



Montessori Moments

SUMMER 2022

Administrative News

Happy Summer!! We had a wonderful year in our new school! We welcomed over 70 new students to GMCS this year and have a record number of enrollments for the 2022-23 school year. In May, students in grades three through six took the PSSA state assessments. We are very proud of how hard everyone worked! All students completed their end-of-the-year benchmark assessments and this information will help us determine what resources are needed for the upcoming school year. In the past we have purchased extra read-aloud books for students and added online resources for students and teachers to use.

GMCS will once again hold two weeks of summer school from July 18, 2022 to July 22, 2022 and again from July 25, 2022 to July 29, 2022. The theme this year will be "Under the Ocean" and our summer school teachers have lots of fun activities planned for our students. If you missed the deadline but still want to sign up for summer school, please give Miss Nikki a call at the front office. Students can sign up for either one or two weeks. Summer school begins at 9:00 each day and ends at 12:00.

Dr. Pleso hosted leaders from several Pennsylvania Charter Schools this month. Attendees took a tour of our school and even got a chance to participate in some of the activities sponsored by our Artist in Residence program. Everyone was impressed with all the authentic learning that happens in our K-6 grade classrooms.

Finally, Dr. Pleso awarded many GMCS students for their academic, behavioral, and attendance efforts. Certificates in each category were announced throughout the last week of May and certificates were handed out to these very deserving students. Thank you to all our GMCS families, you helped make this a fantastic year!

Sincerely,

Faye Pleso, MEd, PhD & Christine Kirkpatrick Ed.S. Hello Family and Friends,

Health News

Dear GMCS families and friends,

We were successful in completing screens for the first time since the pandemic started. Contagious illnesses remain including stealthy Covid. We adapt, we carry one, and we strive to thrive. As our school year comes to an end, I wish you each find moments of joy, days of relaxation, and discover new delights. Here are some ideas....

- Plan a tour to the zoos, animal parks, botanical gardens that surround us
- Check out movies and live plays
- Adams County activities and events - <https://adamswellness.org/upcoming-events/>
- Check out the offerings hosted by the Library - <http://SummerQuest@adamslibrary.org/>
- Destination Gettysburg - <https://destinationgettysburg.com/things-to-do/gettysburg-pa-events>

Happy summer,

Nurse Adrian

Mckinney Vento Act:

Homelessness is not only living on the streets. If you are living in a shelter, motel, camper or doubling up with someone, you are considered homeless. We are here to help! Please reach out to us!



Save the Date:

- **GMCS Summer School**
July 18-22 & 25-29
from 9am - 11:30am
- **Back to School Night**
August 17, 2022
4:30pm to 6:30pm
- **1st day of School**
August 22, 2022
- **FACTS FAMILY PORTAL**
Please log into your Facts family portal. You can find your child's schedule and class teachers. Under the Student tab, please update the following: Contact information, emergency contact form.
- **Join our Board of Directors!**
We are currently searching for a candidate to fill an opening, applications will be accepted until the last day of school.

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 6:00 pm on the following dates:

- Thursday, June 23 2022
- Thursday, July 28, 2022
- Thursday, August 25, 2022

Please contact the office with any questions.

Classroom Updates

Kindergarten

Mrs. Fleurant & 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 the parents for your support at school and at home. We could not 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. This year our students were able to participate in the 5th/6th grade Economic Fair. Students were able to "shop" and buy homemade products. We loved spending time as a class at Apple Valley Creamery and learning all about the cows and how milk is pasteurized. Thank you to all the parents who were able to join us on that trip! In math we have been working with teen numbers and exploring how to compose new shapes with various materials.

We would like to wish everyone a fun and safe 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

Mrs. Lansford, Mrs. Needham, Miss Stowman - We here in 1st and 2nd grades cannot believe the end of the school year is right around the corner! This has been an exciting, and sometimes crazy year. We have learned so much about each other, and ourselves as the year has progressed. We have experienced a lot of laughs, some frustrations, and a huge amount of happiness. In 2nd grade ELA we learned about myths and how they explain what happens in the world around us. We studied different energy sources and how they are used in our everyday lives. One of our ELA units focused on the very important topic of cooperation and getting along with those around us. In 2nd grade math we learned how to read analog clocks! The students have enjoyed practicing telling time on the classroom clock. 2nd grade has taken the first steps toward learning multiplication by working with arrays and repeated addition. We also learned to categorize information using different types of graphs and how to count money, determine how much money we need to purchase items and how much money we would get back when paying for items.

1st grade was working hard this quarter as well. In math, they learned about money and are now learning about geometry! Part of this exciting topic is learning about shapes and what attributes a shape has. We have learned about place value and are using that knowledge to add and subtract to 100. In ELA, 1st grade learned the different ways people around us can help us and how we can work together to make our lives better. We have also studied how animals survive in nature and how we can classify and categorize objects.

Last, but not least, we enjoyed a fun-filled day at the Whitaker Center in Harrisburg. The students enjoyed activities such as feeling hurricane force winds inside a wind tunnel, creating race cars and testing their speed, climbing rock walls, to name a few. The trip was a welcome day of fun!

With the 2021-2022 school year at an end, we unfortunately have to say "goodbye" to each other until the fall. We will miss our current 2nd grade students tremendously but are excited to see how they grow as they move into 3rd grade. We look forward to seeing our returning soon-to-be 2nd-grade students again next year. Have a fantastic summer and keep learning!

3rd & 4th

Mrs. Beehtel, Ms. Dohler & Mrs. Taylor - **ELA:** Wow, another school year has passed and there has been so much progress! We have continued to work diligently on developing our comprehension, vocabulary, grammar, and writing skills. Everyone has been hard at work preparing for the PSSAs and the fourth graders were able to encourage and cheer on the third graders. Everyone did a fantastic job during ELA PSSAs! Another highlight of this quarter was national poetry month. We have embraced and celebrated national poetry month for the month of April. Each week, we spotlighted a poet who has made great contributions to the field of poetry. We have also studied different types of poetry which included bio poems, a poem about yourself. The students had lots of fun scripting their own bio poems, showcasing their unique personalities!

I am excited to see the continued growth all students have made over the year and I will always encourage everyone to continue reading over the summer! Our librarian, Ms. Windowver, has shared with our students information about several reading programs available throughout the area. I have had the joy of working with another wonderful group of students this year and for my fourth graders, I will miss them dearly!

Good luck to all of our fourth graders and third graders, I'll see you in the fall!!!

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader." – Margaret Fuller

Math: This quarter in math, third and fourth grade completed the last 2 modules for the year. Third grade learned how to graph and analyze data, including picture graphs, bar graphs and line plots. We moved our focus to finding the perimeter of polygons. We ended the year with a week-long project finding the perimeter of rectangles, drawing, and creating a picture while finding the perimeter of each object. Their creativity for this project was inspiring!

Fourth grade started the quarter learning about the relationship between decimals and fractions. They learned how to convert the decimals into fractions, as well as add, subtract, multiply, and find equivalent fractions. We finished the year with unit conversions and had a lot of practice with the English and Metric systems of measurement.

The students have had so much growth this year! It was wonderful to see the third graders who I taught last year continue to grow and improve their skills this year as fourth graders. They are ready to move on to the next grade!

Science/Social Studies: I cannot believe that we are at the end of the school year. The students worked extremely hard during the Fourth Quarter. We began the quarter with our Forces and Motion Unit. The students enjoyed exploring the Physics of Science. We began the unit discussing forces: pushes, pulls, gravity, acceleration, and friction. We took a deep look at the physics involved in skiing and how it is used in Nascar Racing. We completed a STEM project where the students made skiers out of Aluminum Foil and tongue depressors, and we raced them down a ramp measuring time and distance. Wow! The fun we had with that! Next, the students traveled around the room on a Vocabulary Forces and Motion Scavenger Hunt! They played a game with a partner called: Would You Rather? Would you rather push a lawnmower or pull a wagon? Then they had to explain their reasoning behind their choice. Finally, we ended our Force and Motion Unit rotating around the room working in groups at stations. The students created Fuzzy, hairy pencils (Friction), rubbed a balloon on their head (Static Electricity), sent an astronaut into space using a balloon (Force & Motion), explored Magic Magnets (Magnetism), made paper airplanes (Force & Motion), bounced bouncy balls (Force & Motion), raced matchbox cars down ramps (Acceleration), and bowled using dominoes and marbles (Push & Pull). The students had a blast doing these stations and worked well together in their groups.

After our Force and Motion Unit we took a little break to concentrate on preparing for the Science PSSA. Third graders buddied up with fourth graders and cheered them on. When the time came the fourth graders ROCKED the Science PSSA. They worked very hard, and I know they did terrific! I am very proud of each one of them!

We have now reached our last unit of the year, our Rocks and Minerals Unit. This

Classroom Updates

unit prepared us for our final Field trip, Indian Echo Caverns. We had a beautiful day at the caverns and the students were amazed exploring the inside of the caverns, ecstatic mining for their own gems, and excited that they had the opportunity to pet Alpacas.

We end this school year with our final Quarterly project. My Pet Rock. Students went on their very own Rock Hunt and found their perfect rock. They took their rock and completed stations using their rock. They weighed it, saw if it would float or sink, was it magnetic, could they scratch it with a penny, measured it, observed it under a microscope, and compared it to their partner's rock. After obtaining as much information that they could about their rock, they will write a paragraph titled My Pet Rock and will be able to paint their rock, interview their rock, and give their rock a name!

The students ROCKED this last project! I just wanted to end this expressing how much I have enjoyed all our Fourth Graders these past two years. I will miss each one of them.

Third Graders- I will see you in August!

I wish everyone a fun and safe Summer!

***Mrs. Bechtel, Mrs. Taylor, and Ms. Dohler would like to wish our soon to be 5th graders GOOD LUCK in 5th grade! Try your hardest and give it your best!

Do not forget to drop by and visit us. We will miss you!***

5th & 6th

Mrs. Gulden, Mrs. Naugle & Mrs. Sauter - Math: In the fourth quarter, the 5th grade students wrapped up with the fraction unit and also learned about volume. In 6th grade, students completed the algebra portion of their lessons and learned about the concept of area of triangles and quadrilaterals, as well as surface area. Additionally, during the last two weeks of school, both grades participated in a project-based learning activity which allowed them to work in small groups to create their own amusement park. Students came up with a theme, created rides, games, and a concession stand menu relating to their theme. They also completed a map where they calculated the perimeter and area of each ride/stand as well as a cost analysis sheet where they had to assess the cost of concrete and fencing for their park. The students loved this project and amazed me with their creativity!

ELA: Both grades wrapped up the year working on text structures by creating their own text structure magazines. It was great to be able to display these in the hallway for other students to enjoy! We also had time to review the many skills we learned before testing using our Storyworks magazines. The last week of class ended by preparing for a Reader's Theater performance for fifth grade and a 6th Grade Rewind writing for the sixth. We hope to have their writings to look back on for many years!

Science/S.S.: In S.S., we finished up our studies of the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. We then looked at the Constitution and our government's make up. For science, we dug into the recycling process and a few science experiments. We rounded out the year with reviewing things we learned for Biztown and preparations for our Economic Fair.

Projects: This term ended the year with our final Market Day project. Students did an amazing job and we all had the chance to try some amazing foods from our Asian countries! The last week of school ended with big excitement for everyone with our Economic Fair. Students in K-4 had the chance to come and purchase the products our fifth and sixth graders produced over the last couple weeks!

Artists in Residence: Last, but certainly not least, we had the opportunity to have Mr. Jef and Miss Nancy return to help us end our last two weeks. During this time, we learned about the Civil War, coding during the war, the telegraph, and many fiber arts. Students had the chance to try quilting, bobbin lace making, crochet, knitting, embroidery, and weaving on a loom. Each student created their own beading project as well.

We wish you all a fantastic, safe, and healthy summer. We look forward to seeing our returning fifth graders in the fall!

MUSIC NOTES

We made it through a great school year! We had a successful Spring Concert. Thank you to those that came to watch the concert. I'm proud of what the students were able to accomplish.



There was a lot that we did in the general music classroom. Kindergarten-2nd grade celebrated Earth Day and Spring! 3rd-6th grade finished with our Recorder Unit. In Kindergarten we talked about Body Percussion, Call and Response, Instrument Sounds, and Up/Down Sounds. In 1/2 Grade we talked about Body Percussion, Musical Forms, and Carnival of the Animals. In 3/4 Grade we talked about the different musical genres including: Classical, Jazz, and Country. In 5/6 Grade we talked about the different eras of music including: Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, and 20th Century.

I hope everyone has a great musical summer! - Mr. Swiger

ART

It's hard to believe we have come to the end of the school year! Having an art room for students to come to this year has been such a wonderful gift. I've watched our students explore in ways they have never been able to before and it has certainly made a difference!



As we reach the end, students have completed some great projects! Kindergarten drew self portraits, which is such a great lesson in self observation and realization. Next, we made rainbow fish out of Model Magic, colored them with Sharpies, added an eye and decorated them with acrylic gems. We then learned about positive and negative space and made paper flowers and added balls of tissue paper, filling the negative space of the paper. First and second grade students learned about abstract art and how everyone may see something different among the lines, shapes and patterns. Students "painted" with yarn, drawing lines and shapes with Elmer's glue and then placing yarn over the glue. Our last project was to explore some centers with materials they may have never used before. Students got to use glitter glue, watercolor pencils, marker brushes, scrap paper, printmaking with Legos and modeling clay.

Third and fourth grade learned about the Maasai tribes of Kenya and Tanzania. They make and wear beautiful wide necklaces made from beads. Students got to make their own beads out of clay. They painted them and then got to string them to make a necklace! Then, they did art centers with the same materials listed above for first and second grade. Students really enjoyed exploring these mediums. Fifth and sixth grade students learned about various watercolor techniques and tried them out for themselves. Their project was to then create a painting of choice by incorporating at least four of the techniques we learned. We had some incredible results! Their final lesson was also to explore art centers around the room.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH

Our wellness class is coming to a close as summer break quickly approaches. We have had so much fun learning and growing together this year and I look forward to even more growth as we start the upcoming school year in August. Please remember to wear sunscreen over the summer and stay hydrated, especially when outside in the heat for long periods of time. Please also remember to get at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day. I will miss you all over the summer and look forward to seeing you in the upcoming school year for even more fun and excitement in wellness class.

Have a fantastic summer! -Mrs. Seitz

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Students can lose up to 40 % of learning over the course of the summer. This is often referred to as the “summer slump”. Do not worry though! GMCS has an opportunity to help prevent this loss in learning. GMCS is offering a two week in person summer school. Sign your child up for one or both weeks. **Week one will begin July 18- 22. Week two will begin July 25-29. The camp will run from 9:00-12:00 each day.** For further information and/or to sign up please contact Nikki Wilt at (717) 334-1120.

Our processes for identifying students who may be eligible for special education services include, but are not limited to, school-wide benchmark assessments, Multi System of Tiered Support (MTSS) including Response to Intervention (RTI), Speech and Language screenings, Occupational Therapy screenings, Physical Therapy screenings, teacher referrals, and parent requests. Gettysburg Montessori Charter School currently provides itinerant and supplemental level services to all IDEA eligible students, which may include but is not limited to Learning Support services, Speech and Language services, Occupational Therapy services, Physical Therapy services, Vision Support 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 guardians in the lobby. For further information, feel free to contact our Special Education Coordinator, Rebeka Black, at becky@gettysburgmontessoricharter.org.

It's been a great year!
Have a **WONDERFUL SUMMER!**

