

# George Grant Mason School

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## Terlecky Talk

Dear Tuxedo Families,

It's hard to believe we only have two months left of the 2021-2022 school year. Where has the time gone?

We are in the midst of state testing. We just completed the NYS ELA Grades 3-8 test, and the math will take place at the end of April. In May and June we administer the Grade 4 and 8 science tests.

We are also celebrating National Library Week this week. This year's theme, "Connect with your library," promotes the idea that the library is a great place to get connected to technology, the internet, media, community, programs, classes, ideas, and, of course, books. National School Librarian day was on April 4th and I would like to take this opportunity to recognize our dedicated and creative school librarian, Mrs. Valerie Mui. She keeps our library organized, helps our students find the resources they need, creates a library environment conducive to learning, provides guidance in exposing our students to literature, technology, media, and digital resources, and perhaps most importantly, helps to instill a love of reading in each student. As the author Patrick Ness has said, "Librarians are tour-guides for all of knowledge." Thank you, Mrs. Mui, for being our tour guide.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful spring break! I hope you can take some time to relax and rejuvenate so we can all return ready to finish off the school year with enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn.



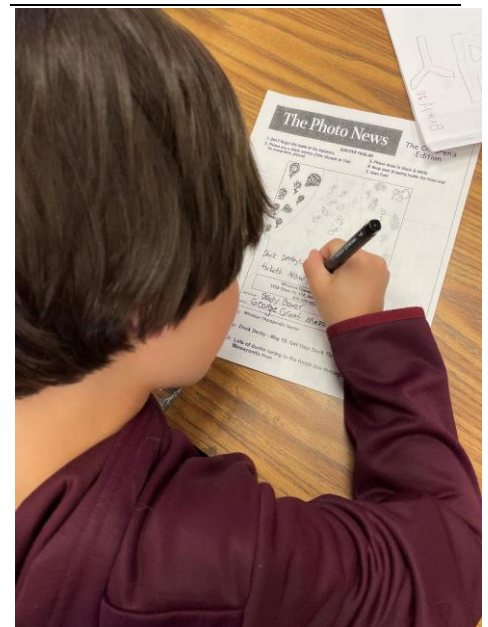
## Upcoming Events

**April 8** Quarter 3 ends for Grade 5

**April 11-18** Spring Recess:  
School closed

**April 20** Board of Education  
Meeting at 7:00 PM

**April 26-28** Math State Testing



### **Pre-K: Ms. Braffett**

Pre-K had a very colorful March. We used our fine motor skills to create colorful rainbows out of tissue paper for our hallway bulletin board. We also had fun learning about colors by creating coffee filter flowers. We used markers to color our flowers, then added water and watched the colors blend together. We learned all about the letters "U," "V," "W," and introduced "X." We made rainbow umbrellas and juicy red watermelons. Our most favorite project this month was our volcano science experiment. We worked in groups to build two volcanos out of blocks around a water bottle. We then added a special mixture and watched as our volcano erupted with colorful foamy soap! It really was a magical March, but Pre-K is ready for some warmer weather. This April, we will be talking all about spring! Pre-k will learn about spring weather, and learn about flowers and how things grow. We are super excited to grow our own plants this month and make observations each day! We are hoping to create some springtime collages, play counting games with flowers and spend more time outside in nature. April, here we come!

### **Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush**

How do you adapt to the weather and changes in your environment? Kindergarten can tell you all about how people and certain animals adapt to the weather! Students in Kindergarten are using what they learned about migration and hibernation to help them learn about adaptation. Kindergarten has been discussing how we change our clothes and shoes, and routines due to the changes in the weather. Students also learn that animals change their routines due to weather changes, too. While bears hibernate, and butterflies migrate, some of our furry and feathery friends adapt to their environment throughout the year. In Kindergarten, we are adapting to our weather! Now that spring has sprung we get to have outdoor adventures, finding pinecones, acorns, and other pieces of nature! These items will be collected and added to a Science-Math Book. We can't wait to share it with you!!

### **First Grade: Mrs. Matthies**

Greetings families! I can't believe it is April! Spring is finally here. It feels so nice to be out in the sun with my friends. Pretty soon we will be taking nature walks for science. We will learn about plants and flowers and their parts. We will also discuss how like people, plants and flowers also have traits inherited from other plants. We will also read about bugs and

their inherited traits. In reading we are beginning to read chapter books and learning how to ask questions using key words such as why and how. When you wonder or have a question about a specific part, we can use the sentence starter "I wonder".... We are also learning how to write a topic sentence with two supporting details. In math we are learning how to tell time and to measure with unconventional tools. For example, a conventional tool of measurement would be a ruler. An unconventional tool of measure could be tiles or paper clips. The friends are super excited because they will be making a clock in the classroom they can work with throughout the unit. In social studies we have just completed our state projects. This April the friends will be sharing what they learned about the state they researched. We will also learn about needs and wants and the difference between the two. Happy April families!

### **Second Grade: Mrs. Blume**

April is National Poetry Month! This month students will have the opportunity to explore poetry! They will be exposed to many different types of poetry; list poems, rhyming poems, shape poems, diamond poems and more. After understanding what poetry can be about, what it looks like, and how it can have rhythm, they will write their own poems. I love the freedom this unit brings for students. Reluctant writers often blossom due to the lack of restrictions poetry offers to the writer. Students will create an accordion style book that will hold their own collection of poems. In addition to writing poetry, students will be reading lots of poetry. Poetry is great for practicing fluency, reading with expression and inferring meaning or the author's message. It is one of my favorite units to teach!

### **Third Grade: Mrs. Bock**

Yay! Spring is here! Third grade is very excited for the warm weather. In math, we will study and explore the topic of fractions. We will begin to create, compare, as well as solve for equivalent fractions. Since April is National Poetry Month, we will begin to analyze and discuss different types of poems in ELA. Each student will have the opportunity to write their own poems and create a poetry book! With Earth Day quickly approaching, we will be learning how to preserve and care for the planet in science. During our social studies classes, we will be reading and researching different nonfiction texts about various historical events that took place in April. My third graders continue to do an amazing job! Keep up the great work!

### **Third Grade: Ms. Valastro**

We are welcoming spring and National Poetry Month this April by writing our own acrostic poems about the season! We have come up with many fun and happy thoughts as we are excited for warmer days ahead! We are also continuing to hone our writing skill with essay writing and a small research project on the horizon. In science we are wrapping up our unit about fossils and look forward to exploring cultures around the world in social studies. Math is keeping us busy as we review and practice for the upcoming state exam. We are definitely continuing to keep busy learning and growing in grade 3!

### **Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota**

Fourth Grade continues to explore new concepts and topics in math. We recently began our Geometry Unit. Students learned about two-dimensional figures and we will begin to learn about angles. After angles we will review area & perimeter and conclude with measurement. April is poetry month so the students will learn about different types of poems and write a few of their own. We will also work on a writing piece. In science we have begun to learn about the water cycle and weather. We will continue to explore this topic in the coming days. The students are finishing a research project for Women's History Month and will continue to explore New York State History in social studies. The students are doing a wonderful job - they work hard every day!!

### **Fifth Grade: Ms. Finrock**

In April we are looking forward to adding writing and explanations into our math. We are also looking forward to our novels, "Restart" by Gordon Korman and "Number the Stars" by Lois Lowry. We will continue to dive deeper into matter and the properties of matter. We are also so excited for our trip to the Turtle Back Zoo!

### **Library: Mrs. Mui**

April celebrates National Poetry Month! During Digital Literacy, students will enjoy poetry from famous poets such as Jack Prelutsky, Shel Silverstein, Kenn Nesbitt, Amanda Gorman, and Richard Wright. Students will express themselves through poetry by using their words to paint a picture. For Earth Day, students will learn about our impact on the Earth and explore ways to lessen it.

### **STEM: Ms. Klimowich**

First Grade students will be exploring "unplugged" coding activities by creating their own coding course! The class will "program" their classmates and

give them directions to navigate their way around the classroom. We will be using large pieces of paper that have coding commands on them to work our way through each course. Each student will have to use the Engineering Design Process to carefully plan and improve their design. We will focus on repeating steps on loops as well.

### **Physical Education: Mr. Brunner and Mr. Landro**

Grades K-2

Students have continued to work on throwing and catching skills in physical education. Students will be going outside more and practicing these skills as the weather gets warmer. They will also be continuing to work on their locomotive skills.

Grades 3-5

We have begun our kickball/wiffleball unit. Students will be learning the rules of baseball and using that knowledge for wiffleball. Students will be refining their throwing and catching skills along with learning how to swing a bat. This is currently being done in the gym but as the weather gets warmer we will be playing outside.

### **Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly**

This month my students and I decided my classroom needed a "make-over". With their help and creative ideas, we created a cozy "Book Nook" in an unused corner of my classroom. First, we moved my bookshelves, filled with hundreds of books, across my classroom. Then, we gathered all the comfy bean bag chairs and floor cushion seats into the nook - we like flexible seating in my classroom! The final touch was to place all my classroom stuffed animals in the nook in cute blue baskets. That way, when students read in the Book Nook, they can grab their favorite stuffie and read while listening to the relaxing sounds of our nearby classroom fish tank! We love reading in our student-created Book Nook!

### **Music: Mr. Stelmach**

Music, music, music. What is life without music? Much of the month of April and the beginning of May is concert prep season here in the music department. Each grade is working on two or three songs for our mid-May concert. The band is working hard, continuing with lessons and a full band rehearsal every Tuesday. We are excited to share these explorations with all of you next month.



## Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

We are segmenting, blending, and writing in the reading room. Students are skywriting, writing, and saying our letter sounds EVERY time we write a letter. This helps us as we read and spell. We are also using tools to help us as we write. We use an alphabet chart or phonics chart to help recall letter sounds or blend sounds. Students also use space sticks to help us remember to leave a space between words when we write sentences. We are getting to be stronger readers and writers every day!

## Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

We have painted our last cool winter scenes. The 1st grade created mixed media artworks of penguins showing the technique of foreground, middle ground, and background. Now, spring brings on light and warmth and in our classes we are learning new techniques and styles. While pre-K drew, explored different media and manipulated with their hands, they also created more finger puppets to play with in our puppet theater.

Kindergarten is exploring primary colors through different media. After experiencing oil pastels blending, the students stamped red, yellow and blue hearts on paper! 1st grade explored the primary colors by practicing their letters and creating abstract artwork out of the entire alphabet that are now displayed in the second floor hallway. Nice job 1st grade! 2nd grade learned about Piet Mondrian and painted geometric shapes with the primary colors and black lines. Third grade is expanding upon their knowledge of primary and secondary colors, learning about and making artwork out of warm and cool colors. They painted two pieces of paper, cut them into strips then wove them together using the under/over technique with a warp and weft.

Fifth grade students continued working on the technique of using a graph to transfer a picture in pieces rather than an overwhelming whole. By faithfully copying lines shapes and shades in a graph they had drawn, students were able to draw their own individual Martin Luther King Jr.

The Photo News held a contest for children's art. We turned in 30 entries for the Photo News - Student Edition contest. Several grade levels created line drawings of business ads. Good luck to those student participants!

## Occupational Therapist: Ms. Rabideau

April is National Occupational Therapy Awareness Month! OT's help people of all ages develop the skills they need for success in everyday life where they live, learn, work and play. Here at Tuxedo we use the occupation of being a student to learn and develop the skills needed to be successful during each step of life through play and exploration.



## PTO on the Go

Thank you to everyone who came out to Trivia Night despite the snowy weather! A fun and informative evening was had by all who attended. The PTO is bringing back the Spring Gala for 2022! Join us on Saturday, May 21st at Mansion Ridge in Monroe. Tickets are \$60 and include passed appetizers and dinner. Our famous raffle baskets will also be on display once again. Boxes have been set up in each classroom and have specific themes:

Pre-K: Beach

K: Gardening

1st Grade: Game Night

2nd Grade: Movies

3rd Grade: Spa Day

4th Grade: Sports

5th Grade: Books

6th Grade: Arts and Crafts

7th Grade: Food and Wine

8th Grade: Cooking

Please send in new items or gift cards for the baskets. The class that has 100 percent participation will win a pizza party!

Also, our Charleston Wrap fundraiser is live. Information on this went home with students. The Spiritwear sale is also ongoing.



