

George Grant Mason School

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A Message from Our School Nurse, Mrs. Castricone

During Allergy season, it may be hard to tell the difference between Covid-19 and allergies.

Common signs of allergies include:

- Runny nose
- Dry, tickly cough
- Itchy or watery eyes
- Congestion

If your student has a history of pollen/seasonal allergies, please provide us with a note from your Health Care Provider to that effect. I would prefer not to send a student home with classic allergy symptoms, but as you can see above...there are definitely crossover symptoms.

Some preventative measures/treatments may include:

- Over-the-counter allergy medicines/prescription medications/ homeopathic remedies (as per the advice of your HCP)
- Tie back long hair, wear hats and sunglasses when outside if possible, to keep pollen out of hair and eyes (feel free to send into school for outdoor recess as well)
- Keep windows closed...as tempting as it is to open windows when the weather becomes nice, the pollen blows right in
- Remove clothing, shoes, etc. when entering your home
- Shower at night to remove all pollen from body/hair
- Maintain the bedroom/sleeping area as allergen/pollen free as possible
- Door/windows closed, air filter, humidifier depending on symptoms
- If your child loves to hug their pets that go outdoors, you may want to wipe your furry four-legged friend off with a damp towel at the end of the day as well.

I'm here to work with you through allergy season...please reach out if you have questions or concerns!



Upcoming Events

May 3 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

May 4-7 In-school instruction

May 4 Board of Education Workshop at 7pm

May 8 Virtual PTO Meet & Greet with BOE Candidates 11-1pm

May 10 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

May 11-14 In-school Instruction

May 11 Public Budget Hearing 7-8:00pm

May 12 PTO Meeting

May 13 3rd-5th Grade Math State Assessment

May 14 Progress Report Period 4 ends for Grades 5-12

May 17 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

May 18-21 In-school Instruction

May 18 Coffee with Nicole
Join interim Superintendent, Nicole Scariano for coffee at our virtual café from 8:30 to 9:15am

May 19 PTO Parent Academy 7-9pm

May 20 Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7:00pm

May 24 Asynchronous Remote Learning Day

May 24 Kindergarten Screening

May 25-27 In-school Instruction

May 26-Jun 2 PTO Book Fair

May 28-31 Memorial Day Weekend – School closed

Pre-K: Mrs. Sayles

In May Pre-K will be learning about transportation and community helpers. We will look at all different types of transportation and discover what transportation we can see right here in Tuxedo. Pre-K students will be discussing what transportation goes by land, air, or water. Pre-K students will talk about the jobs people do and the tools they need to do their jobs. We will also learn about gardens and planting. Pre-K students will look at flowers, plants, fruits, and vegetables and where and how they grow. We will be celebrating our mothers and other important women in our lives.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to grow, learn, and explore daily. We have been learning about living and non-living things. We have been exploring the non-living things we see daily in the classroom, and the living things we see outside. We are excited about the warmer weather coming and anxious to spend time outside exploring even more of the living and non-living things outdoors. We will incorporate all subject areas into our outdoor adventures by working together, discussing the lifecycle of a butterfly, taking measurements of flowers and pinecones, and writing about our observations. Kindergarten is excited to take the classroom outside more often and connect with nature.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Time sure goes by quickly! I can't believe it is May! What have we been doing lately? The seasons and planets in science have kept us super busy! We began learning about the seasons in April. Our fun project for the month of April was writing a book about the season spring and what we love about it. However, we will continue learning about the seasons through May. This will serve as a scaffold for our unit about the planets. We will also be doing a planet project! We are all super excited! Stay tuned families! In ELA we are learning how to write paragraphs! The paragraphs we write are based on our opinion on what we have read and think. We are writing up to three sentences and headed for at least five! In math we are learning how to skip count by tens, fives and twos. It is getting tricky but I think we are getting the hang of it. This week we are learning how to use ten rods and cubes to count by ones and tens. We are also learning how to use the place value chart to help us separate the ones from the tens and use the ten rods to

count by tens. In social studies we have been learning about choices. We are learning that sometimes choices are hard to make. Some are good choices and some not so good. However, we are accepting that both help us to grow our hearts and our minds. In phonics we are learning about diphthongs. The diphthongs we were discussing this week were "oi" and "oy". We have been learning two songs that helps us remember the sound and the difference between the two. Oi goes in the middle of the word and oy at the end! Lol! We love to dance to the videos. Next in line is inflectional endings. This includes words that end with the "ies" such as the word happiest. That is it for now families! Stay tuned for the up and coming planet projects! We will keep you posted! As usual thank you so much for all you do!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume & Ms. Klimowich

During the months of April and May, Second Grade students have been working on a bird study! The students have been learning about the different types of beaks and feet that birds have, as well as how a bird's feathers, wings, and its streamlined body shape helps it fly.

We will continue our bird study with some hands-on activities! The students will participate in a bird beak lab to see which type of beak works best for picking up different types of food. Students will use two spoons, two knives and tweezers to act as their beaks. They will attempt to pick up different types of seeds and place them into a bin with the "beak!" Students will also make a birds nest after learning about the different types of nests birds create. Birds are the most skilled engineers!

An additional activity we will be participating in is to create a small plane using only popsicle sticks and paper. This plane will help us understand how birds fly. Birds counteract the force of gravity with an upward force called lift. Birds make this force by moving their wings through the air with the front part of its wing slightly higher than the back part. The air moves faster over the top of the wing and slower under the wing. Aeroplane wings are also shaped to make air move faster over the top of the wing than underneath!

Third Grade: Ms. Stasiak

Wow! It is hard to believe that we are already in May! In math, we will start a new unit on geometry and measurement. We will discuss different shapes, their characteristics, and units of length. In ELA, we will

also be starting a new unit. Our new unit revolves around the theme of courage. We will discuss different characters from various stories and poems. In science, we will start a unit on magnets. We will discuss magnetism and why some items are magnetic while others are not. In social studies, we will begin to study the different states. Then we will begin working on a new project! My third graders continue to do an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade is working on a variety of different skills and activities. We are starting a class novel this week - we will be reading *Frindle* by Andrew Clements. As we read, we will be completing different tasks associated with the text. In addition, we will continue to work on our ELA standards using the book as our guide. The class has been writing poems this month to help celebrate National Poetry Month. Each student will choose 2-3 poems and we will publish them in our class book (thank you to the PTO for sponsoring this project). In math, we just began to work on our fractions and decimals unit and from there we will move into geometry. We have covered a wide range of skills and topics this year in math and it's great to see the students make the connections to our earlier topics as we move forward. In science, we finished weathering and erosion and will begin to learn about forces, motion, and gravity as we begin our next unit. The class is learning about NYS history in social studies. The class has been working very hard and they should all be very proud of themselves!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock

5th grade has been working very hard in April! We have been working on our upcycling projects, turning household garbage into something new and useful. We have also been writing a book! The book is composed of letters the students have written to their future selves. We just finished a science unit about the solar system which culminated in creating our own planets. The students were so creative. It was great to see their personalities shine through their work. We are currently in the middle of the important battles of the Revolutionary War. In math, we have begun our deep dive into fractions! Finally, we are going to begin reading *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe*.

Spanish Class: Mrs. Golden

It's May! How did we get here so quickly? All the grades have been amazing so far. They have been really applying themselves and putting their Spanish-speaking skills to great use. Kinder continues to grow in Spanish class; they are now combining all their colors, shapes, and numbers to do fun listening activities. First grade loves playing "busco" and counting up to "veinte" (20), they are practicing writing and reading all the numbers as well. Second grade is learning all about food. They are learning to say different fruits, vegetables, drinks, and main dishes and which is their favorite one. The third grade continues to work on the weather in each season. They have gotten really good at talking about the forecast in Spanish. Fourth grade is working on their country project in class. They have been split up into groups and are researching different countries in which the main language is Spanish. We cannot wait to hear all about what they have discovered. Fifth grade is also doing a research project. They are researching famous and influential Latin American or Spanish people and their impact on our world.

Art: Mrs. Lyons

GGM Art news for the month of May: We will be studying flowers and insects and observing the art of Lucy Arnold, Rosalind Monks, Pablo Picasso, Henri Matisse, and Vincent Van Gogh for references and ideas.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Over the years, a lot of parents have asked me, "What is multi-sensory teaching?" Basically, multisensory teaching means helping a child to learn through more than one sense. Most teaching techniques are done using either sight or hearing (visual or auditory). However, some children might have difficulty processing visual or auditory information. Thus, it is important to involve the use of more of the child's senses, especially the use of touch (tactile) and movement (kinetic). Tactile and kinetic memories can be very strong and can help children learn to read, spell, and learn math concepts.

A fun way my students have been developing their tactile memories is with kinetic sand and water beads (i.e. Orbeez). Each student has their own tray of kinetic sand and bowl of water beads. We use

them to trace spelling words, practice sight words, and even use them with math concepts. Most of the time, however, students use them as a "sensory break" after working hard. Not only are kinetic sand and water beads helpful educational tools, they are fun, too! As one student just told me after slicing through a pile of sand, "This is so satisfying!" Both items are available at most craft stores. You might pick up some for yourself, as well – they are addictive!

Multi-Subject: Ms. Stokrocki

Our ELA class has been working on the writing process in response to fictional texts, such as fables, short stories, and social emotional stories. Students are using a strategy to summarize text: somebody, wanted, but, so, and then. They are also making constructive remarks to their classmates during peer review and sharing their thoughts with each other regarding their writing.

Library: Mrs. Mui

During the month of April, we celebrated National Poetry Month and Earth Day during Digital Literacy. Students read poetry from famous poets such as Jack Prelutsky, Kenn Nesbitt, and Richard Wright. Students then wrote their own poetry, expressing themselves by using their words to paint a picture. In celebration of Earth Day, students explored contemporary issues through works like *Greta and the Giants*, which introduced students to activist and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Greta Thunberg, and *We are Water Protectors*, illustrated by Michaela Goade, the first Indigenous illustrator to win the Caldecott Medal.

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

The weather is nice and the students are beginning to go outside for physical education! Students are playing noodle tag, walking the circle, or playing life-sized outdoor foosball. If restrictions loosen a bit more from the state other activities will be planned for the students to do in class. We will continue to go outside and find new activities to do with the students as the school year begins to come to a close.

Music: Mrs. Rao

Pre K - 1st grade are working on the musician in them! These next two months music will be reviewing all we learned to create a CLASSROOM SONG for them to all have a special part of.

2nd grade will be working on dancing and fun rhythm movements. If time permits, we will work on a CLASSROOM song too!

3rd grade will be working on recorders and songs for a possible virtual performance. Students will be learning about how the recorder was made also so that they can articulate the construction and part of each recorder.

4th and 5th grade are presenting their music commercial timelines and writing their own songs with use of poetry review and music note review.

Choir is still working on pieces that bring meaning to friendship, nostalgia, and current day.

Orchestra ensemble is still working on pieces to challenge them to the next level of rhythm patterns and songs of the day.

PTO On the Go

It's all about books in May! Thank you to everyone who purchased a book from our Classroom Book Project. On May 19th, please join us virtually for a Parent Academy with Mrs. Sayles, where she'll share tips and strategies for summer reading. We'll also be hosting a Follett Book Fair from May 26-June 2. An online component will accompany our in-person sale, so there will be plenty of opportunities to stock your at-home library for the summer months. More information will be going home with your child as the book fair gets closer. And finally, May 3-7 is Teacher Appreciation Week and, as always, our PTO has some treats in store for the superstars who enrich our children's lives every day.