



GEMS

Graham Elementary and Middle School

2019

Parent Newsletter

December

Important Dates

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|--|-----|-----|---|-----|
| 15 December | 16 | 17 2:45-3:15pm Commu- nity Meeting - K-2nd Grade | 18 | 19 | 20 9:00am Breakfast with Books - K-4th Grade 2:45-3:15pm Commu- nity Meeting - 5th-8th Grade | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| No School - Winter Break | | | | | | |
| 29 | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| No School - Winter Break | | | | | | |
| 5 January | 6 No School - PD Day | 7 Return from winter break. Classes resume | 8 | 9 | 10 2:45-3:15pm Commu- nity Meeting - 5th-8th | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 2:45-3:15pm Commu- nity Meeting - 5th-8th Grade | 18 |

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K

In math, we are working on decomposing the numbers 8, 9, and 10. In reading we learned 3 new letters—Bb, Oo, and Ww. Our new sight word is you. Next week we will learn the last letters in the alphabet, Jj, Ee, and Zz and our sight word will be see. Modules/Writing—We are writing descriptive sentences about toys we made for the Resource Fair!

1st

Graders are working hard to finish our Modules writing. We are writing about the things we would see from the moon. In math, we are adding and subtracting teen numbers. In skills block, we are learning about suffixes (ing, s, ed).

2nd

Graders in math, we are working on adding and subtracting two digit numbers using place value. In skills block, students are working on reading and writing words with long vowels.

3rd

Graders are working on division. They are writing reading contracts in order to improve reading skills. They shared their work at our Celebration of Learning on Dec. 11th.

4th

Graders are finishing up with Poetry and students are developing into authors. In math we are learning a variety of foundational concepts: bigger multiplication, mean, median, and mode, line plots. Students are finishing their poems for Celebration of Learning.

Music: In Music class this month we are preparing for our celebrations of learning! In Kindergarten and first grade we are learning about low and high sounds and how to show the difference in music that we sing. In 2nd grade we are continuing to learn about the music and musical culture of Ghana. 3rd grade started music for this 2nd trimester, they are learning about the fundamentals of reading music in order to start playing instruments.

Physical Education: 4th grade has Physical Education this trimester! We are starting with invasion games. Please read the parent letter and return as soon as possible.

Attendance

Attention Parents/Guardians

Attendance

Attending school daily is critical to student success. Ohio's House Bill 410 law requires a preventative approach to excessive student absences. An Attendance Team has been established to work with students and families to help improve daily attendance. Note* - Missing as few as 2 days per month is considered chronically absent! We want to see your student in school every day!

RESIDENCY VERIFICATION NOTIFICATION

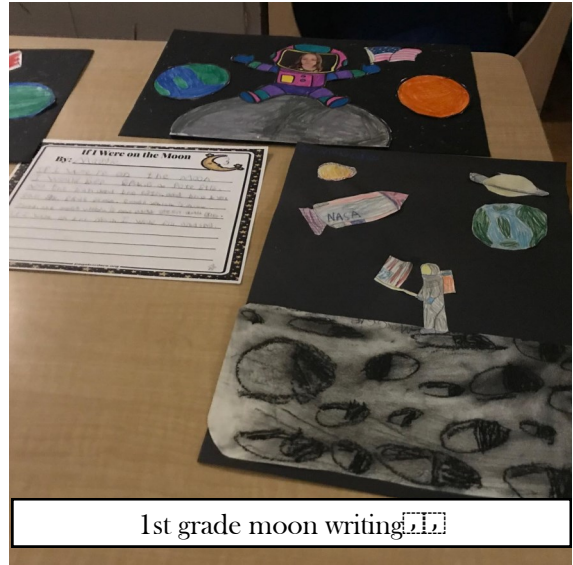
Per House Bill 21 community schools are now required to perform a monthly review of student files and randomly select families for residency verification. **Please be sure to contact the school immediately in case of an address change.** Proof of residency must be submitted within two weeks of an address change. If evidence is not provided, requests for additional documentation or a home visit may occur.



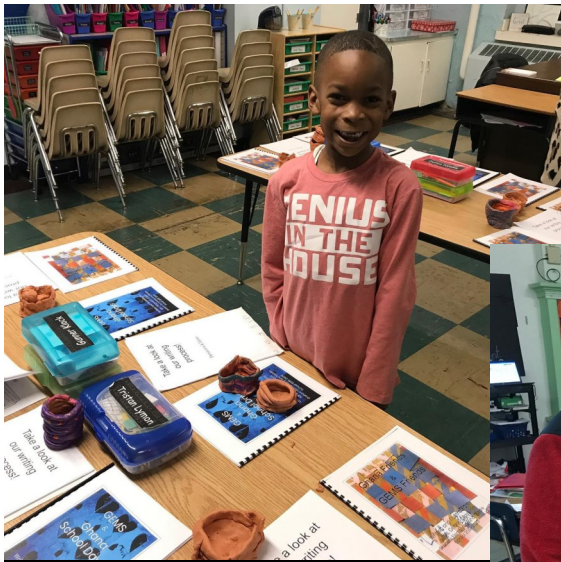
Art: In K-2 art we are working hard to finish our final products. Kindergarteners are drawing their animals with shapes. First graders are drawing the view from the moon. Second graders are building clay pots after learning about pottery from Ghana. Third graders are starting in art by creating their own norms and learning about the qualities of art materials.

K-4 Celebrations of Learning

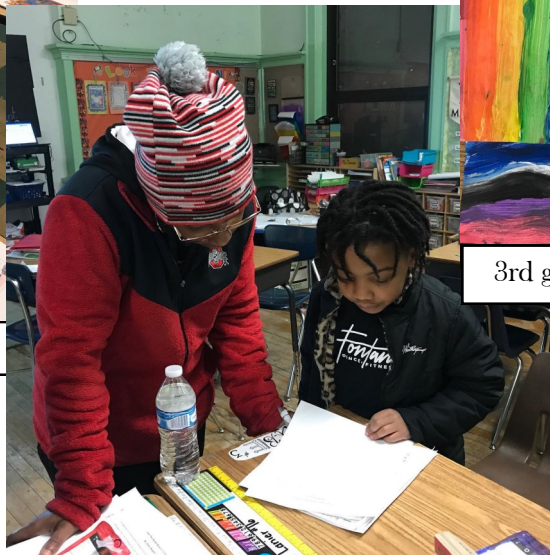
Kindergarten stuffed animals



1st grade moon writing



2nd grade poetry



4th grade book about schools



3rd grade writing about reading challenges

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5th

Graders are beginning their learning about our second expedition of "What are human rights?". Students are also currently reading Esperanza Rising.

6th

Graders have started our new expedition 'What's My Impact'? In science, we're learning about states of matter. Social studies students are studying Ancient Egypt, and our mathematicians are learning about positive and negative integers. In PE we are playing invasion games.

7th

Graders are wrapping up editing our podcasts about immigration and we are kicking off our new expedition about how to have conversations with people who are different than us. We are starting our first case study investigating the Black Lives Matter movement, its guiding principles and the movement's connection to our new novel, All American Boys.

8th

Graders are beginning to explore what it means to take a stand. Students read about Shirley Chisholm and her stance on women's rights and will soon start reading the book, To Kill A Mockingbird. Students will begin learning about climate change in science and how people took a stand during specific moments in American history.



GEMS is a School-wide Title 1 program, enabling us to receive Federal Funds to ensure that our students receive the support they need to reach and exceed grade level goals particularly in reading and math. We welcome parent involvement in planning, review and improvement of Title 1 programs including the family engagement policy and the schoolwide program plan. Please contact Debbie Addison at addison.2@gemsschool.org with any questions.

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Silent Auction Items Needed

We are seeking items for the Have a Heart silent auction. Items could include gift cards, art work, jewelry, crafts, event tickets, and more! As you shop and talk with your friends and family please think about items that might help with this wonderful event. Please contact Jennifer Waddell, waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org or 614-643-5068 with any questions or to donate items.

Funds raised at Have a Heart will support expeditions.

GEMS Family Crew

At GEMS we know that involving students' families as much as we can is a great way to help kids grow. GEMS Family Crew will help facilitate volunteering and fundraising activities throughout the year. If you are interested in learning more about participating in this group please contact Jennifer Waddell at waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org.

[Click here to join the GEMS Family Crew Facebook page.](#)

Did you know that GEMS is on Instagram? Click here to Follow



Have you Liked GEMS on Facebook? Click here to Like GEMS



Save the Date For

Have a Heart

Celebrating 20 years of Experiential Education and Honoring our Board members, past and present

Saturday, April 4, 2020 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

at

New Location

The Boat House at Confluence Park

679 West Spring Street Columbus, Ohio 43215

Please contact Jennifer Waddell, waddell.1@thecharlesschool.org or 614-643-5068 with any questions.

Anti-Bullying Form

Please check out our online anti-bullying form to report bullying or other incidents. The link can be found on the parent tab on the GEMS website. [Or by clicking here.](#)

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GEMS Needs Your Support!

You should have received a letter about the GEMS Annual Fund. The Annual Fund provides essential resources for our school. We hope to have parents, community members, and local businesses support this important effort. [Click here to make your donation.](#) Or mail in your reply envelope. Thanks in advance for your participation!

[Click here to show your support!](#)

Help GEMS Raise Money For Expeditions!

When you shop at Kroger, Giant Eagle, and/or Amazon you can help GEMS raise money!

Kroger - GEMS has a New School Number! Must Re-Enroll!

Go to: www.krogercommunityrewards.com or call 1-800-837-4483 to enroll in the program. If you enrolled last year you must re-enroll each year to help GEMS. Add GEMS to your card. You can search for GEMS by name or use our school code: FD086 **New school code! Must re-enroll to help GEMS!** Shop! Every time you shop and use your Kroger Rewards Card GEMS gets rebates. Kroger totals those rebates and sends GEMS a check.

Giant Eagle

Go to: <https://www.gianteagle.com/schools/apples-for-students> to sign up online or call 1-800-474-4777. Add GEMS to your card. Our school ID number is 5512. Shop! Every time you use your Giant Eagle Advantage Card GEMS earns money.

You shop. Amazon gives to GEMS!

When you make a purchase on Amazon Smile they will now donate 0.5% of your total purchase to GEMS.

Go to <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/26-4350069> to get started!

Enrollment Information!

Please be sure to spread the word to friends and neighbors about our upcoming enrollment information sessions. If you know of students who might be interested in attending The Graham School, The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University, or GEMS, please let them know about our upcoming enrollment information sessions.

Wednesday at 6:00pm

January 22

February 5 & 19

AT

The Graham School
3950 Indianola Ave.

The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University
1270 Brentnell Ave.

GEMS
140 E. 16th Ave.

For more information please visit the school's websites

www.thegramschool.org

www.thecharlesschool.org

www.gemsschool.org

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."



Don't forget!

The annual PAJAMA DRIVE is in full swing at GEMS.

Please consider bringing a new pair of pajamas to donate by Friday, December 20th.

The class & crew that bring in the most pajamas will earn hot chocolate and cookies. Our goal as a school is to collect 200 pajamas!

Here are some guidelines for the pajamas:

- Pajamas must be brand-new.
- Pajamas in all sizes are needed
- Pajamas in children's sizes must be manufactured as pajamas—this ensures that they are flame-retardant and safe.

If you prefer to shop from home, please visit our Amazon Wish List:

tinyurl.com/GEMSWinterList

We appreciate your generosity!

-GEMS Staff