



From Mr. Gerson

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Happy New Year and best wishes for a healthy new year! I hope your holidays were fun and relaxing and you had an opportunity to enjoy time with family and friends.

We had wonderful band, chorus and orchestra Concerts. The different ensembles showed off some incredible talent. Thank you to Mrs. Banda, Mrs. Barrett, Mrs. Esposito and Mr. Closson for their hard work and dedication.

The Gayhead community contributed to several charities and organizations over the holidays. Thank you to everyone who helped organize and to everyone who contributed.

The citizen of the Month trait for February is Caring. When talking about Caring we speak about being kind and compassionate. We work with our students to know ways they can show they care and ways in which they can express gratitude. I am looking forward to seeing how well our students demonstrate care throughout the month.

Open House is coming up in April. We are all looking forward to this fun evening when we gather to see what makes Gayhead such a vibrant and exciting place. Open house for Kindergarten - 2nd and 5th Grade is April 4th, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Open House for 1st, 3rd, 4th and 6th is April 5th. The Spring Book Fair will have hours both nights, courtesy of the PTA.

Sincerely,

Adam Gerson

Principal

Dates to remember

- 2/6 Board of Education Mtg @ WJH
- 2/7 PTA Meets
- 2/10 Report cards go home with students
- 2/17 1/2 Day School - Supt. Conf. Day
- 2/20 No School - Presidents' Day
- 2/21 PTA meets
- 2/27 Board of Education Mtg @ WJH
- 2/27 Grade 5 & 6 Science Fair @ JJ
- 3/2 4th Grade Colonial Day
- 3/13 Board of Education Mtg @ WJH
- 3/21,22,23 Kindergarten Registration
- 3/21,22 Kindergarten Registration - Eve.
- 3/21 PTA meets in the sm. cafe 7-8 pm
- 3/27 Board of Education Mtg @ WJH
- 4/4 Open House K,2,5
- 4/5 Open House 1,3,4,6
- 4/4,4/5 Book Fair
- 4/10 - 4/14 Spring Recess



We will hold kindergarten registration on March 21, 22 and 23rd. Evening registration will be from 5:30 - 8:00 at Myers Corners Elementary on March 21 and 22.

If you have a child who will be 5 by December 1, 2017 and will be entering kindergarten, please call the school to schedule an appointment to register. The registration packet can be printed from the district or Gayhead webpage.

# Fifth Grade goes to the Opera

In December, the entire 5<sup>th</sup> grade class went to see the opera *Amahl and the Night Visitors* at SUNY Purchase. The students learned about all aspects of an opera...the music, the libretto (story), sets costumes and lighting in music class during the weeks prior to attending. Opera is one of the WCSD music outcomes for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. The director and performers talked with the students after the performance was over and answered many of our questions. It was a wonderful day!!



# NUTCRACKER BALLET

Gayhead's 2nd graders visited the Bardavon Opera House, in Poughkeepsie on December 11 where they saw The Nutcracker Ballet. In preparation for the event, the children learned the story, the characters and the musical theme from The Nutcracker Ballet. They also learned the different aspects of a ballet and how to demonstrate appropriate audience behavior.



It was an exciting and fun experience and the children enjoyed it immensely!! Back in music classes, the students will critique The Nutcracker performance and discuss what they saw. There will be journal writing and writing friendly letters as well as acting out scenes and dance to the different musical numbers.



# Whats happening at Gayhead

## AIS Department

In the AIS department, we have been enjoying helping our students make steady progress in reading and math this quarter. Being present during the teacher's instructional time has helped us to see our students apply the skills they have learned in AIS to classroom activities and learning. We look forward to continuing to watch our students grow and make strides in their learning achievement.

## Kindergarten

Kindergarten friends have been very busy. We celebrated the holidays in December. After break, we have been working on our personal narratives and adding details to our stories. We have been using our super powers in reading. In Kindergarten, we are tapping out sounds to make words. In math, we practiced numbers 0-20 and we learned how to use ten frames.

We are very excited to be celebrating some published writing with our families. We will continue to grow as readers. In math, we will be learning about plane and solid shapes. In February, we will celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> day of school, President's Day, and Dental Health Month.

## First Grade

This quarter we have been super busy! In writer's workshop, the children learned how to be experts on non-fiction topics and wrote their own teaching books. We are currently working on writing reviews and exercising our opinions in writing. In reader's workshop, the students have been working on identifying various text features in non-fiction texts. Currently our readers are getting to know characters in various fiction books. In math, we learned to identify and draw shapes using attributes. We recently started learning about double digit numbers, while continuing to work on our speed and accuracy of math facts. In science we have been comparing/sorting objects according to attributes/properties. In social studies, the students are learning about the basic economics of wants and needs.

## Second Grade

The temperature may be dropping, but the second grade is hopping! Here are a few things that we have been working on:

### SCIENCE:

Measurement

Winter Weather Observations

Experimenting with Gro-Beasts

### SOCIAL STUDIES:

Holidays

Wants and Needs

Current Events Around the World

### MATH:

Subtraction with three digit numbers, with and without regrouping

Bar Models

Real World Problems

### ELA:

Becoming Experts in Reading and Writing Non-fiction

Studying Characters and their Stories

The Study of Story Elements

Writing gripping fictional stories

### SNEAK PEEK:

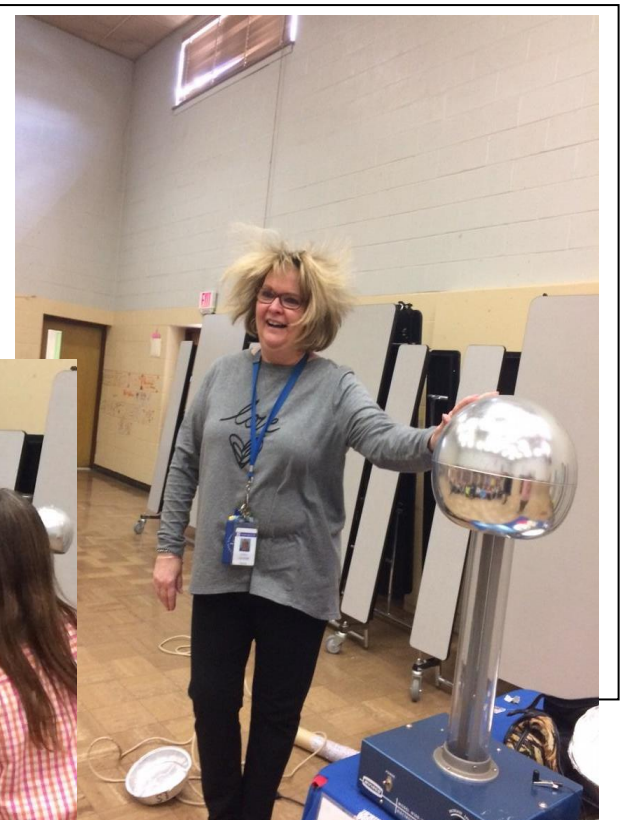
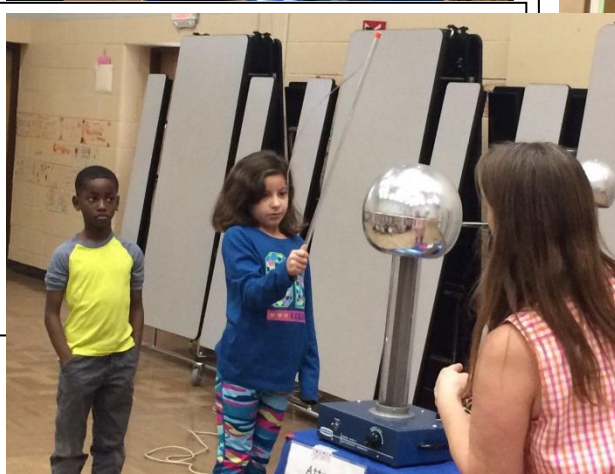
We are going to amp up our reading POWER by reading increasingly more challenging books.

We are joining the Zoo Crew for Jump Rope/Hoops For Heart.

## A Hair-Raising Time in Third Grade

This past quarter third graders have been studying electricity. Recently we attended a special program presented by Lisa DiMarzo and sponsored by the

PTA. It was exciting to see static electric in action! Our little scientists have been busy doing their own experiments in the classroom. We will continue to work with current electricity and are looking forward to our water cycle unit.



## Fourth Grade

Fourth graders were fabulous this quarter! In math, students sharpened their multiplication skills, learned how to use partial products and area models, AND long division, while learning strategies for answering word problems. Fractions are coming up next!

We are wrapping up the workshop units on reading and writing informational text. Grade 4 looked closely at how authors can report on weather using multiple text structures, features, and author's craft. Our students were especially interested in researching natural disasters and topics they were passionate about! Students worked collaboratively and used multiple sources such as articles, websites, and informational books. They reported their findings to the class.

In science, fourth graders are taking a close look at predator and prey relationships, and following the foods they eat through the digestive tract. Science was also full of fur, bones, and other items while dissecting owl pellets! Students have also learned a new word to add to their vocabularies - REGURGITATE!!

In Social Studies, we are wrapping up our Native American unit. We will work our way into learning about Colonial Life with a trip back in time. Students will be living a day in the life of a colonial child at Gayhead on March 2<sup>nd</sup>! Fourth grade will also be traveling to the Brinckerhoff House, a historical treasure located right here in Hopewell Junction, on April 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. Students will experience and strategize as if they were generals of the American Revolution in Patriots and Loyalists program, thanks to our Gayhead PTA! We are grateful to have these amazing opportunities!

## Fifth Grade

The fifth grade enjoyed a field trip to SUNY Purchase to see their opera production of Amahl and the Night Visitors. They sure do clean up nice! Thanks to Mrs. Banda and the PTA for making this experience available to all of our students.

In ELA, fifth grade concluded their journalism unit and has embarked on argument reading and writing. Fifth Graders love to argue! Now they have to find evidence to back their arguments. In math, we are frantic for fractions! We will be moving onto decimals next.

In science, we are exploring organisms with the microscope and understanding how cells are the building blocks of all living things.

In social studies, the students are learning about the Columbian Exchange and how we have some of the foods we have today because of that.

Congratulations to all fifth graders for completing the Too Good for Drugs program with Officer Tammy from the East Fishkill Police Department.

## Sixth Grade

Here is what happened quarter 2...

### **Math:**

This quarter was primarily focused on ratio reasoning. We worked with ratios, rates, unit rates, and percent concepts. All concepts were integrated in real-world context word problems. Now, we will broaden our depth of understanding of algebraic concepts.

### **ELA:**

In reading, we spent a good part of the quarter analyzing and interpreting what we were reading in book clubs. Students worked with book club members to analyze the complexity of characters and the many themes their books addressed. Many had the opportunity to debate issues in their books utilizing text-based evidence in their arguments. We have now shifted to working with informational texts and detecting explicit and implicit main ideas. Students should be reading at least 30 minutes a night if not more.

In **writer's workshop**, we have been honing our skills as mature literary essayists, focusing on analyzing character traits and developing strong theses about them. We then moved into writing compare/contrast literary essays, looking at how the elements of theme, setting, characterization and genre are similar and different across various literary texts. Our 6th grade writers are now delving into informational writing, focusing on the topic of teen activism. Maybe some of our young writers will be inspired to go out and make positive changes in our world, following the examples of some of the teen activists we've been studying, like Malala or Alex Lin.

### **Social Studies:**

We are wrapping up our exploration of the Ancient River Civilizations with our study of Ancient Egypt and India and diving into an investigation of the Classic Civilizations of China, Greece, and Rome.

### **Science:**

We are currently finishing up our investigation of Energy and Matter and are about to embark on a journey studying The Earth in Space, exploring the Earth, the Moon, our Solar System, galaxies, and the life cycle of stars.

## WCSD Bus Transportation to and From a Babysitter or Day Care for the 2017 - 18 School Year

If your child will require bus transportation to or from a Babysitter or Day Care location for the next school year (2016-17) ... please read carefully:

The WCSD Transportation Department **must receive all requests for Day Care/Babysitter Transportation no later than April 1<sup>ST</sup>** for transportation to a Day Care or Babysitter for the **2017 - 2018** school year, or transportation may not be available.

Day Care/Babysitter Transportation Applications are available in each school's Main Office. Please check "**NEXT SCHOOL YEAR**" on **line 1** when applying for next year. **The principal** or his/her designee **must sign** the application. They will then send it to the Transportation Office to be processed.

Day Care facilities registered under Section 390 of the NYS Dept. of Social Services are entitled to transportation to and from the Day Care center **within** the Wappingers Central School District, provided the application is received by the district **before April 1<sup>ST</sup>** of the preceding school year.

Day Care locations **must** be set up for **five (5) days** a week **in and/or out**. Otherwise it must be done with a **daily note** via the school and **only to or from an existing stop on an existing run**.

Babysitter locations **NOT** licensed or registered under Section 390 of the NYS Dept. of Social Services **are restricted** to the **attendance zone** of the **school attended**.

**All** Day Care/Babysitter Transportation Applications must be filed annually **by April 1<sup>st</sup>** of the **preceding** school year or transportation may not be available.

**Day Care/Babysitter Transportation Applications are not carried over from year to year. A new form must be filed by April 1<sup>st</sup> for the 2017 - 18 school year.**

If you are new to the District, you must go to our Central Registrar to register your child before transportation can be arranged. Please bring two (2) proofs of residency. **Central Registration is located at the WCSD District Office, 25 Corporate Drive, Hopewell Jct. N.Y. 12533. Call for an appointment at (845) 298-5000, ext. 40132.**



**Daycare transportation forms do not carry over from the previous year.  
All day care transportation forms need to be received by April 1<sup>st</sup>.  
In addition to the main office, you can find Day Care Transportation forms  
at the downstairs pick up desk and on our main lobby monitor desk.**