

George Grant Mason School

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Terlecky Talk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November is traditionally a time to be thankful so I would like to express my gratitude to all the people that make George Grant Mason School the warm, welcoming place that it is. Our dedicated teachers and aides, our involved, supportive parents, our helpful support staff, and our wonderful students all work together to make this an outstanding learning environment. I appreciate everyone who contributes to make this school special.

During November, we will be focusing on the character trait of responsibility: being dependable, making good choices, and taking accountability for your actions. We held an assembly during which our reading specialist, Mrs. Sayles, read *What if Everybody Did That?* to our student body and discussed that being responsible means doing the things they are expected to do and accepting the consequences when they do not do them.

On November 3rd, we will be observing Fire Safety Day with a visit from our local fire department. Students will get to see a fire truck up close, see the firefighters in their full gear, and learn how to prepare for a fire emergency. The firefighters will share tips so the students can practice fire safety. We are very grateful to Mr. Richard Rattazzi and his colleagues for providing our students with this very valuable educational opportunity.

On November 9th, the district will have a test run of our school closing communication system. At 2PM on that date, the district will email/text/call each home to make sure that everyone is receiving the notifications. This is the system that will be used to notify the students and their families of a weather related closure or delay, or any other emergencies that may happen. If you do not receive a notification. If you do not receive a notification on November 9, please let us know.

I wish all of our school families a very happy Thanksgiving. I hope you all get to share it with those you love. Remember, it is not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy.



Upcoming Events

November 3 Fire Safety Day

November 8 Superintendent's
Conference Day
(No school for students)

November 9 PTO Meeting

November 9 School Closings
Communication Test at 2pm

November 10 End of 1st Quarter
for 5th Grade

November 11 Veteran's Day
School closed

November 14 Art Club

November 16 Board of
Education Meeting at 7PM

November 21 Art Club

November 24 Art Club

November 23-25 Thanksgiving
recess

PLEASE NOTE:

There will be no Art Club on
November 7th and November 10th



Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-k had a super cool October! We learned all about the letters "A, B and C". We worked hard tracing letters, identifying words that begin with each letter and making fun letter crafts. Pre-k had fun learning about pumpkins. We got our hands sticky by making pumpkin play dough and pumpkin slime! We had fun making a spider craft using paper plates and yarn for lacing the spider web. Pre-k's most favorite project was painting our pumpkins and making a jack-o-lantern! We had fun reading books like; "From Seed to Pumpkin" by Wendy Pfeffer, "The Runaway Pumpkin" by Kevin Lewis and "Room on the Broom" by Julia Donaldson. We explored pumpkin goo and pumpkin seeds just like scientists. Our Pre-K scientists also had fun participating in a science experiment about germs using vegetable oil and glitter and we practiced washing our hands while singing the alphabet! November is here and we are so excited for our family and food theme this month! We are looking forward to learning more about our families and the different food we eat during the holidays!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Now that the pumpkins are carved and gourds are being used for decorations, Kindergarten will be learning all about the life cycle of a pumpkin. Using the text, Pumpkin Jack, we will foster a deeper understanding of just how the life cycle of a pumpkin works from seed to possible Jack-O-Lantern. We will use our math skills to count pumpkin seeds and our reading and writing skills to label and draw the parts and life cycle of a pumpkin. Kindergarten will even get to take home some pumpkin pulp and seeds and plant them in a garden if they choose and see if they can observe a full life cycle take place in their own backyards.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Time sure goes by quickly! I can't believe the holidays will be here soon. November will be a busy month for us. In ELA, we will be learning about stories with lessons. Some of these stories will include fairy tales and fables such as The Three Little Pigs and The Turtle and the Hare. We will dig deeper into the stories to learn the lesson and compare them to a similar text that we have read in present times. In math, we are learning about a ten frame and the different ways to use it while adding and subtracting two digit numbers. In science, we continue to read about animals and their habitats. We will study and compare different body attributes and how these attributes help them to

adapt to their environment. In social studies, we will be learning about Native Americans and how they lived. We will also discuss some of the foods they ate and learn about the clothes they wore, and games they played. We will focus on the Wampanoag Tribe that still continues to carry on their traditions while living in Massachusetts to the present day!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Students in second grade are in the midst of a tree and leaf study! They are learning about why leaves change color. Students are also now able to identify if a tree is deciduous or coniferous and using the leaves they collected around their homes, they are working on identifying the types of trees found in their community. It has been fun adding the leaves to their field journals. As their knowledge grows, such as learning the parts of a leaf, more information can be added. We talk a lot about how our schema (prior knowledge) grows and changes; we gain knowledge and our misconceptions are cleared up. Another addition to our science curriculum is a mid November visit to the Museum of Natural History!

Third Grade: Mrs. Rocklin

I am so excited to tell you we have completed chapter 2 in math, addition, subtraction, skip counting, along with deciphering data from several types of graphs. We will continue to chapter 3, multiplication!!! Students are excited to learn this skill to further their studies and excellence in math. In ELA we are finishing our book review of *My Brother Charlie* and will create our own books to present to the class. The class has been working so hard on this and I couldn't be prouder. In science, we will begin our study of the growth cycle with an experiment. We will plant several types of seeds with separate controls and see how they grow. We will track the information and graph it when complete. We look forward to all the work we will do this month and the months to come.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been very busy in fourth grade! In math, we are starting our study of multiplication. The students have discussed multiplication in third grade but are going to deepen their thinking by exploring multi-digit multiplication and the different strategies we can use to solve it. In social studies, we are going to continue our study of New York State and explore the first communities/settlements. In science, we are going to continue to study the Earth's system by

exploring the Earth's spheres. My fourth graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

In Fourth Grade ELA we are working on a variety of different skills and tasks. The students are beginning to draft their personal narratives. We are finalizing our topics and will start putting the pieces together to begin writing our first piece. It is very exciting! Spelling, grammar, and vocabulary are also skills we are working on. We are wrapping up our first spelling unit and will begin the next one very soon. Our unit on plot and story elements is almost done and from there we will jump into theme and then traditional tales. We read a variety of different texts and use previously read texts to help us learn and apply the skills we practice in class. We also are continuing to develop our question response skills by utilizing the RACE strategy. The students are working hard and are doing a great job!!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 5 is moving right along enjoying our school year. We have been learning about mass & matter in science and are very busy working with two digit divisors in math. We have been practicing drawing inferences with funny commercials and writing some great stories with our spelling words. We are looking forward to delving into the world of social studies over the next few weeks and are continuing to make memories on the daily in class. Happy November!

Library: Mrs. Mui

November 8th is National STEM Day and we will be celebrating all week during Digital Literacy! Students will be participating in different centers throughout the library media center, each with challenges that incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Our library media center is equipped with Snap Circuits, robots (including Bee-Bots and Ozobots), Makey Makeys, K'nex, and much more! We cannot wait to share what we create that week and throughout the school year!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

In the month of November, Fourth Grade STEM students will be participating in an activity that pairs with the book *Balloons Over Broadway*. The book by Melissa Sweet tells the story of Tony Sarg, a boy inventor who grew up to be the puppeteer who

invented the giant helium balloons that are used for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Students will design small-scale versions of the balloons and construct a mini parade route. They will attach their balloons to mini robots called Ozobots. The students will code their robots using different color combinations to carry the balloons through the parade route they created.

Physical Education: Ms. Dowling & Mr. Brunner

This November our students in Pre-K to 2nd grade will be working on their kicking skills. This will include the introduction to modified versions of soccer and kickball. They will also be introduced to a variety of tag games which will help with agility, balance, and special awareness development. In 3rd to 5th grade, students will begin a volleyball unit. They will learn the basic skills of underhand serving, passing, and setting in a modified version of play.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Most writers, young and old, follow a similar pattern for writing, called the Writing Process: brainstorming/pre-writing, first draft, revision, editing and final draft. I have found over my long teaching career that by far the most difficult stage of the writing process for good writers is the revision stage. This is the stage where writers must ensure their ideas are presented in an organized and easily readable way. To help introduce my 4th graders to this important writing stage, we are using the following acronym: FARMS

Focus: Identify the focus of your piece and stick to it.

Add: Add in any words or sentences that could make the writing stronger.

Remove: Remove any unnecessary or repetitive words and phrases.

Move: Move around a sentence or word to improve the writing.

Substitute: Substitute weak words with more expressive words.

This stage involves self-reflection and the acceptance of constructive criticism from others, which is difficult for most students, and adults alike, myself included. By spending time analyzing their own writing, my students will be able to learn to improve their writing and really be proud of their creative talents!

Music: Ms. Cienki

We have started working on the winter concert music. The kids are picking up the music quickly and everyone is super excited. The biggest thing that's going on for Music in November is our Wreath Sale! Flyers have gone out to students, and money and forms are due back to either myself or Clayton Chan by Monday, November 14th the latest. Pickup for the wreaths is Monday, November 21st on the steps of the high school. Any questions, please let me know! Have a great month!

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

¡Bienvenido noviembre! It has been a wonderful month getting to know the students as they get to know me as well. We have been reviewing all of our background knowledge of the Spanish language, and are starting to get into the full swing of things. All grades have reviewed their colors, as we now are beginning to get familiar with "los días de la semana" and "las formas". I am hoping the students start creating conversations and sentences within the language among these next few weeks! The students and I have been working together to create a comfortable, yet fun learning environment in our ENL classes. I have already seen growth from all students as they familiarize themselves with important learning strategies. Together we are challenging ourselves to think critically.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

We are hard at work in the reading room. Students have been reading fiction and nonfiction stories about nocturnal animals. We are learning new vocabulary words every day. In our groups, we continue to work on blending sounds to make words that we are reading and writing. We practice our sight words too. When a word is in red: "STOP! You can't sound me out!" This tells us which sight words we can sound out and which words we can't. We will be reading about the turkeys, the first Thanksgiving, and things that we are thankful for.

Math Specialist: Ms. Stack

Happy November! We have been working hard in the math room and plan to keep doing so! Students are working with manipulatives and learning new strategies for our addition and subtraction facts. Some of us are even moving on to multiplication and skip counting. Students are learning it is okay to make mistakes because mistakes help us learn. We build confidence by helping each other every step of the way and

asking questions when we need to. We will continue FALLing in love with math this November!

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

A highlight of our month was the 3rd through 6th grades going on a trip to Storm King Art Center, in New Windsor. It is a giant leap from drawing pictures on a paper or seeing paintings on a wall to seeing a sculpture that is 92 feet tall, and standing under it. Students were able to experience artwork, engineering, and the creative process in a whole new light.

Currently, the fourth and fifth grade finished a texture project, and are now working on textured, large scale hand sculpture drawings. Their goal is to show proportion by drawing figures next to it. Second and third grades finished their ceramic jack-o'-lanterns in time for Halloween. They learned the process of creating in clay: making a pinch pot, firing it in a kiln, glazing and firing again. This coming month they will have finished a cross classroom project on the theme of Respect! In the first and second grade, they learned about warm colors and how they are the feature of autumn. Students in each grade level, created a project to match their skills.

Pre-K has been developing their eye-hand coordination with various projects using markers, dot markers, watercolor, and sculptural water absorbing material.

PTO on the Go!

Thank you to everyone who came out to our first meeting of the year! Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, November 9th, at 7pm at Characters in Sloatsburg. Class Parent assignments have gone out so please look for upcoming communication from them on events for your class. Our Dine to Donate events are also back. Thank you to Dottie Audrey's for hosting our first one on Halloween! Support the PTO and a local business at the same time!





