

George Grant Mason School

1 Tornado Drive, Tuxedo NY 10987 Phone: (845) 351-4797
Mrs. Dolores Terlecky, Principal email: dterlecky@tuxedoufsd.org
Website: Tuxedoschools.org

Terlecky Talk

Dear Tuxedo Families,

As we have just celebrated Mothers' Day in May and we look toward celebrating fathers on their special day next month, I would like to thank all of the Tuxedo parents and guardians who play a vital role in our school community. Parental involvement in education not only enhances academic achievement, it gives students a more positive attitude toward school and constructively influences students' behavior while in school. We know it can be difficult to take time off from work or to find babysitting for younger siblings to attend activities but parental involvement comes in many forms: helping with homework, discussions about school, reading storybooks, volunteering in school activities, attending school plays, concerts, and sporting events, praising academic efforts, acting as class parent, and joining the PTO, to identify a few. It is very important for students to see that their parents value and prioritize their education. We appreciate the support of our school parents and guardians and we all benefit from the improved communication involvement brings.

We are very fortunate in our district to have an active and dedicated Parent-Teacher Organization. We truly value the time and energy they devote to our schools. They organize fundraisers and events throughout the school year that benefit all of our students and the entire school community. On behalf of our faculty and staff, I would like to thank our PTO for treating us all to breakfast last Monday and lunch last Friday in celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week. We are very grateful for the PTO's generosity and thoughtfulness.

Working together, dedicated teachers, motivated students, and involved parents will bring about the best outcomes for our school community. Thank you for being involved!

Who can join the PTO? Parents, grandparents, teachers, staff, alumni, friends and family! The goal is 100% membership! (One member per enrolled child) Please help them reach their goal and sign up today!

To contact the PTO, email them at tuxedopto@gmail.com



Upcoming Events

May 13 Progress reports for Quarter 4 for Grade 5

May 17 Spring Concert 1:45pm

May 17 Budget Vote

May 18 Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM

May 27-30 Memorial Day Weekend: school closed

June 2-3 Book Swap

June 10 Field Day

June 10 5th Grade Car Wash

Lost & Found

Please check the Lost & Found at GGM. We have coats, jackets, hats, gloves and scarves that have been not been claimed. We may have what you have been missing!



Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-K had a super busy and creative April. We worked hard making beautiful flowers like tulips, daisies and roses using many different art techniques and materials. We had fun at the sensory table with colorful eggs and pretend grass. We used our math skills to count out objects to put in each egg. Pre-k made pastel eggs out of shaving cream and paint and had fun playing in this messy mixture. We learned all about the letters "x" and "y" and introduced the letter Z. Pre-K worked hard practicing letter formation and identifying upper and lower case letters. We had fun reading the stories "Me First" by, Helen Lester and talked about different feelings in the story "How Are You Peeling? Foods with Moods" By, Saxton Freyman and Joost Elffers. We were super excited to welcome our class caterpillars into the classroom and already learned so much about the life cycle of a butterfly. This May, Pre-K will be practicing writing numbers using the Smart Board and on our white boards. We can't wait to learn fun rhymes to help us remember how each number is formed. We will continue to be scientists and make observations and predictions each day on our cute little caterpillars. Pre-k will continue to learn about flowers and how things grow. We look forward to making more observations during our nature walks while we observe all of the plants around us and how they grow!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

What do you need? What do you want? We all have needs and wants! Kindergarten is learning all about needs and wants – we are 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 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 will use their science, social studies, math, reading, speaking, and writing skills to demonstrate their understanding of needs and wants. 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! Kindergarten is beginning to understand that they need to work hard to get the things they want.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Greetings families! May flower time is here! The month of May will be fun and colorful for first grade!

We are making beautiful spring flowers to put on our bulletin board! It will make our day happy and cheery as we see it and walk into our classroom! Additionally in ELA we will be learning about spring poetry and we will be writing poetry of our own. This time of year is perfect for thematic units that are implemented throughout all subject areas. For example, in science we are learning about landforms and how they change. We will also make clay landforms to see how water flows through them. We will read and write about it. In social studies we will study where the different land forms are in the United States. We will also write about it, and read about it. We are starting a new math unit. We are learning about two dimensional shapes. To connect it to our landform unit, the children will be making landforms out of shapes. As you can see May is all about landforms and fun! May is going to be a marvelous month.

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders have begun a plant study. They will conduct an investigation to determine if plants need sunlight to grow and how much sunlight they need. Each group will place a bean plant in direct sunlight, some sunlight and no sunlight. They will then collect data and chart the plant's growth over 28 days. Since plants depend on animals for pollination we will be also investigating how this occurs. Through a STEM activity students will learn about the importance of pollination, and about how different birds and insects play an essential part in ensuring the future of our food supply. By exploring how pollination works, and what types of flowers pollinators prefer, students can begin making decisions that will improve the environment and help maintain the populations of pollinators for years to come. This flows right into our bird study! Students will work as ornithologists as we learn about and investigate birds. They will make their own bird watching journal and learn to identify the birds in our area. Perfect units to study in Spring!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

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 applying various skills. A few skills consist of the author's purpose, vocabulary, character analysis, and point of view. 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 different

states. My third graders continue to do an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Third Grade: Ms. Valastro

Third grade has been working hard learning about fractions in math. We have been exploring the different ways to write fractions and also have been using one of our favorite things to compare them, food! We were lucky enough to visit the Turtle Back zoo last month and got some inspiration for our animal research jamm boards we will be working on this month! We are always continuing to practice kindness toward our peers and look forward to opening our kindness bags once again soon! Happy May!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth grade is happy that it is spring and warmer weather is (hopefully) on the horizon! We will begin May in math learning about decimals (and we will see how decimals and fractions can represent the same information!). After that we will work on projects so we can apply what we have learned over this school year. The students will work on a writing piece in ELA and we will continue to explore non-fiction texts. There are so many interesting and amazing books to read!! In science we will learn about and explore forces, magnetism, and electricity. In SS the class will learn more about NYS history through reading (in ELA) and some independent research. It is an exciting time in Fourth Grade!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock

April seemed to fly by! In May we will be working on geometry. This will include area, volume, and classification of 2 dimensional and 3 dimensional shapes. We will be wrapping up our group novels and then moving into reading "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe". We are also going to be moving into a social studies unit on the American Revolution.

Library: Mrs. Mui

In the Library Media Center, be on the lookout for an I Spy Aquarium challenge! Modeled after the very popular Scholastic I Spy series, students will find as many objects as they can! Everyone will have the opportunity to examine the aquarium and submit their responses. A prize will be awarded to the student with the most correct responses in each class (if there are multiple students who answer the same number correctly, there will be multiple

winners)! Let's see how many objects you can spy with your little eye!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

Kindergarten STEM students will be participating in a tower challenge. Each group of students will be given 20 cups and 30 popsicle sticks. The students need to use the Engineering Design Process to plan and construct the tallest free standing tower with their materials. Their constraint will be that they cannot use tape or glue to hold their tower together. Not having an adhesive to keep the cups together will be challenging for the students because the slightest move could cause the tower to fall before measuring its height. This challenge will require determination, perseverance and teamwork! We will measure and compare the height of each tower to share with our class.

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

It's May and we are right around the corner from the end of the school year. That means we are almost at Field Day! In PE this month, we will begin our practice to those field day activities. We will be playing things like bean bag toss, chicken/drumstick races, and many more! With older classes we will be playing more team sports like wiffleball and kickball outside as the weather keeps getting better!

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

This month, my 3rd graders will be reading biographies of people past or present that they admire – perhaps a baseball player or actress in their favorite show. They will create colorful, infographic-like presentations to go along with interviews they will conduct "in character". Lastly, they will write their own autobiography in an infographic poster form. Who knows? Maybe one of my students will be famous enough some day for a future GGM student to write a biography about them!

Music: Mr. Stelmach

The music department has been diligently preparing for our spring concert. It will take place on Tuesday, May 17th. Please plan to arrive at the gym entrance at 1:30pm. All grades in George Grant Mason will be performing. There will also be a performance of the school band.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

Students are strengthening our reading skills. We are working on reading fluently. Students are also learning robust vocabulary words each day. We

are learning their definitions and looking for these words in the texts we are reading. We can continue to explore both fiction and nonfiction. As we read, we make connections between the texts and our own lives.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

I wonder what this will do? That was on the minds of our youngest learners. The Pre-K kept exploring materials and manipulating different media with their hands: sensory foam, paint, Play-Doh, and even clay. Kindergarteners learned more about repeating pattern tessellations, puzzle pieces that fit together. Both of these age levels made their own clay pinch pots and will glaze them and learn more about the firing process using a kiln.

Many age levels experienced mixing tempera colors ... using the art room tables! In the 1st grade students created fish paintings using the Crayon resist technique. They got to see how oil and water do not mix. Manipulating yarn into a spiral is not an easy task, but the 2nd graders added that to their artwork displaying butterflies, aliens, squirrels, and even baby Yoda!

The third grade started a unit on Egypt. They learned about Egypt, listened to Egyptian music, and created their own name in hieroglyphics. The next part of this unit is to make Egyptian portraits and move on to print making. The major assignments for the 4th and 5th grade was to learn that breaking down artwork into parts made it much easier to re-create. What made the 4th grade stand out was that they created, designed artwork for and performed a puppet show called "The Three Pigs" for the pre-K students, after learning that their young schoolmates had a puppet theater. In the coming weeks both the second grade and fifth grade will be working on ceramic projects.



PTO on the Go!

Please join us for our Spring Gala on May 21st and Mansion Ridge in Monroe. A flyer went home in the backpacks with info on where to buy tickets. We have some amazing raffle baskets and prizes and it's sure to be a fun evening.

Also, we will be hosting a Summer Reading Book Swap on June 2 and 3 so please start gathering your gently used books. Boxes will be at both schools and at the library for your convenience.

