

The Howler



Special Education Updates and Information:

Thank you to all who were able to attend our Special Education Information Night on Monday, March 21st!

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School will be hosting another Special Education Information Night on May 9th from 4:30 to 6:00. **Speech and Language in the school setting, Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADD/ADHD strategies** will be the topics for this Information Night. Flyers with "save your spot" attachments will be sent out closer to the date. ALL parents are invited to attend!

Our processes for identifying students who may be eligible for special education services include, but are not limited to, Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTII), Speech and Language screenings, Occupational Therapy screenings, teacher referrals, and parent requests. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School currently provides Learning Support services, Speech and Language services and Occupational Therapy services.

Brochures reviewing the student identification process, the parents request for an evaluation process and additional topics are available to all parents and located above the sign-in/sign-out table in front of the Montessori office.

For further information feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator/Teacher, Rebeka Black, at becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

"Children are human beings to whom respect is due, superior to us by reason of their innocence and of the greater possibilities of their future."
~Dr. Maria Montessori

Important Reminders:

- Registration for the 2016-2017 school year is due by **Thursday March 31st**.
- Parent notes are required upon return of an absence, 3 days or more require a doctor's note. All notes must be handed in within 2 days of returning to school or the absence will remain unexcused. Doctor's notes are also required for any time off (coming in late, leaving early, going and returning in the same day, and including standing appointments).
- Daily changes in transportation **MUST** be emailed to Mrs. Rogers, Mrs. Gugliette, Miss Love and your teacher or a hard copy note to the teacher on the day.
- Students are required to be at school from 8:40am to 3:05pm, please make every attempt to be on time and present the entire day.
- As the weather warms and we begin to see signs of spring, please be sure to dress your child appropriately for outdoor recess.

SPRING 2016

Not getting our emails?

If you would like to receive emails from the school and are currently not getting them please email or call

Mrs. Rogers at 717.334.1120 or dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org



While Supplies last...

Car magnets
\$5.00 each



Classroom Updates

Pre-K & K

Primary continues to work hard on letter sounds, sight words and reading. Our students are very excited to show off their reading skills during our Guided Reading groups. As you are reading with you child at home, ask your child to show off by counting the words on a page, reading some sight words (the, is, was...) and sounding out other easy words as you come across them in the text!

We have also been doing a great deal of number activities. Miss Jarvis and Ms. Lawrence are very proud of the students in their class that have joined the 100's club by counting to 100 and being able to recognize various numbers. We continue to work on measuring, addition and subtraction.

Miss Jarvis and Ms. Lawrence's class has started our continent study, so if you haven't heard the continent song yet, please ask your child. All of our primary children in both classes will know our continents song now.

In science, we have been reading both stories and informational text about plants, animals, weather and changing seasons, as well as enjoying some fun activities. Miss Heather and Miss Beth's class even planted a variety of "seeds" to see which ones would grow. So far our jelly beans, shells, and Lego seeds have not grown, but we're excited that the beans, sunflower seeds, and pumpkin seeds sprouted!

It's getting to that time of year when supplies start to run low. Any donations of napkins, paper towels, paper plates or glue sticks would be greatly appreciated!

1st & 2nd

We have been working just the same, occasionally pulling out a new type of game. Math and Reading are always so fun; we've looked for products and reviewed our sums.

A visitor taught us to keep tooth germs away, by brushing our teeth everyday! Dr. Seuss books galore, we sprawled out and read them on the floor! A lot of us have remembered to dress with care, but keep in mind weather is still here and there.

Purple folders still come home everyday, check for important information coming your way. One last thing, we would like to say...The end of our year is only a short number of days away.



Play, Learn and Grow....Together!

3rd & 4th

What we've been working on...

We studied customary and metric measurement. We also practiced converting these types of measurements. In Language Arts, we practiced determining different perspectives and points of view. Other skills we continued to develop were comparing and contrasting themes/settings/plots. We worked on asking and answering questions to demonstrate understanding of a text. We also learned about different environments and animal habitats.

As we are coming toward the end of our school year, we are proud to see the growth all of the students have made so far!

What we're looking forward to...

In Math, third grade will be learning and working with money, time, and calendar, graphs and probability, geometry, and preparing for algebra. Fourth grade will be working on graphs and probability, geometry, and preparing for algebra to end the year. Students will also continue to build upon their reading strategies. Third grade will be learning about different types of inventions and technology within flight. Fourth grade will be learning about astronomers and how they study wonders in the sky, such as stars, planets, comets, eclipses, and the Northern Lights.

5th & 6th

Upper Elementary is excited for all of the upcoming events taking place in the spring. Our first major spring assignment is our second Market Day research project. Students will be given their project guidelines and expectations for this experience on April 1, 2016. This time, our class will be studying the continent of South America. The project due date is set for April 29. Feel free to join our class during student presentations as they enjoy showing you their hard work. More detailed information to follow.

May will also be filled with lots of great activities! At the end of April, expect guidelines for our Economic Fair projects. Students will be expected to create a product to sell to the younger students for Peace Points. Start discussing with your child the ideas they have for products they would like to create and sell during this event. This is one of Upper Elementary's favorite activities! Stay posted for more details.

May will also include Artists in Residence. Miss Nancy and Mr. Jef will be joining Upper Elementary three times a week to teach about the different types of art from the Civil War Era. Please plan to join our class on the evening of Thursday, May 19th for our Artists in Residence Evening Ball, where the students will perform for you what they have learned over the course of the program!

Classroom Updates

MUSIC



Hello GMCS families!

March is an exciting month in music education. It is Music In Our Schools Month! This is the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation, and is showcased through concerts, musicals, and other musical opportunities for students and their school communities. This year at GMCS we are participating in this month long celebration of school music by engaging our families in the music we have been learning in our classes. We will be sending students home with packets of music that contain the lyrics to many songs we have sung and activities we have learned throughout the school year. This is a valuable resource for students to continue their music education and to share in the joy of music making with their families. Ask your students about these songs and games, and enjoy learning from them! Keep an eye out for this packet in the next couple weeks. We are excited to share our music class with you.

Happy music making this month!

Ms. Broadway

For more information about Music In Our Schools Month, check out the National Association for Music Education's website: <http://www.nafme.org/programs/miosm/>, and be sure to check out our bulletin board for more information about musical opportunities in our schools in Adams County, as well as the surrounding community.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

Upper Elementary PE

Over the past marking period, students in upper elementary PE have completed their unit on group games and have begun their unit on flying discs and the games associated with them. We will be spending 3 classes on this unit before we move into our volleyball unit. During the course of the volleyball unit, students will practice fundamental skills such as the underhand serve, the forearm pass, and the set. I look forward to see the students progress and develop their skills over the upcoming marking period.



Lower Elementary PE

Lower elementary PE classes have also just completed their unit on group games and will be moving on to their gymnastics unit. Following the gymnastics unit, students will move on to our kicking and soccer unit where skills such as kicking and punting to a target will be covered. This is a very important unit as the students will be using these skills in games when they reach the upper elementary level. I anticipate a large amount of skill development over the course of the next marking period.



Upper Elementary Health

Upper elementary health has just concluded their unit on nutrition where students gained a better understanding of macro-nutrients and how to prepare healthy snacks. We have moved on to our alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs unit where students will learn about the different classifications of drugs and the effects they produce. In addition, addiction will be covered as well as refusal skills to show how to avoid drugs and peer pressure. Following this unit, we will be moving on to our safety unit where we will cover safe practices in the home, school, and community. There are quite a few fun and exciting classes to look forward to in the upcoming months!



HELLO FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR!

As always our friends at GMCS are amazing bucket fillers, so amazing that we have earned BINGO on our Bucket Filler Bingo Board!! Reaching this goal has earned our whole school an extra recess together to celebrate. Our new goal is to see if we can earn BINGO once more before the school year comes to a close. A new round of small groups is underway and our book club has begun reading Wonder by RJ Palacio. Our joint Career Café with VIDA Charter School for our 4th-6th grade friends will be taking place on May 6th. Be on the lookout for a letter asking for volunteers to come in and share their careers; it will be coming home soon.

**** I'm hoping we will have earned BINGO before this is sent out, we only have one space to fill!****

The Principal's Piece

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The previous 9 weeks of school have been filled with many fun, educational events, including the 100th Day of School, Read Across America week in which we celebrated Dr. Seuss' birthday, and our first book swap. We have many events to look forward to as well. We will have Earth Day activities, another Book Fair, our trout release, a spring concert, a Civil War period dance, and Field Day!

Grades 3-6 will be taking the Pennsylvania System of School Assessments (PSSA) in April. Each testing day will last approximately 1-1.5 hours. Please be sure your child arrives to school on time and has had plenty of rest. These tests measure student performance related to their proficiency of Pennsylvania Core Standards. Their scores will be used to assist teachers in identifying students who may need additional educational opportunities. The scores also provide information for curriculum and instruction improvement and planning.

Faye Pleso, Principal

English and Language Arts	April 11-14
Math	April 19-21
Science (Grade 4 only)	April 26-27

Reading Strategies to Practice at Home:

1. Take the time to place an emphasis on making new words more interesting by talking about them in ways in which your child will enjoy and learn. For example, "This big house is called a palace. Who do you think lives in a palace?"
2. Repeated readings of a child's favorite book will help them gain confidence as they successfully begin to recognize words.
3. Stories with rhyming words and lines that repeat build a child's confidence when they begin to catch on and join in with reading these parts.
4. Make frequent stops to ask about the pictures and about events happening in the story.
5. Make the story more appealing by reading with emotion. Reading with emotion draws a child into the story in a way that is much more memorable and enjoyable. It also helps them to better understand how words can describe something sad, happy, or exciting.
6. Set aside a special place and time for reading. This will help you as the parent plan your day more effectively to include a reading time. It will also help a reluctant reader think of reading as a normal scheduled activity.



Board Briefings

New Members

The board is pleased to welcome two new board members: Courtney Bolinski and Kirsten Johnson. Courtney and Kirsten are both parents of students at the school and were appointed to fill two board vacancies. They will serve the remainder of their predecessor's unexpired term, both of which end in August 2016.

Election

Each May the board holds an election to fill upcoming vacancies and will soon be seeking nominations for individuals who are interested in serving on the board. The School Board consists of seven members, and at least one of the members must be someone who does not have a child enrolled in the school. Each elected member serves a 2-year term and can be re-elected for a 2nd two-year term. The Board meets at least once a month, and board members are also responsible for some light committee work. If you have ever been interested in public service and governance, or are looking for a way to volunteer at the school, this is a great opportunity to get involved. Please stay on the lookout for solicitations for board nominations and information about our upcoming election!

Board Meetings

Meetings of the GMCS Board of Trustees are open to the public and scheduled for the last Thursday of each month. All meetings are held at the school and begin at 7:00pm. Upcoming meetings dates are: March 31, April 28, and May 26.

Clearances for Volunteers

All volunteers and chaperones need to have 2 up-to-date clearances on file with the school. These clearances are: Child Abuse History and PA State Police Criminal Record Check (ePatch). All volunteers need to update their clearances every 5 years.

Parents and guardians are encouraged and welcomed to volunteer and be chaperones once the 2 clearances are acquired. If you are interested in pursuing these clearances, an information sheet can be picked up in the office or found on our website.

