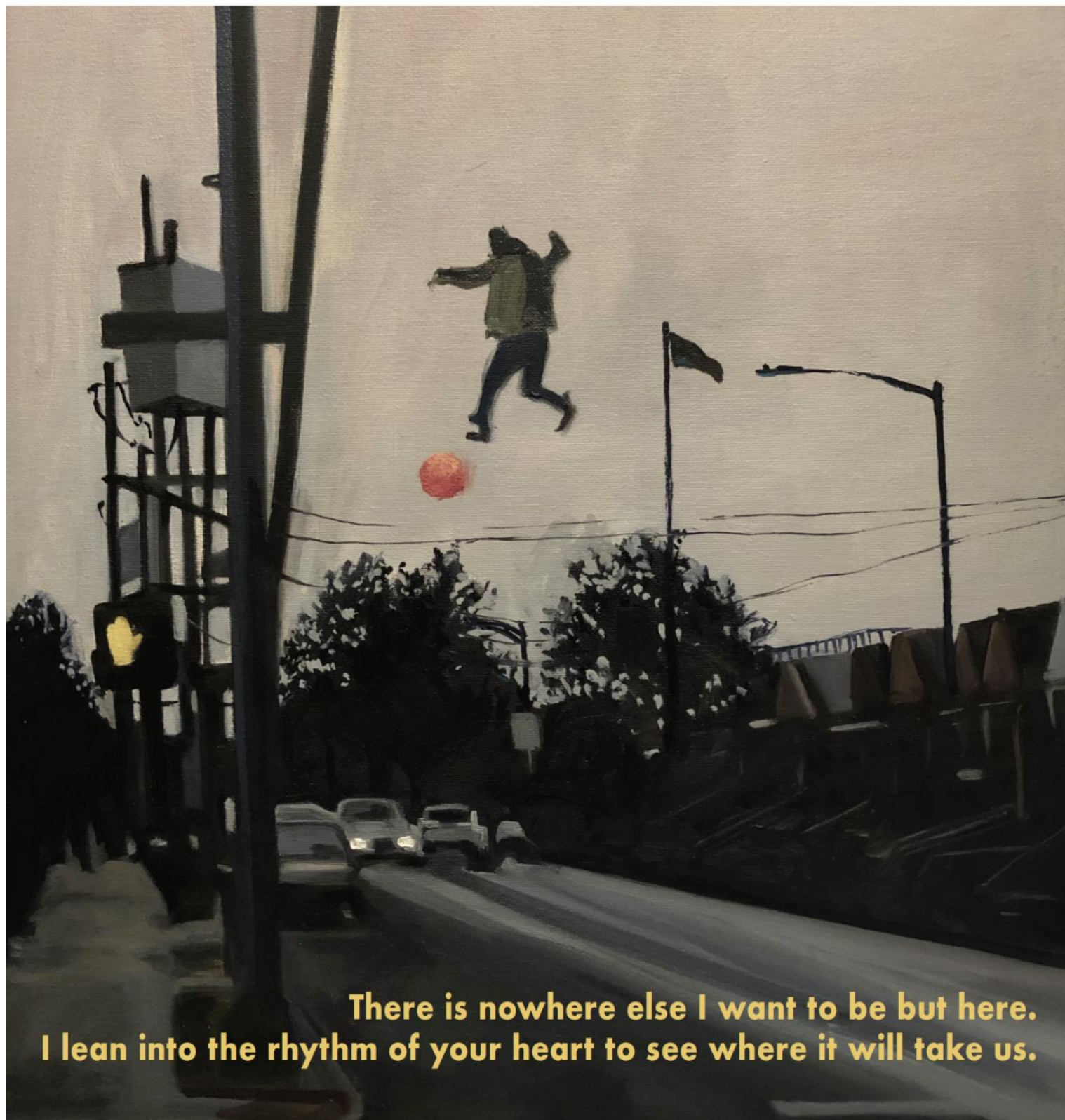
US 7 has just finished examining the changes brought upon by Andrew Jackson and expanding democracy in America. Students have started learning about Manifest Destiny and will explore the annexation of Texas, the dispute over the Oregon Territory, the Mexican-American War and how each of these events drew us closer to the Civil War.

AP Government is examining the role and function of both major and third parties in America, both today and historically. Starting next week, students will be looking at interest groups and how they influence party platforms and public policy before moving onto an examination of elections and modern political campaigns.

National Poetry Month

April 2021

Celebrating 25 years



**There is nowhere else I want to be but here.
I lean into the rhythm of your heart to see where it will take us.**