



The Howler



The Principal's Piece

Dear GMCS Families,

As we come to the end of this school year, I cannot help but feel so proud of all our accomplishments. We grew so much this year and will continue to grow next year as well. We are going to add an additional 5/6 classroom for the 17/18 school year. Miss Rickell will be teaching 5/6 ELA and Miss Jarvis will be teaching 5/6 Math. It is very likely that we will need to add an additional 3/4 classroom too. We also will be hiring a part-time art teacher and a lunchroom aide. Another change is that we will implement Eureka Math for K-6. This math curriculum shares similar principles with Montessori and will enable us to incorporate traditional Works in the curriculum as well as use additional Eureka designed manipulatives.

Speaking of accomplishments, I am happy to say that I have met all the requirements for my PhD! I understand the importance of being a life-long learner and try to role-model that to our students. In addition to completing my PhD, I have also completed the AMS Montessori Principles for the Montessori School Leader and am halfway through with the PA Inspired Leaders program through the National Institute for School Leadership, a program required by PDE.

Many of you know about my love for history. Well, one day while visiting Gettysburg Museum and Visitor's Center, I saw a map from the 1850s. It was a map of Adams County. I looked closer to see the crossroads of where our GMCS stands and I was surprised to see a symbol of a school house on the southwest corner, on the same spot where our school stands today! After investigating this further, I was able to confirm that there was indeed a one-room, log school house at this location from 1844-1864! It was an outstanding location for a school 173 years ago and now through the passing of time, this historic location will continue to educate the precious resources of our country, our children.

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD
CEO/Principal



From the Board

Thank You

The board would like to thank all the teachers, staff and administration at GMCS for a wonderful first year at our new home. Unpacking an entire school and settling into a new location was a huge task. Ms. Pleso and her staff handled it beautifully and didn't back down from any of the challenges they encountered. Their commitment to this school is inspiring.

We can't wait to see what year 2 holds for GMCS! Thank you all so much.

Playground Thank You

It is so impressive to see the playground taking shape. The board would like to extend a very special thank you to Nurse Adrian. Thank you so much for your dedication to this project. You were patiently determined to get the kids a fabulous play area and you've succeeded beautifully. Thank you! Also, thank you to all of the volunteers who have made this play area possible. GMCS is so lucky to have such a good group of committed volunteers!

2017-2018 Budget

The GMCS Board is currently working to finalize the 2017-2018 budget. We have identified priorities for the school and will be bringing the budget to a vote at the May 30 meeting. If you are interested in how the school sets its budget, we encourage you to attend this month's board meeting.

2017

Dates to Remember:

- **Friday, May 26th**
Kindergarten Graduation ceremony
- **Tuesday, May 30th**
Field Day, 9:30-11:30a
- **Wednesday, May 31st**
Last Day of School
Dismissal at 12 noon
- **Tuesday, Aug 15th, 2017**
Back to School Night 5:30-7:30p
- **Tuesday, Aug 22nd, 2017**
First Day of School

Reminders:

- Please be sure to check the lost and found, there are quite a few items there.

Upcoming Board Meetings

GMCS Board meetings are open to the public and we encourage you to attend. Upcoming board meetings will be held at 888 Coleman Rd. at 7:00 pm on the following dates:

- Tuesday, May 30
- Tuesday, June 27
- Tuesday, July 25
- Tuesday, August 29

* meeting dates during the summer are subject to change, please check the school's website for updated information.

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Mrs. Edmond & Mrs. Lawrence - What an exciting year it has been for kindergarten! Our little naturalists have raised butterflies, tadpoles, and trout throughout their life cycles and celebrated releasing our "pets" back out into nature. As your family enjoys summer vacation, we hope that you will find ways to engage your child in continuing their learning. We have recently studied the solar system and summer nights are a perfect time for star gazing together! Outside games and even cooking together can become wonderful opportunities to engage in measurement, addition, and subtraction conversations. And, of course, keep those reading and writing skills honed by reading aloud together, attending summer story times at your local library, and keeping a journal of books read and adventures enjoyed.



We are very proud of our kindergarten graduates! Thank you to all of the family members that have contributed to this year's success. See you in first grade!

1st & 2nd

Mrs. Johnson - We feel like quarter 4 went faster than ever, and are sure you do too. We want to begin our final newsletter with a huge THANK YOU to all our parents and special guests who took the time to donate supplies, volunteer in the classroom, or came in for a special presentation.

The highlight of this quarter was our trip to Catoctin Zoo. The students were counting down the days until it was time to go. To prepare for our trip, and any other future zoo trips, that may be taken over summer vacation, we spent the week learning about different animals we would see at a zoo. As many of you know, animals are always a big hit with our first and second grade students.

Another favorite topic we explored during this quarter was dinosaurs. Everyone enjoyed reading about dinosaurs, and exploring what it would be like to be a paleontologist through some of our works. Everyone's favorite work was getting to dig through sand to find dinosaur bones that needed to be put together.

Please be on the lookout for next year's classroom supply list and a summer work packet. The work packet is something to complete over the course of the summer to help maintain all that your child has learned this school year.

Miss Rickell - The end of the year is already here! The last one hundred seventy days of the year have blown by. Quarter four is our time for finishing up our last few skills, reviewing, and all our special activities. In math, first grade has done various reviews for skills we have learned throughout this year. Second grade has finished up their last few remaining skills such as fractions, measurement, and geometry.

In reading, we finished up our last unit for the year and moved into theme passages relating to the much anticipated field trip. Students also read for me one last time in their final DIBELS assessment for this year.

Students absolutely loved the field trip to the zoo! We lucked out and ended up getting to stay dry! Feeding the animals was probably the biggest hit for many of the students.

This has been a wonderful year, and it is very sad to say goodbye to my first and second grade friends. I truly look forward to the chance to get to work with them again, but this time as a 5th and 6th grade teacher. Thank you for all your support from home. I wish you all a happy and healthy summer. See you in August!

Mr. Stare - It is crazy to think that we are days away from the end of the school year. We have just wrapped up our last unit in our Wonders lessons. 1st grade has learned about classifications, things in the sky, great inventions, sounds all around, and how things are built. The second graders have been hard at work as well, they have learned about being a good citizen, the benefits of cooperation, our heroes, preserving our earth, and rights and rules. Our last class writing assignment was a really fun one! We wrote informational animal reports with partners. We were inspired for this writing because of our zoo field trip.

Both 1st and 2nd grade have won the battle with addition and subtraction. We were so excited to move on to new math activities in the class after we achieved proficiency. We have been learning how to read analog clocks by looking at the hour and minute hands. We have also begun using data tables to organize information as well as using that information to create graphs. The 1st graders have been creating the data tables for the 2nd graders to graph. The 2nd graders have begun to use bar graphs and picture graphs to show this data. Both 1st and 2nd grade has also just finished up our unit on money. It was interesting to see all of the different coin combinations we can have, to make the same amount of money. We also learned that we need to have a certain amount of money to buy things that we need. The last new math lesson that we have started learning about is geometry. We learned that geometry is all about shapes and what makes a shape a shape.

Our last upgrade for the year was our morning meeting upgrade. Mr. Stare stepped completely back and is letting the 1st and 2nd graders take ownership of their morning meeting. They enjoy becoming the lead teacher during morning work check and our Chief Schedule Engineers have been doing a great job going over our date and our daily schedule.

With our school year ending we have to unfortunately say goodbye to one another for a couple of months. What's a better way to say goodbye than with some fun end of the year activities! We will be having our field day in the morning on Tuesday, May 30, 2017. After lunch, we will be viewing the film that inspired our class dragon, Elliot, to go on adventures, Pete's Dragon.

I want to take this time, families, to thank you for letting your child come hang out with me every day this past school year. Each and every student in room 10 has learned something new about themselves this year and have become a lover of learning, even if they don't want to admit it. I am going to miss everyone over the summer but I look forward to seeing you all again in August. Please don't be a stranger room 10 family!

3rd & 4th

Mrs. Jan & Mrs. Stough - *What we've been working on...*

We finished the school year by studying money, time, calendar, graphs and probability, geometry, and preparing for algebra. In Language Arts, we continued to build upon reading strategies including comparing and contrasting themes/settings/plots. Third grade learned about different types of inventions and technology within flight. Fourth grade learned about astronomers and how they study wonders in the sky.

A Note from the Teachers:

It was a great pleasure to teach your child this year. We learned so many things. Even though they would have grown without our help, it has been a privilege to see their personalities grow day by day and see how they developed in their learning. We will always have a great interest in your child and their destinies, wherever they may go, whatever they do and whoever they become.

A Special Thanks...

To the Rotary Club for donating dictionaries to the third grade students, to the 4H Program for allowing us to participate in the embryology study, and Barbara Sanders for sharing artifacts and her knowledge about the Civil War.

Classroom Updates

5th & 6th

Miss Jarvis - It is hard to believe that another school year has passed! Upper Elementary students have had an eventful semester. We completed our Asian Market Day, students studied economics and ran businesses at the Economic Fair, and we learned a great deal about the Civil War era, such as quilting and dancing. The students did a fabulous job of hosting parents and families at our Civil War Ball. Thank you to all the parents who came out to show their support for this event. Additionally, we extend a huge "Thank You" to Mr. Jef and Miss Nancy, of Danza Antiqua, for helping us learn so much throughout our Artists in Residence program. Beyond our school events, the students also enjoyed exploring and experimenting at the North Museum.

Parents: please be aware that all returning students will be receiving a summer packet the last week of school. This packet will include some great online resources, reading suggestions, and math practice. Encourage your child to utilize this packet this summer in order to keep their skills sharp. Included in this packet is the upcoming school year's supply list for your shopping convenience.

Have a fun and safe summer. We look forward to seeing you in August!

SPECIAL EDUCATION

Thank you to the families who joined us on May 17, 2017, for our Parent Information Night. We were provided with excellent presentations covering the topics of Autism Spectrum Disorder, Anxiety/Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Internet Safety. A few tips from Jerry Mitchel at the PA Office of Attorney General about internet safety for the summer: keep open communication with your child about what they are accessing on the internet, know your child's passwords, set limitations on their devices, regularly monitor their online usage, teach your child that talking to strangers on the internet is just as dangerous as talking to strangers in person (including strangers who claim to be peers), and be aware that children under the age of 16 can be heavily fined for cyber bullying. For more information visit www.attorneygeneral.gov. Have a safe summer!

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, Occupational Therapy services and Deaf and Hard of Hearing services. Brochures reviewing the student identification process, the parents request for an evaluation process and additional topics are available to all parents and located in the front lobby of our school. For further information, feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator/Teacher, Rebeka Black, at becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

RTII

Our students have grown leaps and bounds over the course of the school year. Thank you for your continued support at home. Please continue to practice their reading and math skills over the summer. We highly recommend enrolling your student in the free summer reading program your community provides at your local library! Another way of preparing your student for next school year is by completing the packet your student's teacher is sending home! Please let us know if you have any further questions about your students' progress! Have a wonderful summer and we will see you next school year!!

Thank you!
Miss Householder and Miss Reddi

MUSIC

Ms. Bartoli - *Notes from the Music Room* Happy May!!! We have finished the year out with lots going on in the Music Room. Our May 9th concert was full of Broadway and Movie music. The combined number in each concert was "I can See the Light" from Frozen which included students from K-6 at each concert. It was such fun seeing little ones at the 3-6 concert and older ones at the K-2 concert. The 5/6 graders played two songs on the ukuleles at their concert.

The Music Enrichment students performed on May 15th. The Ukulele girls played two songs from Disney movies. The pianists, violinists and guitarists played "Good Company" from Aristocats and the Brass and Woodwind players played "Whistle while you Work" from Pinocchio. Solo performances were done by Naomi Lang on the Violin, who played 3 songs from memory and Calvin Lang, who played a jazzy version of "Old MacDonald" on the trombone.

The Drama Enrichment students performed 4 One-Act plays on May 19. The students performed 4 times during the day so that the entire student body could attend. We had lots of parents and grandparents join us for a day of wonderful acting and joy.

During the month of May we have learned about the American Musical. We learned how it combined the spoken dialogue of Plays, the singing of Opera, and the dance of Ballet to create a brand new art form. In order to learn more about what a musical is about the Kindergarten students watched Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Cinderella". The 1-6 graders watched "Annie". It was a fun way to end the year and learn about Musicals.

I am so proud of the students and all that they have accomplished this year in Music and Drama. They worked so hard all year and made tremendous progress. Thank you for allowing me to share music with your children this year.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Greetings from the counselor's corner! Greetings from the School Counselor! I can't believe that it is time to write our final newsletter for the school year. This year has moved quickly, and I have watched our students become even bigger and better bucket fillers. I would like to say a HUGE thank you to the parents/ family members who volunteered for our Career Café. It was a great success and our third- sixth graders learned a lot. I hope that everyone has a wonderful summer and I look forward to seeing all of you in the fall!



SIX BOOKS TO SUMMER SUCCESS: Research shows that reading just six books during the summer may keep a struggling reader from regressing.

READ SOMETHING EVERY DAY: Encourage your child to take advantage of **every** opportunity to read.

KEEP READING ALOUD: Reading aloud benefits all children and teens, especially those who struggle.

PLAYGROUND NEWS

The following all assisted with our Playground Project. They helped with ideas, with expert advice, with their time, and with their hands on work.

THANK YOU:

Individuals:

- Delanie's father – Mr. David Beall, Jr.
- Delanie's grandfather – Mr. David Beall, Sr.
- Molly and Aiden's father – Mr. A.J. Warner
- Lucas' parents - Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Flor Scanlan
- Dhagen's father - James Patterson
- Julian's mother – Amanda Vernon
- Daniel's father – Daniel Harmon, Sr.

Professionals and Companies:

- Mr. Adam Snyder and his employees at Final Grade Inc.
- Mr. Terry Jarvis and his employees at Jarvis Landscaping
- Mr. Robert Hollabaugh and Mr. Wilbur Slothour from Land & Sea Services
- Mr. Josh Bower from Crabtree Architects

Please give a “**shout out thank you**” to your teachers, assistants, and staff especially: **Ms. Pleso, Ms. Gugliette, Ms. Rogers, Mr. Arentz, Mrs. Edmond and Nurse Adrian.** The playground would not have happened without their support and encouragement!

Gettysburg Montessori Charter School commends the generous contribution that Adam Snyder and his company Final Grade Inc.

made to our school playground project. The site preparation was well executed. It will be easy to maintain.



One Saturday volunteers, including Mr. Snyder, assembled play equipment and set posts. Despite morning rain, no electricity, and no easy access to water; they made significant progress. The following Tuesday, Final Grade Inc. returned and completed installing and cementing the pieces into place. The company donated this work to the students.

Our Montessori School and Families owe a debt of gratitude and praise for this gentleman and his company. The quality of their work was tested within days. Torrential down pours and a prolonged rain period failed to compromise the playground site. The drain field worked magnificently, after 3” of rain in less than 12 hours, the site had no standing water. The dirt banks did not erode.

Mr. Snyder's professionalism, integrity, and generosity helped us this year. **His company's work is a legacy for our future.**

We here at Gettysburg Montessori Charter School would like to extend a **huge thank you to The Gettysburg Gateway** for donating all of the popcorn to our end of the quarter movie nights this school year.
- G.M.C.S. Teachers and Staff

GMCS is happy to announce an ongoing fundraiser, with Modere.

We chose Modere because like us, they believe in respecting the environment. Their motto is to “Live Clean”. They “make products using the best of nature and the best of science to bring you a healthier lifestyle and a clean and happy home”.

They offer a wide range of products from personal care, health and wellness, to household care.

Please take time to go to **Modere.com/438031** to see these wonderful products. You can purchase online and the items will be sent to you. GMCS will receive a percentage of each purchase as long as you use this webpage link with our special number. **You get \$10 off your first order!**

Thank you for your support.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Mr. Arentz -

K-6th Health- In the fourth quarter, K-6 health classes finished their Nutrition units and completed mental health units as well. Topics covered included self-image, accepting differences, bullying, and more!

K-2nd PE- Highlights from our end of the year PE units included games and activities for cardiovascular endurance, and our very own version of Pokemon Go.

3rd-6th PE- Third through sixth grades completed the Survival/Adventure Ed. unit this quarter. Topics covered included orienteering, basic first aid skills, and a “survival stations” course.



Fun And Effective Summer Exercise Ideas

- First, go outside and exercise! Get off the cardio machines and enjoy the fresh air. Have fun this summer with your cardio! Get off the machines, be creative and keep burning body fat. Get your doctor's clearance if you've been inactive for a while. The summer heat can be dangerous.
- You still should set realistic goals for the summer such as restarting your active lifestyle, burning body fat (losing inches) or losing one to two pounds a week.
- Start your summer exercise today with a 30-minute walk. Do this walk every day, somewhere, at some point (outdoors). You can break it up into three 10-minute walks if you want.
- Choose a 20-minute cardio routine or sport that you like such as biking, jogging, tennis, soccer, swimming, rock climbing, basketball, flag football, etc. Do this fun cardio three days a week.
- Begin doing a 20-minute bodyweight strength exercise workout. You need to build muscle in order to burn fat and speed up your metabolism. Do your bodyweight exercise routine three days a week.
- Organize a weekly neighborhood volleyball or kickball game. Everybody likes volleyball/kickball and its easy and fun!
- Start exercising or playing active games as a family. This is a great way to have fun and stay fit together.
- Exercise during your kid's practices. Why sit around for one to two hours watching kids practice? Take advantage of the time and walk or jog.
- Walk or bike to the store a few blocks away instead of driving.
- Take care this summer, have fun and keep exercising!

MÖDERE