

Letters from GGM

GEORGE GRANT MASON SCHOOL

1 Tornado Drive, Tuxedo, NY 10987

Dr. Melissa Jean-Paul, Principal

Email: melissa.jean-paul@tuxedoschools.org

Website: TuxedoUFSD.org

Phone: (845) 351-4797



A Message from Dr. Jean-Paul

As the leaves begin to change colors and the crisp autumn air fills our hallways, I want to take a moment to reflect on the exciting start to the school year and look ahead to the month of October. So far, we were able to have a successful September with transitioning into the first few weeks of school, International Peace Day, Back to School Night, and the upcoming PTO Carnival!

It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the wonderful students, families, and staff that make up our GGM community. From the energetic pre-K students taking their first steps into our school, to the confident fifth-graders preparing for their transition to middle school, every child brings their unique spark to our campus.

I am continuously inspired by the dedication of our educators and the curiosity of our young learners. Our teachers have worked tirelessly to create nurturing, inclusive, and engaging classrooms where students thrive academically and socially. I'm thrilled to witness the passion for learning that fills our classrooms each day.

October brings with it a sense of anticipation and excitement. It's a month filled with opportunities for growth, creativity, and exploration. As we delve into the heart of the fall season, we'll embrace a spirit of unity and collaboration. You can look forward to parent-teacher conferences, special projects, and community events that will bring us all closer together. Soon, we will be launching our schedule of GGM Spirit Days! Be on the lookout for the special days that we will unite and show our school spirit.

Please stay tuned to our newsletters, announcements, and the school website for important updates and details about upcoming events. I am excited to continue working closely with our staff, parents, and, most importantly, our students as we journey through the school year together.

I encourage you to reach out to me with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have. My door is always open, and I am here to support the growth and success of each child at George Grant Mason Elementary. If you have not done so already, click on this GGM Parent/Guardian Entry Plan Survey by Friday, October 6th!
[Parent/Guardian Entry Plan Survey](#)

Thank you for entrusting us with your children's education and well-being. Together, we will make this school year a memorable and enriching experience for all.

Warm regards,
Dr. Melissa Jean-Paul

Upcoming Events

October 6 Early Dismissal Drill
Dismissal will be at 2:35pm K-5

October 6 Progress reports for
Grade 5

October 9 Columbus Day –
School closed

October 10 - 13 Fire Safety
Week

October 12 Visit from the
Tuxedo Fire Department

October 11 PTO Meeting at
7:30pm (upstairs at Characters)

October 13 PTO Back to School
Carnival 3-6pm

October 18 Board of
Education Meeting at 7pm

October 23 Student Picture
Day

October 23-27 Red Ribbon
Week

October 31 Halloween
Parade

PTO on the Go

We hope everyone had a smooth September and are getting used to the new school year! Reminder: our Back to School Carnival has been rescheduled for Friday, October 13th. And please join us for our next meeting on Wednesday, October 11 at 7:30PM at Character's Restaurant.

Pre-K: Mrs. Braffett

Pre-k had an awesome first month of school! We learned all about our class routine and had fun going to all of our specials for the first time! We sang a fun name song to learn all of our friend's names and read stories on the importance of being kind to one another. Pre-k had fun making "All About Me" books and learning about how we all are special and unique. We loved being scientists when we made our very own slime in class and had fun making our own creations with the slime. Pre-k had an "Apple-Solutely" fun time learning about the life cycle of apples and playing in our apple pie sensory table! We also made apple pie play dough and had fun pretending we were bakers with our cookie cutters and tools. We read "Ten Apples Up On Top" by Dr. Seuss to go along with our apple theme. We worked on counting by one to one correspondence and made a fun art project to go along with the story! Pre-k is so excited for the cooler fall weather and we can't wait to learn more about trees and go on nature walks next month!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Apples, apples, everywhere. In October, Kindergarten will spend time learning about apples, the life cycle of the apple, how and when apples grow, if an apple sinks or floats, and that apples come in different shapes, colors, flavors, and sizes. We will talk about what we do with apples once they are off the tree, and brainstorm all the delicious treats we can make with apples. Kindergarten will also visit an apple orchard where we will get to pick apples to bring home and make our own delicious apple treats.

First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

Happy October, Families! October will be a fun and busy month. Along with all the holiday festivities, there will also be plenty of learning going on! In reading and ELA we will be working on reading stories and trying to pull out important details and events to discuss. This will help us to better understand the characters in the story. In phonics we will be word building using our cvc words, along with building vocabulary from the stories we read whole group. In math we are making number bonds to learn how to make a number using different numbers. For example, $5+3=8$, and $6+2=8$. These are number sentences that both make 8 using different addends. In science we are learning about animals and how

their bodies help them survive in their environment. In social studies we are learning about our communities. We are learning that it takes many people to work together to make a community work. Have a great October families! Make it a happy one!

Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders have been busy settling into their new routines and learning! The first weeks of school our focus is establishing routines which will create an environment where learning can effectively take place. We have also been getting to know each other and building community. While learning these routines and procedures we are still learning! We have begun a measurement and place value unit, we've been reviewing our short vowel sounds, closed syllables and we have been practicing reading strategies like making mind pictures and using our schema to understand what we read. In October we will take our first walk to the Tuxedo Library and we will take a community walk to help us better understand different types of communities. It is really wonderful that the heart of the town is within walking distance!

Third Grade: Mrs. Bock

Wow! It is hard to believe that the first month of school has already come and gone. The students have been doing a great job in third grade, as we have been very busy. In ELA we have started our first Scholastic Unit, Brothers and Sisters, and have read a variety of texts. We have practice answering questions regarding story elements and will be working on the difference between figurative and literal language. In math we have finished our first few topics, Addition, Subtraction, Number Representation (expanded form, word form, standard form) and will begin studying Rounding. In science, we have been studying the weather and will continue to explore this topic. We have discussed the weather and atmosphere and are looking forward to exploring the role of water in the weather. In social studies, we have completed a basic introduction to map skills and will continue to study the continents in more depth. Also, this month we will start our first spelling unit. Please remind your student to read each night and keep up the great work!

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

Fourth Grade has gotten off to a great start this year!! The students have settled in and are working very hard. In Math we just wrapped up our first unit and

will begin working on multiplication and division this month. In ELA we will continue to increase our reading stamina and will start October with a focus on characters, character traits, and setting. Students will also begin their word study work, starting with syllabication. In writing, the class will be working on narrative paragraphs. In Social Studies we are beginning to learn about the geography of NY and our early explorers. Finally, in Science we will learn about the different forms of energy. October is going to be an exciting (and busy) month for us!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Stack

Our 5th graders have been working diligently, diving into the world of exponents and sharpening their skills in making inferences. In math, they are mastering the art of tackling those tricky powers and numbers. In ELA, our young scholars are developing their reading comprehension skills through making inferences and drawing conclusions. We're also excited to announce that our social studies curriculum has taken us on an exciting journey through Mesoamerica, exploring the rich history and cultures of this fascinating region. As we transition into the beautiful season of fall, our students are embracing the changing colors and cooler weather, making connections between the natural world and their studies. Stay tuned for more exciting updates from our vibrant 5th grade classroom!

Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Fifth grade is off to a great start so far! We hit the ground running in math and have been doing a great job learning all about place value and decimals! In ELA we are seeing that authors can write with a purpose, and write to stand up for what they believe in. Fifth grade has begun to look at the elements of a narrative and will be writing our very own in the near future! So far in social studies we are learning all about early Native Americans, from where they settled to what they ate and what type of homes they lived in. Perhaps best of all, Grade 5 has been filling each other's kindness bags with reminders to our friends and classmates of just what makes each and every one of us unique! We are looking forward to where the year will take us!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

Fifth grade STEM students have been busy using the Engineering Design Process to create Lunar Rovers using Plus-Plus Blocks. Inspired by the Apollo 15 vehicle that landed on the moon in 1971, students have to carefully assemble 200 Plus-Plus Block pieces to their baseplate and add their wheels for their

rover to be able to explore our classroom. Once we complete our model, we will be testing how far it can travel. The class will construct small ramps using magnetic tiles to see how far their rover can travel across the classroom. Students will use yardsticks to measure the distance and record their data on their reflection sheets. Students will move through the steps of the Engineering Design Process to make improvements to their ramps and rovers to try to have their rover travel the farthest distance.

Music: Ms. Cienki

Welcome back parents to another great school year! I hope September was good to everyone. This month, like every month, we've got some exciting things coming down the pipe for the students. Yes, we're already working on the Winter Concert music, so students might be singing their songs at home. From starting band with the 4th graders, and continuing with the 5th graders, to learning about instrument families. Everyone is learning something new and remembering old lessons. This year, if you would like a more in-depth idea of what we're doing in music, please check out my website! (<https://sites.google.com/tuxedoschools.org/ggm-music/>) I look forward to another musical year with everyone!

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

Feliz Octubre! Septiembre flew by with lots of fun getting back into our routines! We began reviewing some of our vocabulary from last year while incorporating new vocabulary to start this year. From September 15th to October 15th Hispanic Heritage month is celebrated, so students were introduced or reintroduced to the purpose of Hispanic Heritage month and why it is so important. I am so hopeful this year will be amazing and each student will grow their Spanish Vocabulary!

Library: Mrs. Mui

Welcome to Digital Literacy! Digital Literacy combines traditional library skills with technology and media. Using the framework of the Empire State Information Fluency Continuum, students beginning in Pre-K will engage in inquiry and design thinking, use multiple literacies to read, write, and create in multiple formats, demonstrate civic responsibility through collaboration and being upstanding digital citizens, and pursue their own reading interests. Our goals across all grades is for

students to be able to locate, evaluate, use, and create information in both print and digital formats. This year, we are implementing Keyboarding Without Tears, a keyboarding program for grades K-5. Be on the lookout for login information so that your child can practice at home. We look forward to a wonderful year of reading, writing, exploring, researching, and designing!

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

Picture Day News: Save the Date! Monday, October 23rd is Picture Day! Your child will be photographed individually and with their class. Online ordering is highly encouraged and will be available in early October. More ordering information will be coming soon! Please direct Picture Day questions to nancy.donnelly@tuxedoschools.org

Math Specialist: Mrs. Rocklin

Mrs. Rocklin's Math Warriors are doing such a great job. We are building our self-confidence and learning to take chances in the math room. We are focusing on foundational skills we need to move forward with our math studies such as addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. I will work along with the classroom teacher to reinforce the lessons taught each day. I think, no, I know each child in my group will make great strides in math and confidence in their amazing ability to tackle any problem!

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

October in the Reading Room may be a little "spooky." We will be learning fun facts about bats, owls, and other nocturnal animals. As we explore features of nonfiction texts, students will learn about the changes that come with autumn. Why do the leaves change color? We will find out! Readers will also explore fiction and nonfiction books about pumpkins and apples.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

Welcome back to the visual arts studio! All the students got their creative juices flowing in the beginning of the year by drawing some of the images of what they did over the summer, how they felt about the beginning of school, a project that they remember from last year, and an image of peace.

The pre-K was introduced to the visual arts studio, new drawing material and created images with stamps. Then, either using a painted or cut out

hand print they made peace doves. After a few days of free watercolor painting, Students in K through 5 concentrated on our first school-wide event - Peace Day! Students used line, shape, and repetition to create images for their pinwheel. Their Pinwheels For Peace were displayed on the front lawn for the day of the international day of peace celebration. This was a day of singing, art and literature coordinated by myself. Students learned about the importance of the day, and symbols that go along with it.

From one school-wide project to the next. Art To Remember, is a program where students can have their artwork printed on a variety of material, such as mugs, T-shirts, oven mitts, and sketchbooks, etc. We are starting this early in this school year. Students are learning about the Brazilian artist, Romero Britto. While the younger grades are using stencils, the older grades are drawing simple objects that radiate lines, creating shapes, filled with patterns. Moving forward into October, these designs will be transferred onto the materials provided by Art To Remember. More about this program in an upcoming newsletter.

Some students were happy to see their favorite Hawaiian Tiki - 'Kimo,' and he was greeted with hugs from many classes!

Also, in the month to come, certain grades will be working on different projects, including: Egyptian hieroglyphics, paper collage, and Mary Blair Shape Castles. Please encourage your student's creativity throughout the year.

Health Office: Mrs. Castricone

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Hello from the Health Office,

Please remember to send in an updated physical for your student on the NYS required Health Exam form. (available on the Health Office webpage) .Most Pediatricians will have this form, but if your Pediatrician is located in NYC or NJ, they may not.

In GGM, updated Physicals are required for grades Pre-K, K, 1st, 3rd, and 5th.

Please also remember to provide any updated medication paperwork for this school year, and make arrangements to drop-off any medication your child may need while in school. Thank you!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.





