

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 Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I wish you all a healthy and joyful 2023. I hope everyone was able to enjoy time with family and get some well-deserved rest and relaxation during the break. I am excited at the promise the new year holds and all of the possibilities for learning, growth, and fun!

We will be starting the new year with one of my favorite activities, the Scholastic Book Fair. From January 18-20, the Scholastic Book Fair will be held in the GGM library. We are all very excited about its return. Scholastic Book Fairs offer a variety of book selections at affordable prices. We hope that all parents will be able to make some time to visit the fair. Visiting with your child is an excellent opportunity to discover books that will encourage your child to read for pleasure. Making books available to your child is an important way to support their reading growth and academic success.

During January, we will be focusing on the character trait of honesty. On Monday, January 9th, we held our monthly character trait read-along with our third grade teacher, Mrs. Rocklin, reading *A Bike Like Sergio's* by Maribeth Boelts, followed by a discussion about honesty. The theme will be carried through the month by teachers "catching" students being honest. When a teacher sees a student being honest, they will write it down on a paper petal which will be made into flowers that will hang on the lobby wall. I look forward to watching our garden of honesty grow.

Finally, school will be closed on January 16 in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Let King's words about truth inspire us as we contemplate honesty this month: "I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."



Upcoming Events

January 13 Movie Night for grades 3-5 (*Encanto* in the GFB Auditorium from 3-5:15pm)

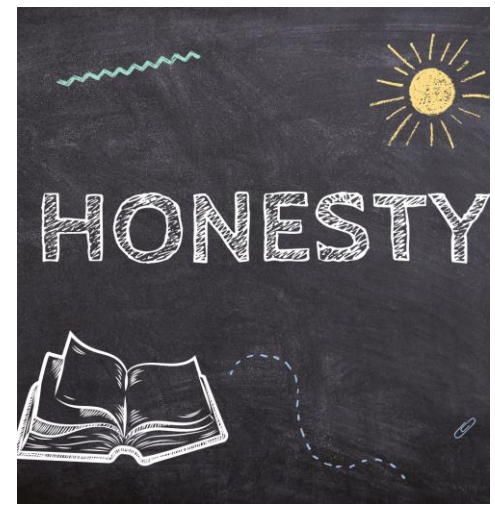
January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – School closed

January 18-20 Scholastic Book Fair

January 18 Board of Education Regular Meeting

January 27 end of second quarter for 5th Grade

Character Trait for January:



Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-k had a super festive December! We reviewed all letters up to "E". We made letter "E" Elves and lower-case letter "e" eggs. Pre-k worked hard on writing numbers and created a holiday counting book! We had fun making dreidels out of tissue paper, making special ornament keepsakes and decorating gingerbread people with glitter, buttons, and gems! Pre-k had fun being scientists and observing what happens when you mix two special ingredients together. The mixture turned into slime! Pre-k was also busy making gingerbread playdough while listening to the story "The Gingerbread Man." We continued to read different versions of the story and compared the stories together. We had fun sharing which story we liked the best! This month, we will be learning all about snow and hibernation! We are excited to create some super fun sensory snow projects and learn about animals that hibernate in the winter.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to grow and learn every single day! We are continuing to learn about the rules and expectations of the classroom, school, and our community. To start the New Year, the kindergarten students will continue working on using their fine motor skills, writing skills, and reading skills to create their own *My Five Senses* book. Students will look through magazines and cut out pictures of things they can feel, see, hear, smell, and taste. Kindergarteners are using their skills to identify pictures for which they use their senses, cut, glue, and to read the words in their books. We sense that we are going to have a lot of fun learning about our senses and creating our very own books!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Hi, Families! January is here fast! It is the start of a new year and we continue to be super busy in first grade. In reading, we will be reading, writing and acting out action words. Action words are words you can act out such as jump, run or clap. This is so much fun. The students especially love acting the words out. We will also continue to dig deeper in a text and learn about the setting and the details to support the main idea. We are also reading nonfiction books about different animals and their habitats. This falls right in line with our science unit as we learn more about animals and their behaviors. In phonics, we will be writing and reading bigger words. We are reading words that have blend sounds such as, sl, st, bl, br etc. These

are words that are super challenging so make sure you read them with your child at home daily, too. In math, we are completing unit 5. It has been a challenging unit. We continue to learn how to solve equations that have both addition and subtraction. We continue to learn about fact families and how subtraction and addition problems can be related. It's tricky but we are getting better and better every day. In social studies, we continue to learn about patriotism and the history of the American flag. We continue to use graphic organizers to help us organize our thoughts. We compare and contrast stories using a Venn Diagram and a T-chart.

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Happy new year! January brings new units of study for second graders. Second graders will begin a subtraction unit where they will learn to subtract double-digit numbers with regrouping. They have already mastered double-digit addition with regrouping! Second graders will also begin a research project on an animal. This project will begin with an investigation of nonfiction conventions. They will consider the question, "How do nonfiction conventions like labels, captions, photographs, etc...help the reader understand the text?" They will then focus their research on the animals' adaptations. This project will culminate in a student written book that includes some nonfiction conventions. This project will take over our ELA block as they read and write about their chosen animal.

Third Grade: Mrs. Rocklin

Happy New Year! 2023 is going to be an amazing year! 3rd grade is so excited to continue our project in science in which we are planting several seeds, tracking their growth with several different controls. Once we have some growth we will begin graphing and interpreting the data to create a final culminating project with our groups to present to the class. In ELA we will continue our studies with a book called *The Red Lollipop*. This book focuses on different cultures and customs. We will be determining the central theme as well as inferring, going further than the text to create an understanding of what the story is really sharing. Math is exciting! We embark on chapter 6, using multiplication and DIVISION! We will use our skills from previous chapters to complete division problems and word problems. Using multiplication is the key in division. We will continue to go to the

public library every other week and hope to create a focus for the books we pick each time we go.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bock

It is hard to believe that we are halfway through the year! In math, we are starting our study of Division. The students will learn about different strategies and learn new vocabulary words. In social studies, we are going to continue our study of New York State by comparing and contrasting the first communities/settlements. In science, we are going to continue to study the Earth's system by exploring volcanoes and volcanic eruptions. My fourth graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

It's hard to believe that it is January already! The year is flying by. The students continue to work hard and meet the challenges of each day. They have accomplished so much already this school year! In ELA/Writing we will be kicking off the new year by finishing our personal narrative writing pieces. Students have been diligently working on their stories and it will be time to publish them. We will celebrate by having the authors share their writing with their classmates. We will then start our informational writing piece. We will coordinate this with the social studies concepts that Mrs., Bock is teaching. In addition to working on our writing skills, we will continue to develop our reading skills. Students will begin reading and exploring a variety of nonfiction texts this month. We will begin with skills such as the main idea, summarizing, and text structure. It is important for students to read different texts and to read across the genres.

Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Happy New Year! Here in 5th grade we are excited to be starting our new year learning about European explorers in social studies! We are continuing to learn in the wonderful world of math, how to multiply and divide with decimals. Grade 5 is also very excited to start our life science unit. We will focus on learning all about plants & animals and how they interact in different ecosystems, and what is essential to growth and survival for living things. In ELA, we will continue to practice our grammar skills and will be completing our first novel study! Our character building skills continue to be

sharpened as we use our kindness bags and discuss what it means to be honest!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

Fifth Grade students will be working with LED light circuits during the month of January. Students will gain an understanding of how electricity works by connecting tiny light bulbs to wires and small battery packs. Students will have to carefully examine the bulbs to identify the positive and negative legs of the LED light. This is key in order to correctly connect the wires of the batteries to have their bulb glow

Physical Education: Ms. Dowling & Mr. Brunner

This January, our students will be bowling! We will learn the rules of the game, as well as a simplified version of scoring which will help develop our math skills as well. Bowling is one of the most well-known target games. Target games help develop movement skills, strategies, accuracy, and control. Bowling is also a very common lifetime activity that students will be able to participate in throughout their lives!

Music: Ms. Cienki

I hope everyone had a wonderful break! In January, we're continuing some of what we've been working on since the beginning of the year. Reading music, steady beat, and talking about emotions in music. Now, we're adding solfege, as well as starting Spring Concert music! Also, the play is chugging along and I could not be happier with how it's sounding and looking. I'm looking forward to an awesome month!

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

¡Bienvenido Enero! December flew by and it was full of learning! Together we worked on the Seasons, as well as getting to know more ways to greet people in Spanish! I hope January is full of growth and more Spanish communication. We are currently reviewing what we have learned thus far, and are eager to move on to more. Overall, it was a very fun and eventful month of building our Spanish speaking skills! I am excited to see the growth our students have throughout the next month! We are continuing to grow in our ENL classes. I have seen students obtaining their goals each week. They are becoming more and more confident in their ability to read, write, and

communicate every day. I am very excited for the growth we will see during this month!

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

We will be cozying with some good books in January in the reading room. Students will be reading and answering questions about winter, snow, and hibernating animals. We will be looking back in the text to find good evidence to support our answers. We will also look at the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. Students will learn important ways he worked to change America.

Library: Mrs. Mui

In Kindergarten and First Grade, we will be learning all about the Caldecott Medal in anticipation of the 2023 winner announcement this month. The Caldecott Medal, named for the illustrator Randall Caldecott, is awarded to the most distinguished children's picture book annually by the American Library Association's Association for Library Service to Children. We will closely evaluate illustrations of our top contenders in order to make a prediction of this year's winner. Our Mock Caldecott voting will include titles such as *Knight Owl* by Christopher Denise, *Gibberish* by Young Vo, and *Hot Dog* by Doug Salati. We cannot wait to share our favorites and see if our predictions are correct!

Math Specialist: Ms. Stack

Happy New Year! Welcome back, I hope everyone had a great break. In the math room we will continue working on all our math skills. We will be working towards our math new year's resolutions and practicing our addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

While December was a shorter month in school, the art classes still concentrated on different elements and principles of art and created artwork using stamps, pencils, pastels, crayons, and clay! The younger grades focused on lines, shapes and play to instill the sense that art is fun! The kindergarten created three-dimensional figures and forms, using aluminum foil. There were also artworks made with contrast using only black and white on gray with repeating patterns. The second and third grade finished up their texture others. Second and third grade students artwork were paired together to continue the sense of friendship that is felt in the GGM community.

Fourth and fifth grade students continued learning some techniques of clay building. They created a pinch pot bowl that would become an ice-skating rink (with marbles melted inside) and either one or two figures, such as a penguin that was required and a snowman or any other thing that they would like to make. It was pointed out that creating a penguin from one piece of clay was better than joining pieces of clay together that could fall apart. They went through the process of getting their artwork fired in a kiln twice while glazing on the step in between. Some grades made three-dimensional snowman, while others are working on a painting of snowman. All classes will be exploring more with paint both acrylic and tempera in this month.

Art club continues to develop their creativity with individual projects, but also joined in on a group project wishing the school "Happy Holidays!" Art Club will continue on Mondays and Thursdays through all of January and it should end mid-February.

PTO on the Go!

Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a wonderful and healthy holiday season! Thank you to everyone who supported our Wine to Donate event at Hudson Valley Wine Cellar. And a special thanks to everyone who helped package and distribute holiday gifts to teachers and staff before the break! Our next Dine to Donate is on Monday, February 6th at Characters from 3pm-9pm.

The PTO will receive 15% of all dine in or carry out purchases! Please support a local business and your PTO! Also, please join us for our next PTO meeting on Wednesday, February 1st at 7pm.



