

Letters from GGM

GEORGE GRANT MASON SCHOOL

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A Message from Dr. Jean-Paul

Dear GGM Parents and Guardians,

As we embrace the winter season, a friendly reminder to ensure our children are dressed warmly for outdoor recess adventures. Please make sure your child comes to school with proper outdoor clothing so that they are able to enjoy the recess experience.

Our commitment to providing a well-rounded education continues, with students exploring emotions through the Yale Ruler program. The upcoming school-wide kick-off in January promises an exciting start to this Social Emotional Learning initiative.

Congratulations to Virginia from grade 2 for a fantastic stint as Principal of the Day! It's heartwarming to see our young leaders actively shaping their school experience.

Looking ahead, we eagerly anticipate Parent-Teacher Conferences—an invaluable opportunity for you to connect with teachers, gaining insights into your child's academic journey. Your involvement is key to their success. We look forward to seeing each of you on Wednesday, December 6, 2023 from 12:25 - 2:50 pm and 5:00 - 7:00 pm. If you have not done so already, please sign up using the following link:

[https://ptcfast.com/schools/Tuxedo Union Free School District](https://ptcfast.com/schools/Tuxedo%20Union%20Free%20School%20District)

Wishing you warmth and joy this winter season.

Best,

Dr. Jean - Paul

A Message from Principal Virginia Potouridis (Principal of the Day 11/8/23)

Hi! My name is Virginia. Today I was principal at school and I had fun.



Upcoming Events

December 1 Student Picture Make-up Day

December 6 Parent Teacher Conferences – Student dismissal 11:25 am
Session 1: 12:15-2:50pm
Session 2: 5-7pm

December 8
Winter Concert 1:30PM,
Doors open at 1:15PM

December 15 Quarter 2 progress reports - Grade 5

December 25-January 1
Winter Recess



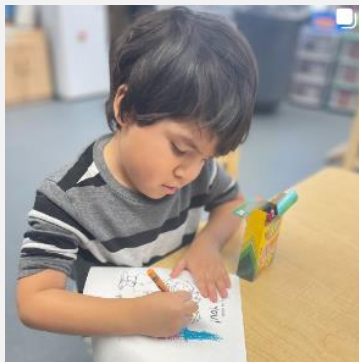
Happy Holidays!

Pre-K: Mrs. Braffett

Pre-k had a thankful November! We learned all about families and how unique and special all families are. Each student worked hard on a family project finding pictures of who lives in their home and putting them in each window of their houses made out of colorful paper. Everyone had fun presenting to the class and naming everyone in their family to their friends. Pre-k created their very own family emergent reader book and drew beautiful pictures for each page about their families. We worked on our reading comprehension skills during an interactive read aloud activity on the Smartboard and had fun retelling the story by taking turns answering questions on the board. Pre-k decorated our bulletin board with a handmade turkey. Each student followed step by step directions to create their own unique turkeys and counted out feathers to go along with it. Pre-k added what they were most thankful for this year, too! We really loved our November sensory table where they measured and mixed real corn and play with pretend fruits and vegetables! We look forward to continuing our theme of healthy eating and are even more excited to begin our gingerbread theme this December!

Kindergarten: Mrs. Rush

Things are really beginning to add up in Kindergarten! Students in kindergarten are learning that addition means more and that equal to means the same! Students are adding things up all over the school, and learning that numbers are all around us in everything we do. From the number of days in a week, to the number of minutes they work on a task, to the number of goldfish they might eat at snack. We are sorting, counting and adding every single day in GGM's Kindergarten classroom.



First Grade: Mrs. Matthies

December will be filled with love and cheer in the first grade. 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 nonfiction stories about growing and eating vegetables. We will pair this with a science unit on growing plants and what they need to survive. In phonics we are learning s blend words along with long u words such as sled and cube. We are focusing on finding the main idea in a story as well as the details to support that main idea. In math we continue to make number bonds with numbers up to 10. We are also learning to count up to 120, and we are learning to skip count by 5's and 10's. In social studies we will be learning about Christmas around the world and the different celebrations that take place. We will also learn about the different foods the people eat and attire they wear for their celebrations. It will be a fun and exciting time for first grade!



Second Grade: Mrs. Blume

Second graders learned the history of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade through the book *Balloons Over Broadway*. Did you know that real, wild animals were part of the first few parades until they frightened the children? Second graders were then tasked with designing and creating a prototype of a Thanksgiving Day Parade balloon. We looked at balloons from the past and noticed that there were always some of the same characters over the years and some new balloons each year representing what was popular that year. Following their sketch, the students put their plan into action to create their model. After assembling their models, the students presented their prototypes to their classmates.

December brings our cross content study of animals. Students will begin to learn how to find the main idea, key details and take notes specifically about animal classifications. Students will

understand what adaptations are and how animals survive in their habitats. This study will involve lots of learning through research, reading, writing and discussion.



Third Grade: Ms. Caligiuri

It has been an exciting few weeks getting to know all my third grade students! Students have been working really hard! In ELA, we have been working on a book study of *Magic Tree House Thanksgiving on Thursday*. We will be starting our folktale unit throughout December. In math, we will continue working on division. We will then combine our multiplication and division skills. In social studies, we will continue studying holidays celebrated around the world. In science, we will continue to talk about forces and motion.

Fourth Grade: Mrs. Rota

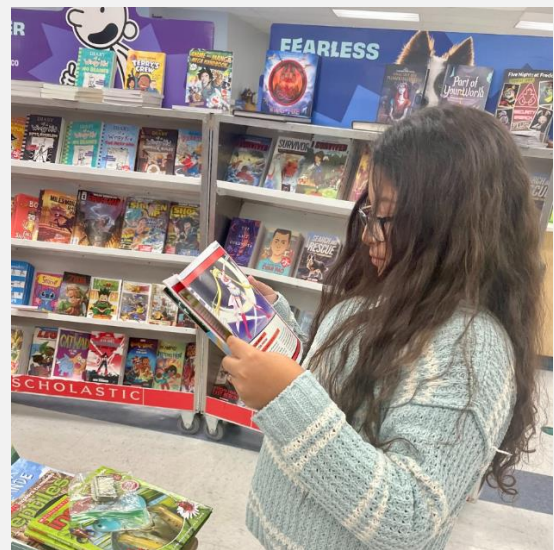
Wow! It's hard to believe that we are already in December! The students have been doing a wonderful job! We are making progress in spelling, grammar, and vocabulary. The students will complete *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing* this month (one of our favorite books!). We have been enjoying the book while learning and applying key reading skills (character traits, summarizing, story elements, vocabulary, responding to questions, etc.) We will learn about figurative language this month and apply it to our writing. We will also work on identifying examples of figurative language in our reading. This month we will read and discuss a variety of seasonal texts during our read aloud time. We are continuing to explore multiplication and division in math. We will be working with more multi-digit numbers as we expand our knowledge in this critical area. The students are also regularly working on their basic multiplication facts. In Science, we will investigate energy transfer and electric currents. In social studies we will begin our Holidays Around the World unit. Students will learn about different holidays across the globe. It has been an exciting first part of the year for the students. They have been working very hard

and we are looking forward to continuing our journey.



Fifth Grade: Ms. Stack

As the temperatures drop, our 5th grade class is heating up with enthusiasm and dedication. In the world of mathematics, students are navigating the intricacies of decimals and rounding, showcasing their problem-solving skills like a team of cheerful sleuths. Meanwhile, in English language arts, they're exploring the fascinating landscape of nonfiction text features and enhancing their inference skills. The language journey extends to spelling, where our students are crafting words with the precision of skilled artisans. In the realm of science, we're wrapping up an engaging unit on energy and matter in ecosystems, witnessing the blossoming interest in environmental science. As we approach the year-end, we want to express gratitude for your ongoing support, and we're excited for the learning adventures that await in the new year.

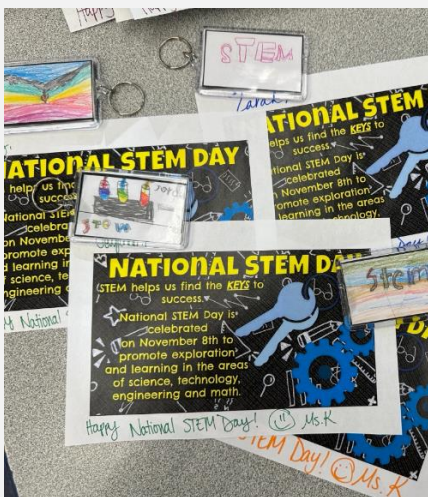


Fifth Grade: Ms. Valastro

Fifth grade continues to work hard as we roll into December. We are currently learning about dividing large whole numbers in math using different strategies before we move forward into dividing with decimals. We are finishing up our science unit on ecosystems soon and will be moving back into social studies learning about our ancient civilizations. In ELA, we have been learning new vocabulary as we make our way through our novel, summarizing and analyzing characters. As we enter the holiday season, we continue with our kindness initiative within our classroom and discuss ways to extend this beyond the classroom. Perhaps most interesting, our elf showed up and is getting into all sorts of mischief! She is definitely keeping us on our toes so far this month!

STEM: Ms. Klimowich

In the month of December, Third and Fourth Grade STEM students will be practicing their coding skills using Sphero Mini robots. The robots will be powered by coding commands that the students program on a handheld device. The students will have to carefully check over their coding blocks to be sure their program has no bugs and the program will run from start to finish. The students will carefully plan out an obstacle course for their robot to navigate through. Each group of students will use wooden planks to create tunnels, paths and ramps for their robot to travel in. Although they are only about the size of a golf ball, these robots are quick and powerful, which means the students will have to find the perfect speed for their Sphero to make turns around corners without crashing.



Music: Ms. Cienki

Hello again parents! It's that time again, time for the winter concert! Our main focus for the first week is going to be putting the finishing touches on the concert that's happening on December 8th. Doors open at 1:15pm, with the show starting at 1:30pm. After that, we'll be diving into some social-emotional music activities across all of the grades. I hope everyone has a great month!

Spanish: Ms. Brusseler

¡Feliz Diciembre! This month in our Spanish class, we dedicated our focus to personal pronouns in Spanish. From the familiar "yo," "tú," and "él/ella" to the plural forms like "nosotros" and "ellos/ellas," we navigated the diverse landscape of pronoun usage in the Spanish language. We also began to go over different family member vocabulary and I plan to continue that growth in December! I am excited to keep helping these students grow their Spanish communication and vocabulary!

Library: Mrs. Mui

This December, we are celebrating Computer Science Education Week December 4-10. The goal of Computer Science Education Week is to make computer science accessible and to encourage all to explore its possibilities and applications. In Digital Literacy, we will be highlighting contributions to the field and participating in the worldwide Hour of Code which will help students understand the importance of computer science in our lives as we develop our problem solving skills.

Multi-Subject: Mrs. Donnelly

My 2nd and 3rd graders will soon start reading Partner Plays. These fun, short plays are similar to traditional reader's theater, but with character puppets, backgrounds and even props. Reader's theater is a fun, interactive strategy for developing decoding skills and reading fluency, using expressive voices. Students do not memorize the script, they re-read it several times, developing their "voice" and character. After completing the activities for the play, including writing summaries and answering questions, my students will bring home their Partner Plays to "act out" at home!

Math Specialist: Mrs. Rocklin

In Math AIS we are excited to continue our studies from Kindergarten to sixth grade in which we challenge ourselves to become math experts! We

will be working on adding numbers between 1-20 and beginning subtraction from 1-10 with various activities and projects. We will continue the multiplication tables, multiplying by 2 digit numbers, dividing, working on word problems and multiplying using decimals in the upper grades. This month we will have a major focus on word problems using these skills. I am so excited to see the progress they will make.

Reading Specialist: Mrs. Sayles

Students in the reading room are learning about holidays around the world. While practicing our decoding, fluency, and comprehension, we are learning about different customs celebrated in different countries. As we read, we are locating those countries on the globe to strengthen our geography skills. December will be a month about sharing our own customs and learning about new ones.

Physical Education: Mr. Bilozorov

In December, students from Pre-K to 5th grade eagerly engage in the Gymnastics unit during Physical Education classes. Focused on fostering flexibility, strength, and coordination, the unit introduces age-appropriate exercises and basic gymnastic skills. From balancing acts to introductory tumbling, students explore the fundamentals of gymnastics, promoting physical fitness and body awareness in a fun and supportive learning environment.

To ensure a safe and productive experience, we kindly remind parents that students should come to class in comfortable shoes (sneakers or Keds, no Uggs or Crocs) and appropriate athletic attire (pants or leggings, no dresses) on PE days. Your cooperation enhances the overall learning environment and promotes a positive physical education experience for all.

Art: Mr. Stankiewicz

This month we finished our Art to Remember projects. For a gift now or for the holidays you can still purchase your child's artwork printed on a variety of products at <https://arttoremember.com/> and enter your code found in your students backpack or go to Search for my art and follow the directions. In the art studio 4th graders created Iroquois Longhouses to complement what they were learning in their classroom. Many students were creative with all the details they made: fireplaces, food, people. rivers and fish. The 2nd and 3rd graders started their Egyptian projects,

learning a little bit about history, writing their names in hieroglyphics, then creating a printing plate so they can make multiple prints. 5th grade worked on Collage Landscapes with cut up magazines, showing foreground, middle ground and background. Kindergarten and 1st graders used the full alphabet and the primary colors to make abstract art. The students learned that the alphabet makes words and the primary colors make all other colors.





PTO on the Go

We hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving and we're looking forward to a fun holiday season! Keep a lookout for more info on the Holiday Grams we'll be selling this month as a way to spread friendship and cheer. And there's still time to send in your Membership Drive forms. If you haven't already sent yours in, use this QR code to send it electronically. And finally, we hope to see you at our Holiday Wine Tasting & Paint Event this Friday, Dec. 1st. Visit the Tuxedo PTO's Facebook page for more info.

