

George Grant Mason School

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Terlecky Talk

Dear Tuxedo Families,

I am hopeful that by the time you read this, spring will have made some sincere attempts to come and stay a while.

As you may be aware, the children will once again be able to eat together in the cafeteria instead of the classrooms. There will have to be some protocols in place but it's a great step in the right direction. We are all so happy to have a semblance of the good old days.

You will have also received information on the New York State Grades 3-8 ELA and math tests. The 4th and 8th grades have additional NYS science tests. You should have received a letter regarding opting out of the tests. If you choose to opt your child out of the tests you must let me know in writing, either by returning the bottom of the letter or by sending me an email at dterlecky@tuxedoufsd.org.

March is Women's History Month. There are so many women who are pioneers in so many fields that it would be difficult to single out only a few. I would like to recognize the women in our own livesthe women who raised us, who taught us, who inspired us, and made us better people. Wishing you all a very healthy and warm March.



Upcoming Events

March 11 Kindergarten
Orientation 1:00PM

March 12 PTO Trivia Night at
Characters Restaurant at 7:00 PM

March 16 Board of Education
Meeting at 7:00 PM

March 18 End of 2nd Trimester
for grades PK-4

March 29-31 ELA State Testing

PTO on the Go

We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing winter break! Are you interested in joining the PTO? Come to our next meeting on Wednesday, March 9th at 7pm at Seven Lakes Station and hear more about our future plans, including openings for officers next year. Our spirit wear store is up and running as well! Check it out here:

<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/organizations/tuxedo>. And for those interested, the PTO Today Live Expo is coming to the Meadowlands on March 29th from 9am-1pm. Admission is free. If you're interested in attending, please let us know!

Pre-K: Ms. Braffett

February went by super-fast for Pre-K! We were busy making Valentines cards and crafts, relaxing on our winter break and reading Dr. Seuss books together. We learned all about the letters "Q", "R" and "S" and introduced "T". We used our senses this month and made rose scented valentines playdough and had fun playing with the water beads in the sensory table. We practiced our counting with plastic hearts and sorted big and small with different size heart manipulatives. Pre-K had fun practicing each letter of the week by tracing, cutting and sorting pictures that started with each letter. We also introduced rhyming words and completed fun Dr. Seuss activities, too! This month we will continue to learn all about rhyming words and we will read the tongue twister book "Fox in Sox" by, Dr. Seuss. We are excited to learn about weather and we have some fun rainbow activities planned, too! Pre-K is excited to participate in the volcano science experiment this month. They have been asking about it each week! We will definitely be feeling LUCKY this March with everything we have planned!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

It has been a cold, long winter in Tuxedo! Kindergarten students are learning all about the weather and how we adapt to the weather for each season. In science, Kindergarten will begin learning all about hibernation. From snakes hibernating in burrows to turtles hibernating in mud, to bats hibernating in caves, students will learn why and how animals hibernate and what they do before they go to sleep for their long winter nap. Students will learn how this preparation of eating lots and lots of food helps keep the animals' bodies healthy during their winter nap so when the animals wake up in the spring, they are ready to eat and play! (We sure are ready to play in the spring weather, too!!) Kindergarten will use what they learn about animals hibernating in ELA. They will put together a book and share different facts about hibernating animals. Next time you see a GGM Kindergartener, be sure to ask him or her to tell you all about hibernation!

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Greetings, families! I can't believe it is March! Soon the snow will melt and the flowers will begin to grow. I can't wait to be in the sun with my friends! It's been a long cold winter. However, it has been a very busy few weeks. This month In ELA, we are learning how to ask question as we read a story. We

can ask questions about characters and settings. We can also try and predict the outcome according to some of the questions we ask. We are also learning how to write the questions we have and give our opinion of what should happen. In phonics we will be working with compound words and other word endings such as er, ir, ar. In math, we are learning how to add and subtract base 10 numbers. We will begin a new unit soon that focuses on measurement and the tools we use to measure while trying to solve math word problems. In social studies, we are learning about American symbols and how they are important and how they came to be. We will also learn where these symbols are in the United States and what everyday items we have in our homes that might have pictures of these symbols. In science, we are starting a unit on physical traits and where they come from. For example, "I get curly hair from my father and so on." We will then move on to physical traits in flowers and bugs! :) This will be a fun unit.

Happy March, Families!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders had the opportunity to go on a maple sugar tour at the Hudson Highland Nature Museum. Before visiting, the students learned all about how maple syrup is made and even got to see photos of Mrs. Bussard and her family tapping a few of their very own maple trees! They were thoroughly prepared to walk among the maple trees and see the process in person. The students had the opportunity to taste the sap directly from the tree and then sample the finished product, real maple syrup. It was cold but so nice to be outdoors among the trees! This month the students will participate in an Engineering is Elementary STEM unit and act as mechanical engineers. They will analyze the structures of different types of machines and compare different technologies that use wind energy. Students then follow the steps of the Engineering Design Process to imagine, plan, create, and improve their own windmill blades.

Second graders continue to impress me with their learning. They have recently finished writing an animal book while going through the entire writing process and can now use pencil and paper algorithms for solving triple digit addition and subtraction. They are working so hard!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

We have been continuing to work hard in third grade! In math, we will continue our study of

geometrical concepts, specifically the topic of area. In ELA, we have been focusing on our reading comprehension skills by citing and identifying text evidence. We have also been continuing to work on our writing, by practicing the RACE strategy. In social studies we are going to explore a series of mini units this month; specifically bartering and trading, women's history month, and day light savings. In science, we will start a new unit on forces and motion. We have also started out Math Multiplication Tournament! Our first challenge was multiplication board games. My third graders have been doing an amazing job! Please tell them to keep up the great work!

Third Grade: Ms. Valastro

Grade 3 has been working hard! We are having fun in math learning how to measure area and perimeter. We are now able to apply our knowledge of multiplication to figure out different measurements as well! In ELA, we have been busy reading and learning how to use the RACE strategy to thoroughly answer questions and continue to work at becoming fantastic writers! Grade 3 will be learning how to craft an essay this month as well! We will be starting with a descriptive essay on what else but our favorite foods! Perhaps most of all, we are looking forward to Springtime and continuing to learn about many new topics!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

We have continued our work with fractions - we have learned to add and subtract. We will soon be learning to multiply. We also worked with mixed numbers and fractions greater than 1. The students have worked very hard and are enjoying learning and exploring this vital skill. In ELA/social studies, students will soon be starting a biography project. We will be working with Ms. Mui in Digital Literacy to help us with our research. We will begin to explore different text structures and text features as we begin to work with more non-fiction and informational texts. Students are also continuing to practice additional skills in ELA. We regularly work on our reading comprehension by reading and discussing a variety of different texts. We have been working on strengthening our writing and continue to review and practice spelling. The students work hard and apply themselves every day, we are having a great year!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Finfrock

The month of March was kicked off with our ice-skating field trip. It was a huge success and the students had tons of fun. We are continuing our work with fractions this month finishing up adding and subtracting and moving into multiplying. We are also going to begin our Women's History Month biography projects. Each student will research an impactful woman and present to the class. In ELA, we are working on short answers and extended response questions. They have been using the RACE strategy. It is amazing to see how far they have come with it already!

Library: Mrs. Mui

On March 2nd, the Tuxedo Tornadoes celebrated Read Across America Day! Everyone participated in a hallway storywalk featuring *Jabari Tries* by Gaia Cornwall. We walked through the hallways of GGM, stopping at 17 spots to read each page. We followed Jabari through the engineering design process as he asked questions, imagined, planned, created, and improved his idea. Connections were made to our growth mindsets and dealing with our own frustrations. We continued to celebrate Read Across America Day in STEM with Ms. Klimowich by going through the EDP, just like Jabari, to create the tallest Dr. Seuss hat (did you know Read Across America Day began as a celebration of Dr. Seuss's work and falls on his birthday?). Mr. Stankiewicz recreated the front cover of *Jabari Tries* for teachers and staff to collaborate on. He also created bookmarks with students in art to show off how Tuxedo Tornadoes are readers! Finally, we ended the day with a schoolwide Drop Everything and Read time. Thank you to everyone at GGM for a wonderful day celebrating reading, with extra special thank yous to Ms. Klimowich, Mr. Stankiewicz, and Mrs. Sayles for all your hard work!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

Fifth Grade STEM students have recently been working on designing tiny homes. The students have been sketching layouts of 400 square foot homes. We will continue to work on this project in the upcoming weeks by creating final draft "blueprints". Once we complete the blueprints, the class will be constructing small 3D paper models of the homes that they designed. This project has required the student to use their skills that they have learned in

their math class to carefully plan and measure out the layouts of their homes.

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

We have begun our badminton unit. Students will be learning the rules of the game while practicing different types of hits. As the weather gets better we will begin to take the students outside and learning to play different games like wiffleball/kickball and plenty more.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

I remember in 3rd grade I asked my teacher, Mrs. Johnson, how to spell the word, "phone" and she told me to look it up in our classroom dictionary, which weighed more than me at the time! Of course, I couldn't find the word anywhere under the "F" section – why would I look in the "P" section, when "phone" started with the /f/ sound?

I decided I didn't want to torture my 3rd graders the same way. Thus, I recently made a Sound Wall in my classroom. A sound wall is a way to organize and display the different sounds (phonemes) and spelling patterns for students to reference when spelling and reading words. Words are grouped by phonemes and NOT beginning letters, so it isn't alphabetical. So, if a student needs to spell "phone" they would look under the fish picture on the Sound Wall (or their own personal Sound Wall dictionary!) and would find that the /f/ sound could be spelled with a "ph", too! This is a much more "student-friendly" approach to spelling that actually helps students apply the phonemes to even more words to become better spellers!

Music: Mr. Stelmach

In music class, we have been working on some skills utilizing the popularity of the movie Encanto. We are now starting our preparation for the spring concert. Get ready to hear some fun songs at home in the next couple of months as students may be practicing soon.

For the band students, we have started full band, when all of the instruments get to practice together. Therefore, instruments should be brought

to school on Tuesdays and their regular lesson days. We get to practice twice a week now.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

Spring is just around the corner. We will be reading about the life cycles of insects, animals that are coming out of hibernation, and how nature begins to look different as spring approaches. As we get ready to take our State assessments, our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students will look for "evidence" in the texts we read to answer questions.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

GGM Art is all about community while also learning about the elements and principles of art! During the past few weeks and in the weeks to come we will continue exploring that theme. Among Pre-K's variety of projects, students learned about Sculpture and shared packing peanuts that glue together with water, Play-doh, and Legos to create art. Kindergarten and first grade, images shown here, created tessellations. While learning the technique with templates and practicing better coloring skills, we can equate it to the puzzle pieces that we all are that fit together together to make our school better. All the students created Valentines cards tailored to their varying skill levels. We also took time in every class to create original bookmarks to help promote a community of reading. Students in 5th grade were given a single sheet of paper to copy with some lines, shapes and shades. It was a mystery as to what it would turn out to look like, for all the pieces needed to be put together like a puzzle. They created an image of Dr. Martin Luther King. As a community they created that portrait. If I asked most students they would've been overwhelmed by such a task as drawing a portrait. Instead, we broke it down into manageable pieces. Moving forward they will all be making a Portrait using a graph to concentrate on just a few lines, shapes and shades. I informed them they could do this with any problem they had ... "Just break it down and complete one task at a time.!"





