

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 Tuxedo Families,

Happy new year to you all. I hope it's a healthy year for you and your families.

I am writing this from my office in the midst of our remote learning. This is day three and the absence of the children is palpable. GGM is just a building when there are no children in it. The laughter, the chatter, and the noise that the children bring to this building is what makes it a school. Without all their energy there is a sense of emptiness that only their presence can fix. Although we all understand the need for keeping our children and staff safe, I can't wait for their return so we can be a school again, with its exuberance and its challenges. May the joyful noise resume!



Upcoming Events

January 14 PTO General Board Meeting at 7:00 PM

January 17 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day: School closed

January 19 Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM

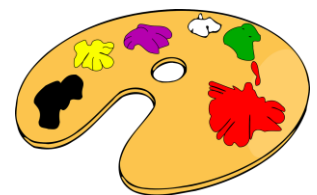
January 21 PTO Board and Brush Event

January 28 Quarter 2 ends for 5th Grade (Report cards published on February 4)

February 21-25 President's Week: School closed

PTO on the Go

The PTO would like to thank all of the parents who donated to the PTO in some way this past year. Your generosity helped us purchase holiday gifts for the faculty and staff. We look forward to seeing you at our Board & Brush on January 21st!



Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

We had a super busy and festive December. We worked hard and had fun practicing our songs for the GGM Holiday Show. Thank you to all of the families who came out to watch us shake our reindeer tails! We also worked on our math skills by identifying patterns using holiday pictures, worked on counting with one to one correspondence and identified numbers with a gingerbread math game. Pre-K worked on identifying simple and complex shapes during a Smart Board lesson and followed step by step instructions to make yummy smelling gingerbread play dough. We worked on sequencing a story after reading "The Gingerbread Man" and we loved making letters and Gingerbread people out of the gingerbread play dough! We worked on upper and lower case letter formation of the letters "k", "l" and "m". We had fun singing along to letter songs and practicing the letter sound for each letter of the week. This month's theme will be all about winter! We are excited to learn about hibernation, participate in winter weather science experiments and make our own version of snow for the sensory table. We will continue to practice each letter of the week including letters, "N", "O", and "P", work on positional words and make predictions during our science activities. It looks like we will have a very cool January!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Kindergarten continues to 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 students will continue working on using their fine motor skills, writing skills, and reading skills to make My Five Senses books. 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 cut, glue, find pictures, and read the words in their books.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Greetings families! January is here! Ms. Rohe and I are super excited because I will be back in the classroom. I missed my friends so much! With that being said, we are going to be learning so many new things in the new year. We will be learning new reading strategies and new math strategies. To start with, in reading we are going to really work using our close reading model. We will use this strategy to find and identify words that describe a feeling. A close reading model lesson is when we really read and dig deeper as we read and focus

on the vocabulary in the text. This strategy is great to get our friends to really think about what they read and to read with a purpose. In phonics the focus will be digraphs and plural words. In math we will be counting with numbers up to 100. We will also be learning to visualize a model as we read a word problem. We are going to learn how to use models to solve word problems with numbers up to 100. In social studies we are going to learn about community helpers in our community and how they help us with our daily lives! It's going to be super busy but also super fun! See you soon families and Happy New Year!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

The students will begin the new year by focusing on nonfiction texts and writing. They will explore nonfiction conventions like captions, photographs, labels, glossaries and other conventions. They will discover how these conventions help the reader better understand new information. They will then do a research project and using what they have learned, the students will write their own book incorporating some of the conventions listed above. The students can now add two-digit numbers with regrouping so in January they will learn how to subtract with regrouping. Lots of new skills to be taught by me and learned by them! It is an exciting way to begin 2022!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been very busy in third grade! In Math, we are continuing our study of division. We have realized that the more we practice our facts, the easier division gets! In ELA, we will continue our unit on fables and folktales. In Social Studies, we are going to explore the concept of culture and study cultures around the world. In Science, we are going to learn about the engineering design process. My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

Third Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 3 has been busy continuing to fill our kindness buckets in this new year! Now that we have a grasp of our times tables, we will be moving on to learning the ins and outs of basic division and continuing to learn about the relationship between multiplying and dividing. In social studies we will be keeping busy learning about the ways that we depend on each other in society and different family traditions around the world! We are also exploring the area of life science and how we as humans interact with our environment as well! We are looking forward to

continuing to build our knowledge as we grow and learn this year.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has been quite busy learning a variety of different skills! In math we began digging deeper into division in December and will continue to explore this topic in January. As we wrap up division, we will begin to learn about fractions. The students have done a great job with their skills so far!! ELA/SS we have read a variety of different texts (both fiction and nonfiction) as we continue work on key skills like comparing & contrasting, making inferences, using context clues, etc. We will begin to learn about NYS history in the coming weeks. Finally, in science, we will begin learning about rocks and landforms. We have much to learn about and look forward to.

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock

Happy New Year! This month, we are beginning new novels from Percy Jackson & The Olympians: The Lightning Thief to Al Capone Does My Shirts. They will explore different themes and reading strategies. In science, we will begin our unit on matter, its forms, and the way it changes. In math, we are continuing with dividing decimals. This will be our final decimal unit!!!

Library: Mrs. Mui

In Digital Literacy we celebrated Computer Science Education Week during the week of December 6-12. We continued ongoing discussions on ways to be safe and responsible digital citizens across all grade levels. From making sure to keep any private information such as our names, addresses, school, phone numbers, passwords, parents' credit card information, etc. to ourselves to being kind online, students had the opportunity to discuss these issues in the context of their own digital lives. Fourth graders also celebrated Computer Science Education week by coding with Bee-Bots! Mrs. Rota's class was challenged to program their Bee-Bots to travel around the island in the library media center without bumping into any obstacles! Students successfully completed their challenge after debugging along the way and demonstrating a growth mindset.

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

In the month of January, Kindergarten STEM will explore static electricity by assembling tissue paper butterflies! Static electricity occurs when there is an imbalance between negative and positive

charges in an object. This can happen when certain materials rub against one another.

The challenge will be for the students to get the wings of the butterfly to move without touching them. Students will take a balloon and rub it on their shirt to create static electricity. When the students waved the balloon near the wings of the butterfly that they assemble, the wings should rise from the static electricity!

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

Grades K-2

Students have begun to work on throwing and catching skills in physical education. Students have been using yarn balls to practice these skills. Students have also been refining their locomotor movements and chasing and fleeing skills in the form of tag games.

Grades 3-5

Students have been practicing their basketball skills such as dribbling, passing, and shooting. Students also learned the rules and sportsmanship with the game. Students participating in the Saturday morning GGM Basketball are also gearing up to get ready to participate in the pep rally!

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

One of the biggest challenges 3rd graders across the country face is learning their multiplication facts. For some students, memorizing the facts comes easy. However, for the majority of students learning the facts is troublesome and laborious. My students are learning the tricky facts with stories from Times Tables the Fun Way. Students enjoy the silly stories that help them remember the facts. For instance, for the fact "6 x 6", students learn of the 6 twins who must travel across a desert. By the time they get across, they are "thirsty sixes" or "thirty-six". I have had former students come back to me stating that they still remember the stories, years later! If your child is struggling with the facts, please see Mrs. Donnelly and I can give you a sample of the stories to practice at home.

Music: Mr. Stelmach

Firstly, I would like to congratulate all the students on a job well done in the winter concert. Everyone was great, and I am very proud of what they were able to accomplish. Now we are back to working on beat, rhythm, and reading skills. We will be singing, doing movements, and playing classroom instruments to help learn and reinforce these skills.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

January may bring cold weather, but we will be cozying up with good books in the Reading Room. We will be reading about Martin Luther King Jr. and learn why he is such an important figure. Students will also be reading about winter, snow, and arctic animals. We will also learn about animals that are hibernating during the winter months.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

Some Artwork from Kindergarten and both 3rd grades will be on display at the Tuxedo Park Public Library starting December 23! Check it out all through January.

The students of George Grant Mason are creating some great art this school year! While every grade has been learning about the elements and principles of art, the lower grades have been concentrating on shape, line and color, and the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades have been focusing on making things look 3-D.

Snow projects of different levels were created from kindergarten to third grade, some using stencils, some using cut outs, but all using paint. The fourth grade concentrated on their contrast name project on the front of their Sketchbooks. Shown here are the 5th grade 1-point perspective name projects from the front of their Sketchbooks. For some this was the most 3-D thing they've created so far.

GGM Window Painting - The 5th grade also shared their creativity painting the windows inside and starting the painting outside of the Multi-purpose room. I met with elementary and middle school students to paint the town and finish painting GGM Saturday the 18th.

