

George Grant Mason School

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Terlecky Talk

Dear Tuxedo Families,

Summer is just around the corner! We have almost made it all the way through the school year and are ready for some well-deserved rest and relaxation. While you are enjoying summer and all the good things it has to offer, it might benefit your children to include a little learning in the fun. Here are some suggestions that your children may enjoy so much that they won't even realize it's good for them:

- Go outside. We have all spent a good part of the past couple of years cooped up inside our homes. Visit parks, museums, historic sites, whatever interests you and your children. Museum passes and vouchers may be borrowed from the Tuxedo Library so you can go to many of these for free.
- Play board games that improve math and reading skills.
- Borrow free audiobooks from the library and listen to them together or individually. Play them on road trips instead of playing on their devices.
- Let your children read whatever they enjoy and make sure they have access to a wide variety of books. Take advantage of the PTO's Book Swap June 2nd and 3rd to stock up on reading materials.
- Start a summer book club so your children can read books with friends and discuss them.
- Enjoy the free summer concerts offered in our area.
- If you are taking a vacation, encourage them to write a travel journal about it. Too young to write? They can draw their adventures.
- Ask them to help you with your activities that enable them to practice their skills such as cooking (reading, measuring, following instructions) and grocery shopping (math, comparing prices and weights).

I wish everyone a wonderful summer break! As I complete my first school year as principal here at GGM, I would like to thank our faculty, staff, parents, and students for their support and welcoming me so warmly. I am looking forward to a wonderful 2022-2023 school year!



Upcoming Events

June 2-3 PTO Book Swap

June 2 Special Board of Education Meeting at 7:30 PM

June 10 GGM Field Day

June 10 5th Grade Car Wash

June 15 Regular Board of Education Meeting at 7PM

June 20 Juneteenth – School closed

June 21 5th Grade Moving Up

June 22 Kindergarten Graduation

June 23 Half Day

June 24 Last day of school – Dismissal at 10:30 AM

A Note from the Nurse

Please remember to send all your students' updated physicals and immunization records to the health office. COVID has interfered with health care visits, however, we are still required to keep their records updated. Have a healthy summer!

Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-K had a great May and spent a lot of time out in nature. This month we watched our little caterpillars make cocoons and turn into beautiful butterflies. We let them free and watched them fly in our butterfly garden. We also had fun playing at our butterfly sensory table with pretend butterflies, eggs, caterpillars and cocoons. Pre-k went on many nature walks and did a fun scavenger hunt using clipboards and a checklist. We checked off each item we observed in nature. We collected flowers and counted with one to one correspondence. Pre-K learned about the parts of a plant and what they need to grow. We worked on making our own plants and labeling each part by tracing each word. Pre-K worked on the numbers 1, 2 and 3 and learned how to identify the numbers and the matching quantity of objects. Pre-k is so excited for June and ready to dive under the sea! We will be learning all about the ocean and ocean animals this month! We are excited to create a beautiful beach scene for our bulletin board and get our hands dirty using paint and sand. Pre-k is excited to learn about waves and the ocean and will participate in some fun science experiments with water! We are sad the year is coming to end, but we are also excited and ready for some summer fun in June!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to grow, learn and explore daily. We continue to learn 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 more 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. We are also looking forward to our Kindergarten Graduation on June 22!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Greetings families, I can't believe we are here! We are in the final stretch. The month of June will still be super busy. We will be working on our space unit and our famous artist unit. Our space unit will stretch across most subject areas. We will be using our reading and research skills, while also using our

measurement skills. We will be learning about each planet and important facts about the planet. We will also work on a planet information book. I will send details later. This month we will work on our artist unit. In this unit, we will be learning about artists such as Frida Kahlo and Claude Monet! We will learn about Frida's style of painting along with Monet's style of painting. Both painters loved painting flowers! We will be researching each painter and then create art using the artist to inspire the method we use to paint and what we paint. We will also learn about Diego Rivera, Edgar Degas and Vincent Van Gogh! June will busy but also fun! Once again families, thank you for all you do. It has been a great year and I will miss my friends. However, I am so proud of everything they have accomplished. June here we come!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

June brings review of learned skills, the squeezing in of some new skills and lots of outdoor activities such as bird watching, journal writing, reading and playing! Second Grade students will continue their bird study by getting outside of the classroom with a field trip to the Bronx Zoo! Students will visit the Aquatic Bird House, the Sea Bird Aviary and the Birds of Prey exhibit. Of course, they will see many other animals as well! We are finishing up our poetry books and using the data we collected from our bird observation journals to make tally charts and graphs. It is an exciting and celebratory month!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

Can you believe it is already June? This year has gone by so fast, and the students continue to do an amazing job. In math, we will review the concepts we have learned and then apply them to complete a math project. For their project, the students will plan out their own dinosaur park! In ELA, we will end the year with a class novel. As we read, we will apply all the literary concepts we have discussed this year. In science we will start a unit on Simple Machines. We will discuss each simple machine and explore Rube Goldberg machines. In social studies we will continue to study the different states. Each student will pick a state and build a float to represent it.

Third Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 3 continues to keep busy working hard as we wind down the school year. We have been enjoying learning about weather in science, and we have even gotten to go outside and record the weather a few times. We have also been winding down our

fraction unit and will be learning some geometry next. In ELA, we have been having a blast doing Readers Theater scripts and learning about contraction words. Most of all we are enjoying the days playing outdoors and continuing to make memories as our school year comes to an end!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has been hard at work!! We will soon be completing our class novel, Frindle by Andrew Clements. The students have been enjoying reading about Nick, his friends, and the new word he invented. We will continue to review our ELA skills during these last few weeks of school and work on some projects that will help us reinforce what we have learned. In math we are wrapping up the year by working on some projects that review the skills we have covered this year. We began with fraction pizzas, will move on to an area and perimeter activity, and will finish with a "book" the students will write that is all about their year in math. These projects are all great ways for the students to not only apply their math skills, but to see math at work all around them. We have learned about simple machines, magnetism, and electricity. We will continue to explore different topics in science as the year winds down. The students have had a great year despite the challenges we have all faced. They should be proud of themselves!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock

We have made it to the end of elementary school and I can't believe how far these kids have come! Academically, we are wrapping up area and volume, reading The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, and learning about the American Revolution. We are also reflecting on our year together as fifth graders and the years we've spent in elementary school together. We are looking forward to middle school and all of the fun end of the year activities. We are so excited for our Car Wash on June 10th and our graduation and end of the year celebration on June 21st.

Library: Mrs. Mui

Our library media center had a very busy year. Our Tornadoes checked out almost 7,500 print books so far! The book with the most number of loans was Dog Man: a Tale of Two Kitties by Dav Pilkey. Sadly, we are approaching our last day of book circulation, June 7th. All print books will be due the following week on June 14th. Even though we are

sad to put our library media center's print books away for the summer, there are other ways to read. All students have access to e-books on Sora through Classlink or by visiting soraapp.com, searching for Orange-Ulster BOCES, choosing Tuxedo U F School District, and logging in with their TuxedoSchools.org Google account. The Tuxedo Park Library will also be visiting us here at GGM to share information on their exciting summer reading program, "Oceans of Possibilities!" There will be events, prizes, and of course, reading! More information on ways to read this summer will be sent home shortly.

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

In the month of June, Third Grade STEM students will be constructing straw rockets. The students use the Engineering Design Process to sketch and plan their rockets designs before moving on to their prototype. Each student will design a unique paper rocket that they attach to a straw using tape. The students will have to carefully place their rocket on a straw and attach the straw to a balloon pump to launch their rocket! We will be measuring the distance of each launch.

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

We have made it to June! Field day is coming up and we have been practicing our activities with all the students so that they are prepped and ready to go. We have been doing things in class such as egg on a spoon races, drumstick chicken races, pizza box races and more. We are looking forward to our fun day in the sun!

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Spring has definitely sprung outside GGM! A dedicated crew of 3rd, 4th and 5th graders helped to spruce up the entrance to GGM. On a beautiful day in May, students weeded, designed, planted and mulched the front entrance to GGM and the rear entrance near the multi-purpose room. First, we planted hostas around a beautiful arrangement of red geraniums and red/white petunias in a large, eye-catching planter. Then at the lower entrance, we added flowers to the large planter along with freshly painted ladybug rocks in the "Ladybug Crossing" area!

Gardening is a wonderful way for students to apply math skills (measuring), reading skills (plant research), science skills (planning, predicting, observing) and art skills (designing) in one creative, rewarding project. Next time you come to GGM,

please enjoy our garden – and be on the lookout for more gardening projects in the future!

Music: Mr. Stelmach

We made it. Our Spring Concert was a success. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement at home leading to the big event. We will continue working on singing and performing various classroom instruments. There are still many skills to reinforce and practice as we head towards summer break.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

In the Reading Room, we have become confident readers and writers while working hard all year. Students will continue to read fiction and nonfiction texts. We will learn about oceans and ocean animals and talk about the beach. In June we will celebrate our fathers and other important men in our lives. We will review pool, beach, and water safety. We will also read and write about our plans and the weather in summer.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

Spring find us deep into different art materials and techniques. Pre-k explored with different paints, pencils, and different color papers. While, kindergarten focused on Henri Rousseau jungle art: drawing and creating a background, stencil tracing and cutting out bushes and copying and coloring an animal. Students also made jungle Explorer hats. 1st and 2nd grade worked on different projects, but it was their time to create with clay. The 1st grade made slab clay animals. While the 2nd grade made coil pots. After they are fired in the kiln, we will paint them. Third grade worked on Egyptian projects. Students learned about the culture and art, pharaohs, pyramids, sarcophagi, and mummies. They created a portrait of themselves as Pharaoh-cious Faces. They learned the technique of block printing and printed their name in hieroglyphics placed next to the image. 4th grade created Gustav Klimt inspired portraits of a sleeping child. 5th grade continue drawing realistically, then learning about pairing artwork down to just black and white positive and negative in Japanese Notan images. They also glazed the clay dishes and animals they made. Their artwork will be fired with marbles in them to create a glossy sheen. From pencil and paint to marker and paint pen, from clay to glazing and carving to print making, GGM students explored many art making techniques this month.

PTO on the Go!

Thank you for all of your support this year. Please join us for our end of the year event on Wednesday, June 15 at 7:00 PM at Characters. There will be an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets. The raffle drawing will be at 9:00 PM.







