

George Grant Mason School

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Terlecky Talk

Dear Tuxedo Families,

February is upon us, and despite Covid, the dark, and the cold, there is much to celebrate at GGM.

For example, we will be having spirit week later this month. The schedule is on the right. Children enjoy dressing up in the different themes, and it makes them all feel connected to one another.

Our faculty and staff have been collecting money for the Sloatsburg Food Pantry, which provides assistance to many of our local families. In December, they made a donation of just under \$800! They also have been making monthly food donations to benefit our Backpack program. We celebrate their generosity.

Valentine's Day is also coming up this month. The students may bring in cards for their friends and classmates. They will also be allowed to bring in pencils, pencil sharpeners, erasers, with little hearts on them, etc. if they so choose. However, there can be no food brought in for another student. Even pre-packaged store-bought food may not be brought in to school.

February is also Black History Month. One of my heroes is Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., a man who worked diligently towards bringing peace and harmony to our country. I often think of him when I watch the news these days and wonder what he would think about it all. Ultimately, I am always drawn to his quotes, and his words have guided me many times. How wonderful it would be if we all adopted his philosophy of his love and respect of humanity. I leave you with a powerful message in his incomparable words.

"I have
decided to
stick with love.
Hate is too big
a burden to
bear."



Upcoming Events

February 3 PTO Virtual Meeting at 7:00 PM at 7PM. Link:

[HTTPS://MEET.GOOGLE.COM/YQI-MYHZ-TYE](https://meet.google.com/YQI-MYHZ-TYE) or dial: 314-666-2612,

Pin: 211 562 288#

February 14-18 Spirit Week:

- ♥ Monday (2/14) – Kindness keeps us all on the same team: Wear your favorite sports team clothing
- ♥ Tuesday (2/15) – Go crazy for kindness: Crazy Hat/Hair Day
- ♥ Wednesday (2/16) – Wake up to kindness: Pajama Day
- ♥ Thursday (2/17) – Kindness builds character: Dress as your favorite character
- ♥ Friday (2/18) – Tornadoes of kindness: Wear red and white

February 16 Board of Education Meeting at 7:00 PM

February 18 GGM Pep Rally

February 21-25 President's Week: School closed

PTO on the Go

Thank you to everyone who came to our Board and Brush Event! Stay tuned for some fun Dine to Donates in the upcoming months (which benefit local businesses AND the PTO) and the launch of our new spirit wear store. For more details, please join us for our next remote meeting on Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm (the link is above).

Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

Pre-K had a busy January filled with "cool" science experiments and new letter activities. We learned all about the letters "N", "O" and "P" and introduced "Q". We had fun making Pizza P's and learning about the vowel "O". We continue to practice letter formation and identifying words that begin with each letter. We learned all about hibernation during this cold time of year and had a blast making bear caves, reading the books *Animals in Winter* and *Bear Snores On* and making igloos out of magnet tiles. Pre-K loves science experiments, so we compared snow with and without salt and made guesses about what would happen. We also made fake snow with baking soda and conditioner and it really felt like cold snow! We also worked on our math skills with a fun snowball counting Smartboard game using a ten frame. This month we will be wrapping up our hibernation theme and moving on to hearts, love, and flowers for our Valentine's theme. In math, we will be learning how to measure and will work on putting objects in size order. We will be learning about the letters "Q", "R" and "S" and we look forward to creating words and making awesome letter art projects. This month, we will also begin learning about rhyming words. Pre-K can't wait to read some silly Dr. Seuss books! I think we are really going to LOVE February!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Hello 100!!! Kindergarten has been counting the days until 100 days of school!! We will finally make it on February 10, 2022 (unless we get a snow day!) In celebration of the 100th Day, students will make their own 100 Day projects using their creativity, fine motor skill, Math and writing skills. Kindergarten is anxious to display their creativity! In school the students keep track of how many days we are in school on a daily calendar, will make a 100 Day Crown with 100 drawings on it, and make a necklace by adding items in groups of ten – we know 10 groups of 10 makes 100!!! Students are learning different ways to count to 100 and different ways to show 100! We are learning more and more every single day and we will soon be 100 Days brighter!!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Greetings families! February is right around the corner! Do you believe that February is almost here? I guess this is what happens when we are super busy! This month In ELA we will be learning the differences between physical and character traits

when discussing characters from a book. We will also learn about settings and details of important events in the story that may or may have not changed a characters way of thinking. In phonics we are learning all about contractions. In math we are learning how to skip count, and count numbers up to one hundred using math manipulatives. We are also learning how to compare numbers to find the greater number. We are learning how to revise and edit our writing! This is so exciting! This is coupled with our use of grammar when we are writing. We will begin with a prewrite, then a draft until we are done with the finished product. It's going to be a busy and fun month! :)

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders are in the midst of a nonfiction unit. First, second graders made a nonfiction convention reference book. They investigated nonfiction conventions, like captions, maps, photographs, close-ups in order to understand how these parts of nonfiction help readers better understand new information. Now they are going through the writer's process to create their very own animal book. They have chosen an animal to research and have already completed graphic organizers for their pre-write. They are now working on their first draft. The students will be incorporating at least three nonfiction conventions into their books. Students will continue through the writer's process until they have a final draft that they are proud of! I am already proud of their efforts!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been very busy in third grade! In math, we will apply our math skills to real world situations as we start our study of perimeter. In ELA, we have been focusing on identifying the theme, or the message, of a story. We have also been working on our writing, by practicing the RACE strategy. In social studies and science, we are going to explore topics and complete projects related to the holidays coming up this month (Groundhog Day and Valentine's Day). My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

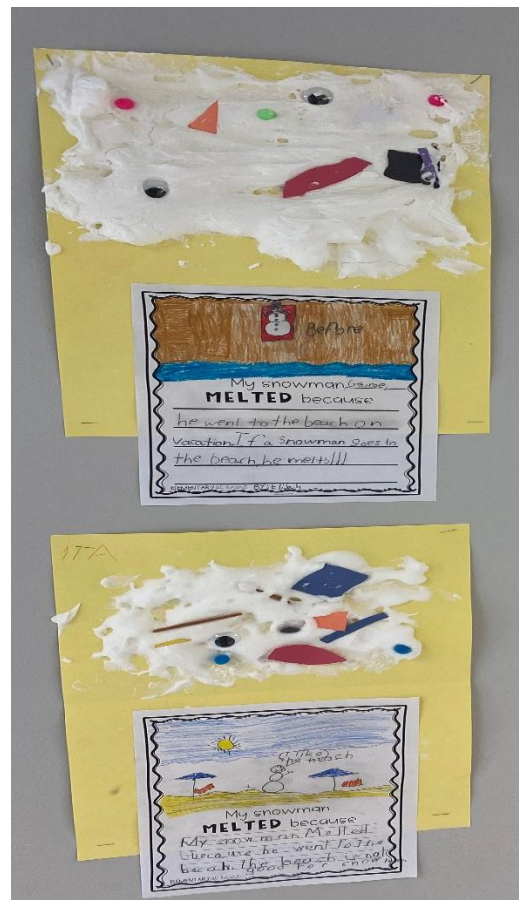
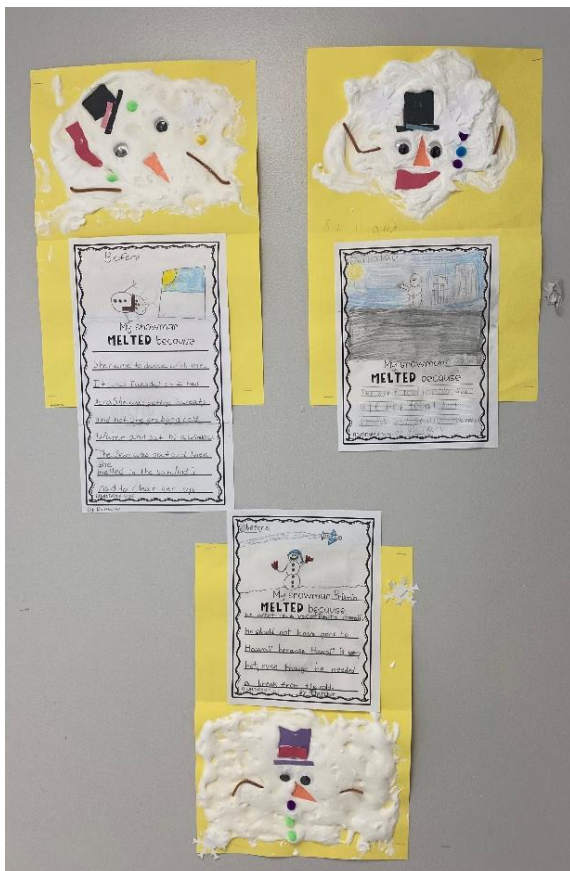
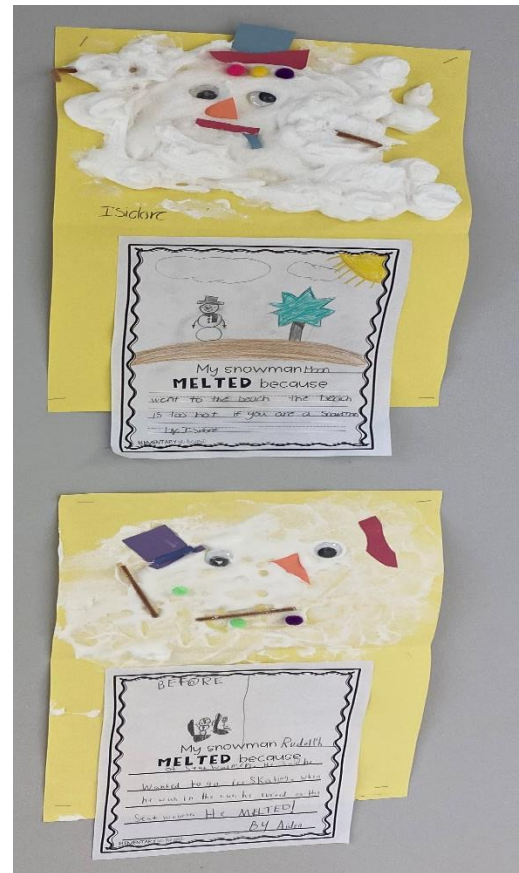
Third Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 3 is off to a great start in the new year. We are about to learn how to apply our multiplication skills to geometry. In science we are continuing to learn how animals interact in their environments. We are reading many new and exciting passages in ELA and really sharpening our writing skills as we learn how to search for details and figure out the theme of

different literary Coworks. We are continuing to fill our kindness buckets as the days go on, always remembering that "kindness goes a long way at the end of the day" in grade 3!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has been hard at work!! We have learned about division and are starting our unit on fractions. We are looking forward to not only learning about fractions, but also applying this knowledge in the real world. It is a fun unit! The students just completed a cross curricular assignment between ELA, STEM and art. We read *Sneezy the Snowman* in ELA and worked with Ms. Klimowich and Mr. Stankiewicz on different assignments related to the book. The class completed a STEM experiment and tested a hypothesis (we were trying to determine what would cause ice to melt the fastest). In art, the students created their own "melted snowman". The students concluded the activity by writing a short passage on what caused their snowman to melt. We are looking forward to more activities like this. In ELA we will continue to read a variety of different texts and work on our reading and writing skills. We have begun to explore NYS in social studies and we are learning about rock patterns and the Earth in science. The students are doing a great job!!



Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock

We are officially halfway to 6th grade! In February, we are looking forward to our 1,000th day of school for fifth grade! There are 180 days every year, K-4, which would be 900 days and then 100 this year so far, 1,000 in total. We are also officially beginning fractions! This will be three chapters and will take a month or two. Due to the remote period at the beginning of January, we pushed our novels back a little bit. They seem to really be enjoying them so far. These novels have characters that are different from ourselves and it has been nice to see their perspective on new situations. We will also be celebrating Black History Month by looking at influential African Americans throughout time and the way they impacted our history as a nation.

Library: Mrs. Mui

February is one of our favorite months in the George Grant Mason Library Media Center because there is always so much to celebrate! From Black History Month, Lunar New Year, World Read Aloud Day, Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, to this year's Winter Olympics, it is so unfair that February is the shortest month of the year. While we read, ask questions, and gain new insights and understanding throughout this month, join us for the Reading Olympics! Complete reading related challenges such as reading an e-book and reading with a buddy. We look forward to sharing all of the ways we can be strong readers. Stay tuned for more information about the Reading Olympics as we go for the gold!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

In the month of February, first grade STEM students will create LEGO marble mazes. Each student will work with a LEGO base plate that will support their pieces. The students will use the engineering design process to carefully plan and construct their mazes! Each maze will have to have an entry point and exit for their marble. Each student will also have to carefully plan to make sure that the walls of their maze will be high enough so that the marble would not fall, but side enough for the marble to pass through with ease. After the students test out their design, they will have to note on their design sheet if they need to improve their design by adding more LEGO pieces or taking some away!

Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro

Grades K-2

Students have continued 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, chasing, and fleeing skills in the form of tag games.

Grades 3-5

Students have continued 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

GGM Yearbook News

The creation of the 2022 GGM Yearbook is underway! We have another "unusual" school year to document and the GGM Yearbook staff could use your help!

If you have any photos from school events (ex. Peace Day, Halloween, concerts, at-home learning), you can submit the digital photos to be considered for inclusion in the 2022 edition of the GGM Yearbook. It's very easy! You have 3 choices:

1. Download the Yearbook Snap mobile app from the App Store or Google Play, and enter our access code: ggm2022
2. Go to yearbookforever.com, enter our school name, George Grant Mason Elementary School, click on Yearbook Snap and enter our access code: ggm2022
3. Attach digital photos in an email addressed to: ndonnelly@tuxedoufsd.org with Yearbook Photos in the subject line.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Music: Mr. Stelmach

The young musicians have continued singing and playing instruments in class. Many classes have been working on playing and identifying rhythms in music notation. Fourth and fifth grade students have begun a unit playing the ukulele. The band students have been progressing and will soon have full band instruction in addition to their small group lessons.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

In February, we are LOVING books in the Reading Room! Students are continuing to practice using strategies to determine unknown words. We are recalling the facts we learn to write. Students are using special "space sticks" to remember to leave spaces between words when we write. We are using writing checklists to remember things like capital letters, spaces, sight words, and periods. When we write what we learn when we read---we remember!

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

It's all about the exploration of different visual arts media!. The youngest Pre-K through 3rd grade students have gotten their hands on paint, crayons, colored pencils, stamps and oil pastels; to create a variety of projects. Shown here are some igloos with penguins made by the kindergarten showing a pattern. The students continued developing their cutting skills. These young artists will continue more of that with step-by-step, piece by piece projects moving forward. Second grade and above were introduced to mixing with oil pastels. They started creating new colors from two or more oil pastels mixed together on traced images. The fourth and fifth grade were introduced to new neon temper cakes and encouraged to create original artwork. During their time on remote classes, these grades worked on a project showing the Northern Aurora borealis. Here are a few examples from the 5th grade. This month the younger grades will explore a new medium - printmaking. Second and fifth grade will be introduced to clay. All grades will continue to research different types of media to see what they like to use most!





