



The Principal's Piece

Dear GMCS Families,

As we end this school year, I am happy to inform you about how much money we have raised from our most recent fundraisers, which have gone toward field trips, physical education, or other student activities. Thank you for supporting these events and sales.

Hershey Park \$939.30, Box Tops \$458.90, Bingo \$1263.27, and 5K Fun Run \$1293.00.

Special thanks goes to the following for their contributions or hard-work in making these sales and events successful: Megan Matson, Shannon McConnell, Adams County Electric, Zach Woodward and the Wellness Committee, State Farm, our volunteer helpers, and all who contributed toward our Staff Appreciation Week.

We have begun the initial steps toward securing funding for the building addition that will replace our modular campus. We have started this process early to provide us with ample time to complete each phase. It will take approximately a year to secure the funding. We are looking into a low interest loan through the USDA. We will also hire a professional grant writer to help us obtain substantial grant funds. The next step will take place around August of 2019, when we will create a building committee to help with the design phase. Our lease on the modular campus is up in July, 2021 so we will have the construction completed prior to that date.

These are exciting times for GMCS! Our community has embraced us and hold us in high esteem. We have much to look forward to as we continue to grow and develop. We truly value our students, parents and grandparents, teachers, staff, and GMCS friends. Thank you for all of your support.

Hope you have a wonderful summer break.

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD

Important Reminders:

- There is a large amount of items in the lost and found. It will be donated on June 4th. Please come and take your belongings before the 4th.

Dates to Remember:

- **School in session**
May 31 - full day
- **Last Day of School**
June 1 - 12 noon dismissal

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:

- Thursday, May 31, 2018
- Thursday, June 28, 2018
- Thursday, August 30, 2018



Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Mrs. Edmond & Mrs. Lawrence - Wow! This school year has flown by so fast. We are proud of how far our kindergarten students have come. Each student has grown academically and socially. We would also like to thank all of the parents for your support at school and at home. We couldn't do it without you!

Here are a few exciting things Primary has been doing the last months of school. We were very excited to observe our caterpillars as they transformed into Painted Lady Butterflies. We watched them flutter away after releasing them back into nature. On May 15th we had beautiful weather for our field trip to Pine View Farm. Students enjoyed planting seeds, bottle feeding baby animals, grooming horses, and visiting the reptile room. Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped chaperone this adventure!

We would like to wish everyone a fun, safe and relaxing summer. Remember it's important to keep working with your children. Make practicing sight words fun by writing them with chalk, spelling them in shaving cream, or building letters with play dough. Keep working on addition, subtraction, and skip counting by 5's and 10's. Work on reading fluency by having your child read to you every night. Registering with your library's summer reading program will allow your child to earn prizes for recording their reading time. Keeping a journal of summer adventures is a great way to work on writing skills. Have a great summer!

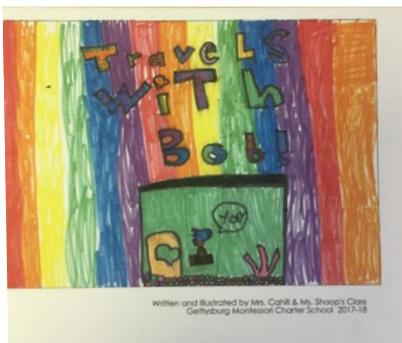
Sight Words

1st & 2nd

Ms. Cahill Our last quarter has been very busy and very productive!

In Math, first grade has been hard at work exploring the concepts of geometry while second grade has been working on graphing data and recognizing the value of coins as well as counting up their value.

In reading, we have continued to work in our Wonders curriculum in conjunction with Guided reading groups. We worked hard on opinion writing and poetry, as well as continuing to work on grammatical skills. We also published our first book, *Travels With Bob*, in which each student described where in the world they would travel with our classroom pet Bob the fish. They worked very hard on the book and did a phenomenal job!



In social studies and science we continued our exploration of the continents, concluding with Europe. We navigated our way through several countries including France and Spain. In science, we continued integrating our science Montessori works with our other curriculum areas culminating in an exciting field trip to the Maryland Science Center in Baltimore! The students explored various exhibits in the Science Center including the Your body; the inside story, Forces of Nature and Dinosaur Mysteries. A special thank you to our outstanding chaperones really did a great job!

It has truly been an honor to teach your children this year! I love and respect every one of them. Have a wonderful summer!



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 the Maryland Science Center. The students were counting down the days until it was time to go. Our trip tied in perfectly to our recent studies of the weather and space. We loved seeing our kids explore the center and hearing them talk about it on the way home and the next day.

Another highlight this quarter was our Summer Vacation Countdown. The kids enjoyed counting down the final days of school and getting to make some fun memories with our friends as we continued to learn. Some of the fun activities we were able to participate in were tie dying t-shirts, playing board and card games, learning all about rainbows and sharks, and the best part was making our Friendship Fruit Salad.

First grade worked hard in math as we learned about place value and its role in addition and subtraction within 40, comparing numbers, identification and portioning of shapes, and telling time to the hour and half hour. Our second graders worked equally as hard in math. They have learned how to add and subtract numbers within 100, solve word problems within 100. They also began looking at the foundations for multiplication as they explored making equal groups, making arrays, and skip counting. We ended the year with reading, interpreting, and creating tables and graphs.

As we worked our way through our Reading Wonders program we continued to explore a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts, as well as text features, how to find text evidence, identify theme, point of view, cause and effect, problem and solution, and main ideas.

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.

Again, we would like to thank each one of you for your continued to support and we are proud of how hard your child worked this year. Have a great summer and we will see you next year!

Classroom Updates

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 researched Pennsylvania! The students worked with partners to conduct research and then the groups created a graphic organizer and illustrated a picture with some of our state symbols.

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 2nd graders have begun to use bar graphs and picture graphs to show 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 1st grade 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. 2nd grades last math lesson is on arrays and the use of repeated addition, the first step towards multiplication!

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 Wednesday, May 30, 2018.

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. To my 1st graders that are moving to 2nd grade, I look forward to getting to work with you all next year again. We are going to have a blast together! To my 2nd grade students that are moving on to 3rd grade, I will miss having you in room 10 every day. You have made the last two years an adventure that I would never want to change!

3rd & 4th

Mrs. Jan & Mrs. Stough - It's hard to believe our school year is coming to an end! We've built many friendships, grown as individuals, and become a whole year SMARTER! Here is what we've been working on in the classroom during the 4th quarter...

We finished the school year by furthering our studies in multiplication, division and exploring new concepts such as geometry and fractions. In Language Arts, we continued to build upon reading strategies including comparing and contrasting, themes, settings, and plots. In the areas of Science and Social Studies, 3rd Grade learned about different types of inventions and technology within flight, while our 4th Grade students learned about astronomers and how they study wonders in the sky.

Some highlights from quarter 4 were; rockin' our P.S.A.'s, learning about and receiving dictionaries from the Rotary Club, completing a research project about our important "Keystone State" (Pennsylvania), and going on our end of the year field trip to the Capitol Building in Harrisburg. While on our field trip we learned about the workings of our local government and witnessed the grandeur of the beautiful building first hand! We look forward to more unforgettable memories as we head into our final week together, receiving new books at Book Swap, running and playing at Field Day, and saying our good-byes for the summer.

In closing, we would like to say what a great pleasure it has been 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!

5th & 6th

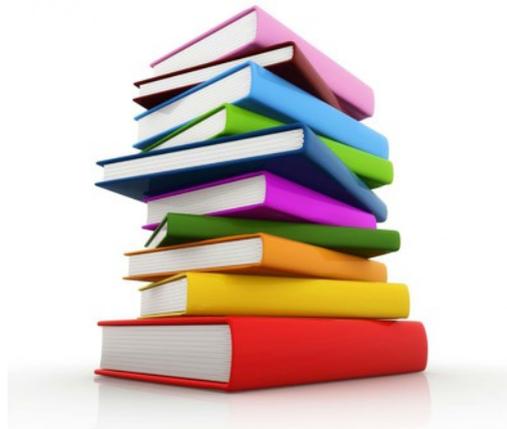
Ms. Jarvis & Miss. Rickell - Fourth quarter has already flown by and here we are at the end of the school year! It is truly hard to figure out where this year went! 5th and 6th grade surely ended with a bang this year. We have had so many exciting events.

ELA: In ELA, we wrapped up our Wonders unit work and then we finished our novel studies for both grades. Students have worked very hard this year and they have all gained many skills. They have also gained confidence in their abilities as a reader and built stamina for reading for greater amounts of time. Please continue to encourage regular reading this summer. It has led to great growth for the students and many have recognized the difference in both their reading and comprehension abilities this year!

Math: Fifth grade continued to learn about using different operations to solve fraction problems. We focused on multiplying and dividing fractions by fractions and whole numbers by fractions. Sixth grade focused on the use of integers and rational numbers, and we began to touch the surface of algebra. Please encourage your child to continue to practice their math facts over the summer as automaticity will truly help them solve the more complicated problems.

Other fun events included our planting activities to go along with Earth Day, field trips, and field day! We had our second round of Artists in Residence for a number of weeks throughout April and May. Once again students were able to showcase what they have learned at the ball. They learned a variety of Civil War period dances, an Israeli dance, and how to embroider!

It has been pleasure for us to work with your students and we wish you all a happy, safe summer!



SPECIAL EDUCATION

On May 2nd, we hosted a Parent Information Night covering the topics of Trauma Informed Care for Parents and Internet Safety. There were several parents and teachers in attendance for this very informational training. Please look for the survey that will be handed out at the beginning of next school year to share the topics you are interested in learning more about.

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, Physical 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 on the green shelf in the lobby of our school.

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

Rti



Greetings from RTI! The "summer slide" is a common concern between parents and teachers alike. However, there are ways to help students keep in practice during the summer months.

According to Scholastic.com, research shows that 6 is the magic number of books to read during the summer to avoid regression. It is also recommended to read every single day as often as possible, and to build comprehension skills by reading aloud. In order to avoid the loss of math progress during the summer, encourage your child to find math in their daily, everyday life. Pose questions such as "how many more days until our special trip?" or "how many cups should I use in this recipe in order to cut it in half?" Make it fun! Play games that require students to use math skills, such as the card game "War" or board games like "Monopoly." Have access to a computer? Play engaging math games created by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics at calculationnation.nctm.org. "Fogstone Isle" is another free online game, created by renowned Neuroscientist and math teachers to help prevent the summer slide. We are excited to hear about all of the great things that happen over the summer months and can't wait to see everyone back in August!

Respectfully, Ms. Loren Householder and Mrs. Amanda Hedrich
(GMCS RTI Team)



COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Greetings from the counselor's corner! Wow, it is time for our last newsletter of the year! We wanted to start by saying a HUGE thank you to our Career Café volunteers! The event was a great success and we look forward to hosting this event again next year.

Even though the school year is ending, and our team is gearing up for the 2018-2019 school year. We are looking for parent, student, and community member volunteers to be part of our School Counseling Advisory Committee. This committee will meet on a few occasions throughout the year to help ensure that our School Counseling Program is best meeting the needs of our students. If you are interested in helping, or would like to make a recommendation, please reach out to Ms. Love or Ms. Hohman (Ms. H.) via e-mail.

Finally, we want to say a farewell to all of our students, and especially those transitioning on to new adventures in education next year. We will miss you!

We hope everyone enjoys their summer vacation and we will see you next year!

Ms. Hohman and Ms. Love
sara@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
mhohman@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org



Thanks to you!

On behalf of the Board, we want to thank you for another fantastic year at GMCS! Everyone worked so hard to continue to build on the success of our wonderful school and we are already looking ahead to what the 2018-19 school year has in store. We are very excited about the continued growth of the school and working to shape our new campus. We are currently exploring funding sources and will be hard at work over the summer on the early stages of planning for our design and build phase. Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!

Board Vacancies – Did You Know?

We are a Board made up of student family members and community volunteers all giving a little time each month to help keep the school growing and going strong. We need your help!

Any time you can give, any involvement you are able to make – and your commitment can be flexible as the Board understands how busy our families and lives are – would help keep the school we all love moving in the right direction.

Volunteerism is a crucial part of the Montessori Philosophy and we need all family members – parents, guardians, grandparents – to play a part in any way they can. We also need members of the community to serve on the Board, so if you know someone in the Gettysburg area who would be willing to volunteer, please let us know.

No matter what your background, availability, or experience there is a place for you on the Board! The Board is currently looking to fill three positions for the 2018-19 school year.

Please email board@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org to find out how to become part of our amazing school's governing body!

Join Us in June!

The Board works throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year. In June, we will have an important vote on the Budget for 2018-19. Please consider attending a meeting to find out more about the inner workings of GMCS.