It’s Been a Great Year at GMCS!

Have a Great SUMMER
Pre-K & K

Wow! This school year has flown by so fast. We are proud of how far our Primary 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 few 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 16th we had beautiful weather for our walking field trip to Explore and More and the Gettysburg Library. 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!

1st & 2nd

It was our pleasure to work with your children this school year. We have laughed, played, studied, and learned so much this year. We are proud of what each and every child has accomplished throughout this school year. So it is time for us to return them to you, a few inches taller, with a few more pounds, and many months wiser. But before we do, we would like to share a snippet what we did during our last quarter with your children.

Our field trip was a moment that we waited for all year! We were worried that good old Mother Nature wouldn't be on our side since our trip was scheduled during a very wet weather streak, but she held off the rain and we had a wonderful day visiting the animals at Catoctin Wildlife Preserve and Zoo. All of our kids enjoyed seeing the animals, but they seemed to enjoy getting to feed them the most.

Over the summer, please continue to read with your child daily and practice math facts. We have sent their spelling, grammar, and reading workbooks home for them as well. Please feel free to complete the pages to keep them practicing the many skills and strategies we worked on throughout the school year. Some other great activities to practice both math and reading skills are cooking with your child and completing fun and easy science experiments.

3rd & 4th

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. They are also learning the importance of reusing and recycling materials. Fourth grade learned about astronomers and how they study wonders in the sky. They are also learning about the history of why people moved to the western territories in the 1800’s. The students are also enjoying completing their animal research projects. Their dioramas and writings are excellent and we cannot wait for their presentations.

The students did a wonderful job on their field trip to Indian Echo Caverns. They loved seeing the rock formations we learned about at school.

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.

5th & 6th

Upper Elementary spent their last few weeks participating in a lot of fun, educational activities.

Students in 5th and 6th grade spent ten class periods learning about the Civil War era. During the Artists in Residence lessons, we learned about the history of the Civil War, men and women’s apparel of that time period, knitting, proper etiquette to use at formal dances, and finally, we learned the steps to several dances. Mr. Jef and Miss Nancy aided in the planning of our Civil War Ball which took place on Thursday, May 19th. Students provided their parents with an authentic experience, complete with light refreshments and dance lessons.

Economics Fair was held on Friday, May 20th. The students worked hard throughout the month of May to put together a business with a marketable product. Fifth and sixth grade students sold their products to first through fourth graders. The Peace Points earned were used to purchase class prizes as well as items from our classroom store. This was a great way to wrap up our Economics unit.

On Monday, May 23rd, Upper Elementary visited the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. Our class was able to participate in the program Chemistry Concoctions, where we learned about chemical reactions. In the afternoon we learned about engineering, and the students learned how simple machines can be used to design and build machinery. We were also able to independently explore the science museum and enjoyed every minute.
Classroom Updates

MUSIC

The GMCS music program had a very successful Spring Concert at the beginning of May! Great job to all students, and a big thank you to all the parents and families that helped out!

Please encourage your students to look in to summer music programs to continue making music throughout their summer vacation. This has been a great year for our music classroom, and we cannot wait to see what happens next with our musical students.

Below you will find information for families interested in musical camps or music events over the summer:

- Gettysburg Children’s Choir Summer Camp – June 6-10
  www.gettysburgcc.org/camp.html

- Gettysburg Brass Band Festival – June 9-11
  www.gettysburgbrassbandfestival.com

Music, Gettysburg!
Concert schedule: www.musicgettysburg.org

- Gettysburg Bluegrass Festival – August 18-21
  www.gettysburgbluegrass.com/festival

RtII & SPECIAL EDUCATION

You may notice a new report coming home with your students’ report card for the end of this year. The DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) benchmarking is an indicator that we use to measure the growth and progress of our school. We would like to share your students’ information with you. We would like you to keep in mind that this is a snippet of your child’s knowledge in comparison with other students their age nationwide, and not a full assessment of their entire academic progress for the school year. A student’s scores on the DIBELS, provides the school with information about whether or not a student is on track for grade-level reading and math success. Our school uses this information, as well as teacher input, to determine if your student may benefit from additional small group instruction, which is often referred to as Response to Intervention and Instruction (RTII). To help your child stay on track for next school year, keep reading and practicing basic math skills (counting, adding, subtracting, multiplication and division) with your child!

Have a great summer!

A Few Educational Website Options:
www.ismartboard.com – reading and math
www.neok12.com – math and reading
(need a subscription for some games)
www.reviewgamezone.com – reading and math
www.coolmath.com – math
www.mathcats.com – math
www.funbrain.com – math and reading
www.hoodamath.com – math
www.mrnussbaum.com/ - math, reading, tablet specific activities

HELLO FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELOR!

Three cheers for another wonderful year! Small groups have wrapped up, our Career Café was a great success, and our students continue to be spectacular bucket fillers. I want to wish everyone a safe, fun filled, happy summer, and look forward to seeing you all in the fall!!

Important Reminders:
- NO SCHOOL Monday, May 30th
- Last Day of School Tuesday, May 31st, Half Day Dismissal at 12pm
- First Day back to school Tuesday, August 23rd, 2016
The Principal’s Piece

It is hard to believe that this school year is over. I am so happy to see the progress we all have made this year. The 4th quarter of school was filled with so many events and activities. We started our PSSA testing with a pep rally to cheer on our 3rd - 6th graders and they all seemed to really enjoy taking the tests. I think a lot had to do with the snacks and extra recesses.

We celebrated Earth Day with many fun activities. We enjoyed another book fair and book swap so we are sure to have enough to read over the summer. Our spring concert showcased the musical talents of our students. It was a pleasure to see our students share the stage with Vida students.

Our trout were released in a healthy creek filled with many living creatures at Strawberry Hill Nature Preserve.

As I write this, I look forward to attending a lovely Civil War period ball sponsored by our 5th and 6th graders. I also anticipate a day of beautiful weather for our field day.

Looking ahead over the summer please be aware that we will be working remotely from mid-June to August. We will be available as usual by phone or email. I am excited about our new location and seeing you at our Back-To-School Night on August 18th. Please check your mail and email for further information.

Enjoy your summer!

Ms. Pleso

Board Briefings

Building Update

As a reminder, the Gettysburg Montessori Charter School will no longer be operating out of the Eisenhower Center as of June 15. You can still contact school administration by calling 717-334-1120, and all administrative personnel will be available via email throughout the summer:

dani@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
leigh@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org
fayepleso@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org

Be sure to check the school’s web-page (www.gettysburgmontessoricharter.org) regularly this summer to get updates on our move to 888 Coleman Rd. We are incredibly excited for this next chapter in our school’s history and can’t wait to share our progress with you.

There will be opportunities for families and community to volunteer as we settle into our new home. If you have any skills or resources you would like to contribute, please be in touch with Ms. Pleso via email at fayepleso@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org. Are you a great painter? Do you have a green thumb? We welcome your talents and time. Let's do this together!

Upcoming Board Meetings

GMCS Board meetings are open to the public. Upcoming board meetings will be held at the Eisenhower Center at 7:00 pm on the following dates:

Thursday, May 26
Thursday, June 30
Thursday, July 28

See you next year at 888 Coleman Road! Have a fabulous summer!

If you need transportation for 2016-2017 school year, please contact Mrs. Leigh Gugliette. gettysburgmontessori@gmail.com