

George Grant Mason School

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Terlecky Talk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The season of celebrations is upon us! Over the next several weeks members of our Tuxedo UFSD community may be observing many different religious or cultural holidays. This special time in the school year provides an opportunity to rejoice in our cultural diversity and share the joy of our customs and traditions together, learning from one another and appreciating our differences and all of the many things that bring us together.

Our first special event of the season is our Winter Concert which will be held this Friday afternoon in the George F. Baker High School Auditorium at 1:45PM. Led by our Music Teacher, Ms. Cailin Cienki, the students will entertain us with fun and festive musical selections. The doors open at 1:30PM. We look forward to seeing everyone!

Another important event in December, though not as festive, is our Tuxedo Police Department Safety Meeting being held in the GFB Auditorium on December 14 from 7 to 9 PM. Led by the town's Chief of Police, John Trazino, the evening will serve as an opportunity to inform the community about the current district security measures and potential emergency responses.

Also, in the seasonal spirit of giving, our toy drive continues until December 16th and the dessert drive (boxed cake mix, brownie mix, cookie mix, and frosting) ends on December 9th. The collection sites for both drives are located in the GGM lobby.

All of us here at George Grant Mason School would like to wish all of our students, school families, and friends a magical holiday season full of joy, peace, health, and fun! Seasons greetings and happy holidays!



Upcoming Events

December 8 School Picture Retake Day

December 8 GGM Parent-Teacher Conferences (Virtual)

December 9 Winter Concert at 1:45PM (doors open at 1:30PM)

December 9 End of Dessert Drive

December 14 Tuxedo PD Safety Event from 7 to 9PM in the GFB Auditorium)

December 16 Progress reports for 5th Grade

December 16 End of Toy Drive

December 21 Board of Education Regular Meeting

December 26-January 2 Winter Recess

Schools reopen on January 3, 2023



Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-k had a thankful November! We worked on identifying and writing the letters "C", "D" and "E". We made letter "d" dragons and dinosaurs and found items around the room that started with the letters. We had fun doing a pumpkin investigation and used tools and magnifying glasses to explore the goo and pumpkin seeds. Pre-K was so grateful for our Thanksgiving party with our families. We had fun listening to Thanksgiving music and making corn with pipe cleaners and beads. Pre-K also learned all about responsibility and how important it is to help out in the classroom and at home. We had fun reading books such as *There was an Old Lady Who Swallowed a Turkey* by Lucille Colandro, *The First Thanksgiving Day* by Rhonda Gowler Greene, and *Bear Says Thanks* by Karma Wilson. We are super excited for December. Pre-K will be learning all about the different holidays celebrated in December and we can't wait to share our own unique holiday traditions!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to learn every single day. We have been learning something new about our school community since September. In the upcoming weeks of December, we will be learning about all the helpers in the Tuxedo community, from police officers, to dentists, to sanitation workers, to ourselves! Kindergarten continues to do our part of being good citizens in the classroom and school. We will extend our community building throughout our Tuxedo community by making Holiday cards for our friends at The Promenade and St. Joseph's, as well as to our local community helpers. We will do our part of being good citizens while learning about all the other great community helpers that help us out each and every day!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Time sure goes by quickly. December is here. Can you believe it? It will be gone before we know it. This is such a busy time for first grade! In ELA we have lots of music, crafts, and dancing to celebrate the holiday, while at the same time learning about central messages in stories. We ask ourselves what is the lesson in the story and how can we apply it to the present. We are using graphic organizers to help us organize our thoughts. We compare and contrast stories using a Venn Diagram and a T-chart. In math we are learning how to subtract base ten numbers using different strategies such as counting on and counting back using a number line. 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 learn what makes a good citizen. We are talking about being responsible both at home and at school. We are discussing rules and laws we follow in America that help keep us safe. Last but not least, we will discuss how in America we can vote and why this is important.

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders learned the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through the book *Balloons Over Broadway*. Did you know that real, wild animals were part of the first few parades until they frightened the children? Second graders were then tasked with designing and creating a prototype of a Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon. We looked at balloons from the past and noticed that there were always some of the same characters over the years and some new balloons each year representing what was popular that year. Following their sketch, the students put their plan into action to create their model. After assembling their models, the students presented their prototypes to their classmates.

December brings the cold and also new learning strategies in math and reading comprehension, such as, double digit addition and subtraction and inferring and asking questions. Lastly, we had a wonderful visit to The Museum of Natural History! It is such a special place to visit. Some of our favorite exhibitions were the dinosaurs, which included the Titanosaur and the Hall of Ocean Life, which has the model of the giant Blue Whale.

Third Grade: Mrs. Rocklin

We have been working so hard on multiplication strategies in chapter 4 and doing such a great job. We are studying hard to eventually memorize our times table all the way up to our 10's times table. We will begin chapter 5 soon finding unknown numbers and using different properties, such as the Distributive Property and Commutative Property to assist us with finding the product. We will begin to multiply multiples of ten as well. In ELA we are continuing our study and opinion writing for *Bobby the Brave (sometimes)*. We will focus on sentence structure and grammar to improve our writing. In science we will begin our plant study. The class will be planting a variety of seeds and using different controls to see how they grow. We will then graph all of our findings and compare our findings to the

hypothesis with which we started. In social studies we will continue our study of Pangea and the land bridge long ago that allowed humans and animals to cross the continents without going by boat. The students are growing and maturing in the most wonderful way and I can't wait to see more of it. Have a Happy Holiday Season!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been very busy in fourth grade. In math, we are continuing our study of multiplication. The students have learned different strategies and will begin to explore the topic of factors and multiples. In social studies, we are going to continue our study of New York State and continue to study the first communities/settlements. In science, we are going to continue to study the Earth's system by exploring tectonic plates and earthquakes. My fourth graders have been doing an amazing job. Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

The students are doing a wonderful job in Fourth Grade. We have been making progress in spelling, grammar, and vocabulary. Our personal narratives are beginning to take shape - we are adding dialogue and details to our rough drafts (aka sloppy copies). It is exciting to watch the stories evolve. This month we will utilize a variety of seasonal texts that address different standards. The students will be working on inferencing, story elements, theme, responding to questions, and figurative language. It has been an exciting first part of the year for the students. They have been working very hard and we are looking forward to continuing our journey.

Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 5 has been very busy as we head into the month of December. We have been moving right along in math learning how to work with decimals. Relating this topic to money is always fun. In science we created our very own marshmallow slings in order to help us learn about the concept of force and motion. We even were able to compete to see how far we could get our marshmallows to go. We have been off and on a journey through Mesoamerica in social studies, finding out how ancient civilizations contributed to society today, and we are prepping to become great writers ELA. We are also looking forward to spreading kindness this month as we put this character trait into motion, filling our kindness

buckets each day in class. We are excited to see how something as simple as being kind can make us feel and look forward to making kindness contagious as we move forward throughout this month!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

During the month of December, several STEM classes will be working on a winter recycling project. Students will be using overhead projector sheets and repurposing them to create winter window displays. Students will use Sharpie markers to carefully trace snowflakes on to the transparent sheet and add designs and colors. Before starting our project, we will review the importance of reduce, reuse and recycle. Students will also explore why snow forms and how the ice crystals that form snowflakes become symmetrical.

Physical Education: Ms. Dowling & Mr. Brunner

This December, our students in Pre-K to 2nd grade will be participating in a variety of chasing/fleeing activities. Chasing/fleeing activities involve students moving around the playing area while attempting to reach others and/or avoid being reached themselves. These activities are beneficial for the development of cardiovascular health, self-control, agility, balance and spatial awareness. Students in 3rd to 5th grade will be participating in a "Minute to Win It" Unit where they will attempt to complete a variety of challenges in under 1 minute. These challenges will help students work on balancing, target throwing, catching, hand eye coordination, teamwork and so much more!

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Bah Humbug! No, my 4th graders are definitely not Scrooge-like this time of year – quite the opposite. However, they will be learning about Ebenezer Scrooge, Bob Cratchet, Tiny Tim and, of course, the four ghosts that appear in Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. An adapted version of this classic tale offers a perfect text to study character traits and development as well as the themes of forgiveness, generosity and family. For a final project, my students will be performing a reader's theater version of the holiday classic. Reader's theater is a fun, interactive strategy for developing reading fluency, using expressive voices and gestures. Students do not memorize the script, they re-read it several times, developing their "voice" and character. Because my 4th graders are so creative and enthusiastic, we plan on performing a

puppet-show version for other classes with student-designed puppets. Like the “new” transformed Scrooge, we will try to keep the spirit of the holidays with us into 2023 and beyond!



Mrs. Donnelly's daughters in 2005 meeting Gerald Dickens, great-great grandson of Charles Dickens, who performed a one-man reader's theater of A Christmas Carol.

Music: Ms. Cienki

Our Winter Concert is on the 9th at 1:45pm. It will be held in the George F. Baker Auditorium, on the stage. I would love it if you have the opportunity to come and join us. After the Winter Concert, we will continue learning about steady beat, and reading sheet music. We'll then start learning about classroom instruments, and musical form. I'm very excited for the concert and all the learning that will come after. Have a wonderful chilly December!

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

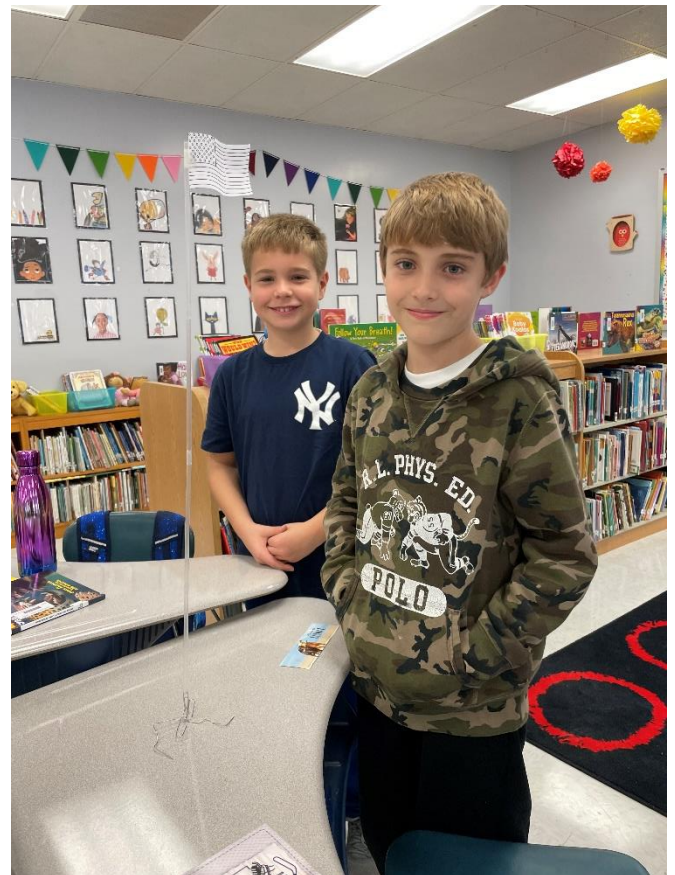
"¡Bienvenido Diciembre! November was a month of working hard and having fun! Students practiced their Spanish greetings, numbers, as well as the date! We played games to familiarize ourselves with answering basic Spanish questions. Together we have built a routine that helps us to keep organized. Overall, it was a very successful month of building our Spanish vocabulary. I am excited to see the growth our students have throughout the next month. In our ENL classes, the students have been growing each and every day. I am very proud of the improvement I have seen in a few short weeks. In December, we hope to continue that improvement by challenging ourselves to reach our goals!

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

Students in the reading room are learning about holidays around the world. While practicing our decoding, fluency, and comprehension, we are learning about different customs celebrated in different countries. As we read, we are locating those countries on the globe to strengthen our geography skills. December will be a month about sharing our own customs and learning about new ones.

Library: Mrs. Mui

Computer Science Education Week is December 5 - 11th. In Digital Literacy, we will celebrate Computer Science Education Week by participating in the Hour of Code. The Hour of Code is celebrated in schools all over the world and shows that anyone can learn the fundamentals of computer programming and computer science. Computer science and its disciplines relate to Digital Literacy as they directly affect how we gather and understand information, communicate and collaborate with each other, and ultimately how we present our understanding in digital formats. Continue the Hour of Code at home with your child and join in on the fun!



Math Specialist: Ms. Stack

Happy December! Students have been working diligently in the math room. We are practicing sorting and comparing numbers, becoming skip counting professionals, and have been doing fantastic with our multiplication. Some of us have even started working on division! Students have been actively participating in a lot of small group work and hands-on activities. We are excited to see what December has in store for us. After all, what season is the most successful? WIN-ter!

Speech: Ms. Bussard

Kindness is our character trait for GGM this December. Mrs. Bussard kicked it off by reading *The Power of One: Every Act of Kindness Counts* by Trudy Ludwig to all our students in the multipurpose room. The lesson learned was a powerful one; everyone has the ability to positively affect another person's life with just one small act of kindness. It only takes one person and one act of kindness to make a change. Our students later participated in a pledge of kindness and shared ways that they could display kindness. On each day leading to winter break Mrs. Bussard will reveal a new way to show kindness with her "Countdown with Kindness" bulletin board in the GGM lobby. We hope kindness will bloom throughout our school, within your home, family, and our community!

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

We are always learning the language of art in the art classroom. Pre-K created several different projects using collage, drawing, and coloring. We worked on recognizing lines and shapes, as well as being introduced to oil pastels. We spent a day coloring Turkey finger puppets and using our Puppet Theater for the first time. Kindergarten through 3rd grade created different levels of artwork using pattern. While the lower grades traced the 2nd grade used transfer paper, and the 3rd started their artwork of an animal covered with pattern. This project builds upon concepts learned last year. The 4th and 5th continued with their Storm King art project showing giant sculptures, while learning about texture and proportion. All projects were put aside for special projects. The lower grades created Turkey headbands and the upper grades made 3-D (Form) turkeys.

The Art Club created images for fire safety and used the time to create individual drawings. Also, they helped decorate the giant crayons I created to teach the lower grades about warm and cool

colors and color families.

We have painting projects coming in December and the 4th and 5th grade are excited to start on their ceramics project of ice skating penguins!

PTO on the Go!

Students at GGM and GFB made thank you cards and posters for local businesses and the PTO delivered them to the post office, library, Bentley's Deli, Dottie Audrey's and more. "This small token of gratitude brought a big smile to those who continuously support our community," says PTO President Isabel McLeod. Thank you to everyone who participated and we hope you have a peaceful holiday season with those you love!

