

Letters from GGM - May 2023

GEORGE GRANT MASON SCHOOL

1 Tornado Drive, Tuxedo, NY 10987
Mrs. Dolores Terlecky, Principal
Website: Tuxedoschools.org

Phone: (845) 351-4797
email: dterlecky@tuxedoufsd.org



Terlecky Talk

May brings Teacher Appreciation Week and I truly appreciate our teachers here at GGM. As I move through the building each day visiting classrooms, I am impressed by their compassion for the students, passion for their profession, and their enthusiasm to incite a love of learning in your children. This year we have been concentrating on positive character traits, focusing on a different trait each month. Our faculty truly embodies those traits and sets excellent examples for our students. Our children learn respect, kindness, and acceptance by watching how their teachers treat them, their coworkers, and everyone they encounter in the course of a school day. The students learn honesty and responsibility by watching their teachers being honest, responsible citizens of the school community and holding the students to those same standards. They learn sportsmanship by seeing their teachers be good sports and promote fairness in the classroom as they encourage the students to work to the best of their abilities. The students learn patience and persistence by seeing their teachers model those behaviors, working patiently with any student who is struggling, never giving up on anyone. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated, caring, giving group of professionals in our school and I consider myself very fortunate to work with them.

May brings a few other notable events. The students will demonstrate their athletic skills at the Pep Rally on May 5. They will entertain us at the GGM Spring Concert on May 16. Our budget vote and Board of Education election also takes place on May 16. After the concert, be sure to stop by the GGM multipurpose room to vote. We appreciate your support and participation in the election process.



Artwork by Abigail Louissaint, our Principal for a Day, co-winner of the Pick a Reading Partner Reading Challenge.

Upcoming Events

- May 2-3** NYS Math Testing grades 3-8
- May 3** Budget Hearing 7PM
- May 4** PTO Meeting at 7PM at Characters Restaurant
- May 5** Pep Rally
- May 16** Spring Concert
- May 16** Budget Vote and Board of Education Election
- May 17** Board of Education Regular Meeting at 7PM
- May 19** Quarter 4 progress reports for 5th grade
- May 23** 23-24 Kindergarten screening
- May 29** Memorial Day – school closed

Character Trait for May:



Pre-K: Mrs. Braffett

Pre-k had a fun filled April. We worked hard practicing the letters, "N" "O", "P" and "Q" and enjoyed writing on our personal chalkboards and white boards. We worked on our cutting skills while we made an "O" for octopus and worked on following directions when creating our owls. Pre-k also had fun spelling out words that begin with the letter "P" and enjoyed creating our own pizzas during art. We loved choosing our favorite toppings and reading a super silly pizza story called "Crazy Pizza Day" to go along with it. Our Pre-K scientists investigated flowers closely this month. We dissected flowers and labeled each part while learning about the importance of pollination. Pre-k sequenced the information that we learned about flowers and identified the correct order from seed to flower. We also learned what flowers need to help them grow. Pre-k enjoyed making pink spring slime with our special ingredients and loved adding glitter and counting out gems together. It has been a great sensory activity to use in class. We are so excited about this beautiful weather and we can't wait to learn all about butterflies this month.

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

We are surrounded by things that are living and non-living. Kindergarten is continuing to learn and grow and understand our surroundings. We are diving deeper into understanding our surroundings by determining if the objects are living or non-living. Kindergarten has begun to look for living and non-living things around them at school and is determining what makes something a living thing or a non-living thing. Kindergarten is using their senses, reading, writing, math, and science skills to help them to identify, describe, compare and contrast living and non-living things.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

May is here and we have been so busy in first grade. In May we will be focused on writing a well-structured sentence with elaboration. The sentences will focus on main idea and details. In phonics we continue to focus on the "Bossy R" skill as in the words more, flower and fur. We will also learn about variant vowel words such as claw and author. In ELA, we will discuss and write questions about stories we read. We will answer questions and summarize the text with events and important details. We will use bossy r words and variant vowel words in all of our writing. In math, we are beginning a new unit. This math unit is so much fun.

We are learning how to record data and make bar graphs to show the data we collected. We will be learning how to make a survey by asking a question. We can then record what we learned by making a bar graph. In social studies, we will be learning about the world around us. We will be using globes to find different countries and discuss their customs. Last but not least, in science we are discussing plants and their plant parts. We will also be planting. Get ready families. Spring has sprung in first grade. Yay!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Spring has sprung outside and in the second grade classroom. In May, second graders will get a brief review of plant parts, their growth and our dependence on them, which will lead right into learning about plants' dependence on animals for pollination. Through a STEM activity, students will learn about the importance of pollination, about how different birds, animals and insects play an essential part in ensuring the future of our food supply. The students will work as agricultural engineers and investigate the best materials for hand pollinating, then design and create their own hand pollinators. The importance of understanding these processes can help students make decisions that will improve the environment and help maintain the populations of pollinators for years to come.

After understanding that birds are pollinators, students will work as ornithologists and investigate birds. How do they fly? What do they eat? How are feathers the perfect covering for birds? Where do birds in NYS go in the winter? Students will make their own bird watching journal and learn how to identify the birds in our area. On the first of June we will visit The Bronx Zoo to see the bird exhibits!

Third Grade: Mrs. Rocklin

We are so excited to complete our science projects on plant growth. We have been graphing our plant growth for a month and now are ready to type up our findings and display our work. Now that we have completed our ELA state exams, we will begin our study on Peter Pan. What a great story of imagination and adventure. I can't wait to see the class light up as we read chapter by chapter. In math, we are beginning our studies on measurement. We will explore perimeter, telling time, distance and converting ounces and kilograms. With the warmer weather coming our

way, I am hoping to do some classwork outside so we can enjoy the sunshine.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been continuing to work hard in 4th grade and it shows. This month in math, we are going to apply what we have learned and complete a math project. Projects are a great way for students to deepen their level of understanding and show what they know. In social studies we are continuing to study New York State and will continue to explore colonial life. In science, we will continue to study electricity. Please continue to have your student practice their math facts each night and keep up the great work.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth grade is happy that it is spring and warmer weather is (hopefully) on the horizon. We will begin May with a class read aloud novel (a favorite in Fourth Grade) and the students will use their critical thinking skills for class discussions and written response questions. There are so many interesting and amazing books to read. We will keep reading both fiction and non-fiction texts to refine the skills we have been working on all year. In addition, the class will work on a variety of writing, spelling, and grammar activities. May is another busy month for us.

Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Fifth grade is moving right along with our school year. We have been busy learning all about the metric system in math and prepping for our state exams. Aside from reading novels in ELA, we are about to enter the wonderful world of poetry.

We will be completing a few hands-on projects in science as we learn about Earth and its many systems. In social studies we are finishing up our unit on different types of maps and will be focusing on US history. Grade 5 is also taking time out of our day to consciously think of ways to be kind to our neighbors. We are always working toward being examples for the younger students here at GGM.

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

May is National Inventors Month. National Inventors Month started as a collaboration between the United Inventors Association and the Academy of Applied Science in 1998. It is used to recognize and celebrate the creativity, curiosity and courage to experiment. To celebrate, students will learn about famous innovators such as Albert Einstein, George Washington Carver, Marie Van Brittan Brown,

Alexander Graham Bell, Thomas Edison and Nikola Tesla. Pre-K and Kindergarten students will practice the Engineering Design Process and sketch their own inventions. After their sketch is completed, students will begin to build their invention prototypes. As a challenge, students will have a constraint of limited classroom building supplies to make the prototype of their creation. The students will continue through the Engineering Design Process to test and improve their final product.

Physical Education: Ms. Dowling & Mr. Brunner

Happy May! This month students in Pre-K to 2nd grade will be playing Tee Ball, where students will work on batting and base running. Students in 3rd to 5th grade will be completing our Jump Rope Ninja's Challenge. Based on total consecutive jumps, students will move through a series of "belts" to try and work up to a black belt.

Music: Ms. Cienki

Hello everyone! This is the busiest time of year for Music classes because we're finally close to the Spring concerts. On Tuesday, May 16th are both the GGM and GFB Spring Concerts. We're all so excited for you to hear what we've worked on these last few months. Also, the following week, 3rd Grade is going to Carnegie Hall. For other classes, 4th & 5th Grade are still working on ukulele, and K-2 are working on song-writing, basic music skills such as note reading, and learning different music vocabulary. Have a great May everyone.

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

¡Bienvenidos Mayo! April was full of lots of learning. Following our unit on body parts, we began to learn about the different clothing we wear. Students are in the process of creating an activity to help review these pieces of clothing. Once again, they are working super hard, and practicing so much Spanish. We are starting to become very familiar with reading the date in Spanish as well. I am excited to see what May brings.

Library: Mrs. Mui

Back by popular demand, the Library Media Center's I Spy Challenge will be taking place this month. Modeled after the popular Scholastic I Spy series, students will be asked to use their observation skills to see how many objects they are able to spot. Be on the lookout for popular book characters, objects that belong in the library, and even objects that DO NOT belong in the library! A

prize will be awarded to the student with the most correct responses in each class. Let's see how many objects we can spy with our little eyes.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Wouldn't it be great if everything you touched turned into chocolate? Sounds yummy, right? Not if you ask my 4th graders who just completed the novel, *The Chocolate Touch*. This is the tale of John Midas, a greedy boy, who "earns" the power to turn everything he touches into chocolate. It seemed like fun at first, but he learns that his selfishness has consequences. The book is based on the Greek myth, *The Midas Touch*, which my students read prior to the novel.

After a very successful reader's theater production of *A Christmas Carol* earlier this school year, my 4th graders are now working on a reader's theater production of *A Chocolate Touch* but this time, they are creating an actual animated movie using the kid-friendly website, Animaker. Students are learning about settings, characters' emotions and mood. They will have a "movie premiere" later in May, complete with popcorn for their classmates. Now that sounds yummy!

Math Specialist: Ms. Stack

Happy May! Spring has sprung and our little minds have been growing so much in the math room. The students have been working extremely hard to master all of their skills. We have been learning about 3-D shapes, angles, how to tell time, working more with fractions, and units of measure. Why does an obtuse triangle lose every argument? Because it is never right.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

As spring blossoms, so do we. Our readers are gaining confidence as we read about insects and planting. We will be exploring different insects through texts and hands on. Students will be learning about the different life cycles of insects and explore them with our very own eyes. Creepy crawlies can be so interesting.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

Although we started with a vacation at the beginning of this month, the art classes have done many creative things. Students showed their love for Kimo, the art room tiki, after he came back from a long vacation in Hawaii. Pre-K did projects involving line and learned about vertical, horizontal, diagonal, zigzagging, straight, curvy,

etc. Kindergarten and 1st grade classes did projects involving texture, and practiced writing the names of the textures next to images they made. In class, they used rubbing plates. They then went on to become Texture detectives, finding them around the room. Finally, they drew a few of their own textures. 2nd and 3rd grade made sure their Texture and Form page in their Sketchbooks were finished. Students learned how to make things three-dimensional by starting with shapes, and connecting them with lines and shadows. In 4th and 5th grade, we started a sewing project. Students prepared their burlap, yarn and needle, and next month will be learning several different stitches. In April, where our last two days of the 4th and 5th grade GGM Art Club. Students worked on different projects, including putting beads on animal stencils and ironing them. Most were able to leave behind an addition to our mobile of stars, the 2023 Art Club Stars.

All grades finished a project called Art to Remember. They made colorful, creative projects that can be printed on a variety of material such as mugs, ceramics, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Parents should be receiving a letter explaining how to order their child's artwork later this month. Shown here is the first grade submission of Portraits with a Hat.



PTO on the Go

This past month the PTO was able to assist the Interact Club at GFB with the Earth Day Town Clean Up. We also hosted a concession stand at the First Cut Film Festival. Please join us on Thursday, May 4th, for a Meet the BOE Candidates Night at Characters Restaurant at 7pm. We'll also be taking nominations for next year's PTO Board. The School Budget Vote and BOE Election is on Tuesday, May 16th. At that time, tickets will also be on sale for our upcoming Tricky Tray Raffle and Trivia Night. We hope to see you there!







