Dear GMCS Families and Friends,

2018/2019 school year has come to an end. The children have grown and learned so much. Now they are ready for a break, but I hope they will all come back at the end of July for our academic summer camp. For more information, please call the main office.

In the spring, I attended a talent show in which seven of the thirty-one participants were students from GMCS. Many of our students won some of the top four prizes. That inspired me to schedule a talent show for our school, starting in the 19/20 school year. I know that so many of our students will want to sign up and show off their talents.

Our spring fundraisers have been very successful. We raised $2278 from our Gertrude Hawk sale! Our Hershey Park fundraiser brought in a total of $736 and Scholastic $466! We also made $241.70 with box tops this quarter!

Thank you for taking the time to read through our newsletter to see all the wonderful activities our students have participated in over the last quarter.

I sincerely hope that you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer.

See you at Back to School Night, on August 14.

Sincerely,
Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD

From the Board

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 2019-20 school year has in store. We are very excited about the continued growth of the school and working to shape our new campus. We will be hard at work this summer with Dr. Pleso and Digsau refining our building design plans and preparing for renovations to our existing building. Have a wonderful summer and we will see you in August!

Join Us in June!
The Board works throughout the summer to prepare for the new school year. Please consider attending a meeting to find out more about the inner workings of GMCS. Our next meeting is Wednesday, June 26th at 6pm.
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 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 21st we had beautiful weather for our field trip to Pine View Farm. Students enjoyed bottle feeding baby animals, gem mining and the opportunity to hand-feed a flock of parakeets! Thank you to our parent volunteers who helped chaperone this adventure!

We would like to wish everyone a fun, safe and relaxing summer. It’s also important to keep working with your children to maintain their skills and continue to grow over the break. 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, counting and recognizing numbers to 100, and skip counting by 5's and 10's. Work on reading fluency by having your child read to you every night and asking questions about what you read together. 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

Ms. Russo - We have been working very hard in 1st and 2nd grade. First grade is currently working on adding and subtracting two digit numbers using quick ten drawings, number bonds, and tape diagrams. Second grade is working on arrays and money! Second grade students and first grade students are having fun completing various money games, booklets, and partner activities using money. The students have really enjoyed locating the money task cards that were hidden all around our classroom.

Students meet daily during ELA time to read leveled readers. Students complete challenging reading group work, quizzes, and questions each week for their story. This week and next will be completing a Pennsylvania research project during ELA time!

Please be on the lookout for the summer packets that will be coming home with your child next week. These packets contain skills that can better prepare you child for the coming school year.

I hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer!

Mr. Stare - It is crazy to think that we are days away from the end of the school year. We have just wrapped up or last unit in our Wonders lessons. 1st grade is currently working on adding and subtracting two digit numbers using quick ten drawings, number bonds, and tape diagrams. Second grade is working on arrays and money! Second grade students and first grade students are having fun completing various money games, booklets, and partner activities using money. The students have really enjoyed locating the money task cards that were hidden all around our classroom.

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.

Next year’s classroom supply list, emergency contact form, and a summer work packet has already been sent home with your child. 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!

2nd & 3rd

Mrs. Bechtel - 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 who took the time to donate supplies or volunteer in the classroom.

The highlight of this quarter was our trip to Indian Echo Caverns. The students were counting down the days until it was time to go. Our trip tied in perfectly to our recent studies of Rocks and Minerals. We loved seeing our kids explore the caverns and hearing them talk about it on the way home and the next day. Another highlight this quarter was our Perrydell Farm and Dairy visit. The kids enjoyed petting the animals and learning about the process of how we get our dairy products. However, the best part of this trip was the sample of ice cream and chocolate milk at the end of the tour. Some other fun activities we were able to participate in this quarter were tie dye t-shirts, releasing our butterflies, creating our pet rocks, and planting flowers for Mother’s Day.

Third Grade was very excited to participate in the Artist and Residence Program. This was a new program for third grade where they learned about the Renaissance Era through videos, music, and dancing. They had a lot of fun and can’t wait to participate again next year.

Our whole class joined with the ASPCA and put together a Fun Drive to support the dogs and cats at the shelter. We worked hard making posters, decorating boxes, and spreading the word. We even had a schoolwide assembly where Mrs. Brownley, an ASPCA representative, spoke to everyone about the body language of fear in dogs and facts about the ASPCA. The big hit was Dory, a dog from the shelter, who let every single student pet her!

Second grade worked hard in Math as we learned about subtraction and regrouping using place value charts, solving word problems within 100, and telling time to the hour and half hour. They also began looking at the foundations for multiplication as they explored making equal groups, making arrays, and using tape diagrams. Our third graders worked equally as hard in Math. They have learned how to solve division and multiplication word problems with multiples of 10 using tape diagrams. They also took the PSSA in Math and Reading. We were very proud of the effort that they put forth and they too were proud of themselves as well. We ended the year with reading, interpreting, and creating tables and graphs.

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Mrs. Bechtel
In quarter four, students read about how writers look at success in different ways and what ways people show they care about each other. Students focused on identifying characters, settings, problems, events, and solutions. We also practiced identifying the theme of different texts.

Both grades read and learned about poetry. 3rd and 4th grade also continued comparing and contrasting themes/settings/plots and determining types of genres. This quarter students practiced asking and answering questions to demonstrate understanding of a text on their reading level. The students also continued to build their vocabulary.

Math - Both Math classes continued their preparations for the State Standardized testing by reviewing and building upon the concepts we’ve learned this year. The students worked hard and studied through a variety of ways – including creating math vocabulary reference books, playing review games, testing their knowledge of concepts independently, and reviewing/clarifying important concepts with each other as well as with the teacher. I am certain both classes gave the P.S.S.A. their all and am proud of their efforts – both on the test and in the classroom all year long! Over the summer, be sure to complete your Math practice packets and keep your skills sharp. I look forward to teaching this year’s 3rd graders next year as super smart 4th graders! To my 4th graders becoming 5th graders - I’m confident you are ready for the next level and look forward to you stopping by to visit from time to time!

A Note from the Teachers: It was a great pleasure to teach your child this year. We learned so many things! 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.

Mrs. Hedrich. Together, we can assure our students are given the necessary tools so succeed.

Prevent summer slide by keeping your child actively engaged in fun learning through the hot months. For reading, Ms Householder suggests visiting your local library and finding books that appeal to your child's interest. Writing can be extra fun when students are writing about their interests as well. Why not encourage them to keep a summer journal of all of their adventures? For math, can play games like Farkle or Battleship to put more advanced math skills into practice. Whatever your summer is filled with, make sure it is filled with a lot of fun with learning. For more information, please contact Ms. Householder and Mrs. Hedrich. Together, we can assure our students are given the necessary tools so succeed.

We ended the year with some new and exciting art knowledge under our belts!

Kindergarten learned about negative space in art. We made tissue paper flowers by rolling the tissue paper into balls. We filled the negative space with the color! First and second graders, as well as the second and third grade class, continued working on their one point perspective farms. They “planted” their fruits and vegetables in their garden. I told them to be super creative! Some students planted pizza trees, ice cream buses and even grew people!

Third and fourth grade students got to make night time cityscapes. They cut out building tracers and then used oil pastels to trace them on black paper. Then, they smeared the pastel to make it look like their buildings were glowing. Lastly, they added small white windows and/or a moon to their drawings. Each drawing was so unique! Fifth and sixth grade students continued on with their print making unit. After we carved our linoleum blocks, I showed them how to use black ink and rollers to apply the ink to their blocks. Then the block gets pressed onto paper and peeled off, leaving the print. Students had a lot of fun making their prints, and even more fun when they got to use colored ink the following week!

It’s that time of year again! Summer has arrived and it’s time to hit the beaches and sip lemonade by the pool. However, that doesn’t mean learning has to stop! Prevent summer slide by keeping your child actively engaged in fun learning through the hot months. For reading, Ms Householder suggests visiting your local library and finding books that appeal to your child's interest. Writing can be extra fun when students are writing about their interests as well. Why not encourage them to keep a summer journal of all of their adventures? For math, Mrs Hedrich suggests family game night. Put those subitizing and counting skills to the test by engaging your child in a game involving dice. Older students can play games like Farkle or Battleship to put more advanced math skills into practice. Whatever your summer is filled with, make sure it is filled with a lot of fun with learning. For more information, please contact Ms. Householder and Mrs. Hedrich. Together, we can assure our students are given the necessary tools so succeed.
**HEALTH NEWS**

**Nurse Adrian - School Health Spotlights**
I’ve successfully contracted all the children illness during my first two years. Therefore, this has been a great school year for me. I’ve been healthy and here for the school. With the help of volunteers, we accomplished screenings; stream lined reports, and improved processes in the health room. I continue to love your kids, the fantastic staff, and my work. It is a joy to be here.

Next year in the hope to advance the health of our students and staff, GMCS is participating with Health Hero PA. This is a voluntary flu vaccination program to combat the disease and reduce student absenteeism. Flu is among the top vaccine-preventable illnesses. Schools are virus incubators, and school children are efficient virus spreaders – they have the highest rates of infection, hospitalization and deaths.

Upcoming events at the beginning of the 2019/20 school year include:
- September 23-26 - Screening Week
- Wednesday November 20 - Influenza Vaccination Clinic

Enjoy the summer! Stay happy and healthy!

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**STAY HEALTHY THIS SUMMER**

**BECAUSE YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS OUT ON THE SUMMER FUN!**

**Apply Sunscreen**
Sunscreen protects from sunburn, and skin cancer, it also helps slow down aging.

**Stay Hydrated**
Water prevents dehydration and replenishes electrolytes often lost in summer heat.

For every hour in the sun, drink at least 1 to 2 glasses.