

Important Dates

Jan. 24 at 6:00pm	Enrollment Information Session
Jan. 26	Smile Ohio Mobile Dentist at GEMS
Jan. 30 2:45-3:15pm	Community Meeting - K-2nd grades
Feb. 7 at 6:00pm	Enrollment Information Session
Feb. 9 9-9:30am	Munchies with Math - K-4th Graders
Feb. 13 2:45-3:15pm	Community Meeting - 3rd-4th Graders
Feb. 13 at 6:00pm	FTO Meeting
Feb. 16	No School - PD Day
Feb. 19	No School - Presidents' Day
Feb. 27 2:45-3:15pm	Community Meeting - K-2nd Graders
Feb. 28	End of term
Feb. 28 at 6:00pm	Enrollment Information Session
March 1-2	No School - PD Days
March 5	First day of term
March 9 9-9:30am	Breakfast with Books - K-4th Graders



Parent Newsletter

January, 2018

"Like" us on Facebook!



GEMS Fest - 5th-8th Graders

The mission of the Better World Club, is to make the world a better place by helping our community. We have planned a GEMS Fest for all 5th through 8th grade students to participate in on **Friday, January 26th, 2018**. The festival will include fun activities for all students, including board games, chess/checkers, crafts, face-painting, drawing and origami stations, karaoke, foursquare, dancing, and more. The only "cost" for students to enter will be a donation item from the list below. All donations will help the homeless through the Clintonville Beechwood Community Resources Center. Donations can be brought into school and collected by your students Crew teachers anytime between now and Friday, January 26th. Feel free to donate more than just one item, as there will be a contest and prize for the crew who collects the most donations. Trust us, your crew will want to win, the prize is going to be epic!

What festival is any fun without goodies to snack on? If you are interested in donating drinks (water, juice packs, or Gatorade), snacks, or sweets, we would like to offer a snack stand at the festival, as well.

If you are able to help with any snack table donations, would like to volunteer to help at the Festival, or have any further questions, please forward all communications to Ms. Eppler at eppler.1@gemsschool.org or leave a message with the front office.

Donation List

Bottled water, Canned food, Granola bars/snacks, Toothbrushes and Toothpaste, Soap, Shampoo, Comb/brush, Socks, Coloring books/crayons, Rain ponchos, Backpacks, Gallon-sized baggies

New or gently used clothing; coats, pants, sweat-shirts/sweaters, shirts, hats, gloves, scarves

INCLEMENT WEATHER

GEMS follows the Columbus City Schools closing announcements with respect to snow and inclement weather days. A decision by the Columbus City Schools to suspend classes on a given day due to inclement weather would mean that GEMS would also suspend classes on that day. Should the decision to close school be made, students and their families will find notification on local T.V. stations, our web site, and our message on the school's phone line ([614-253-4000](tel:614-253-4000) or [614-253-4001](tel:614-253-4001)).

HELP WANTED:

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Miss Goss's crew is collecting items for teens like themselves who are in Children's Hospital!

to support Children's Hospital patients

some preferred items are:

Games, Checkers, Adult headbands,
Scattergories, trivia games
Sketch pads, colored pencils
Craft kits, bead/string kits, fabric painting,
New finger nail polish/nail polish remover
Teen reading books
Wii/Xbox games
Playing cards
Teen DVD's
Gift cards

Items can be dropped off to:
Graham Elementary and Middle School
Room 22 or the front office



Celebrate GEMS

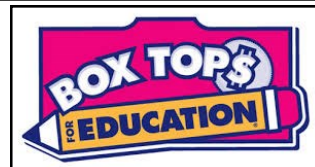
Stop by the front office today to purchase your **GEMS car magnet** for \$3.00.



Morning Drop Off Reminder

Please do not drop off your student(s) in the back lot until 8:30am. A GEMS staff member must be present during drop off. If you arrive before 8:30am please stay with your student(s) until the GEMS staff member arrives.

Did you know GEMS collect Box Tops for Education? Last year GEMS received over \$225 for Box Tops submitted by our families! Please send them to school with your student and drop them off in the front office. Thank you for your support!





Attendance is important!

Attending school daily is critical to student success. Ohio's new House Bill 410 law requires a preventative approach to excessive student absences. An Attendance Team has been established to work with our 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!

Ms. Miranda Update

Ms. Miranda (4th grade teacher) unfortunately broke her leg and will be out for an undetermined length of time. In the meantime, Ms. Sarah Friedrich (mother of 2 GEMS students with a background in education) will be covering her class during this time of absence!

Check out our new website!

Same address but a new site -

www.GemsSchool.org.

We hope you enjoy the new site!

Enrollment Information Sessions!

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.

Wednesdays at 6:00pm

January 24

February 7

February 24

AT

The Graham School

The Charles School at Ohio Dominican University

GEMS

For more information please visit the school's websites

www.thegrahamschool.org

www.thecharlesschool.org

www.gemsschool.org

Help GEMS Raise Money!

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: 39476 (**New school number! 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: www.gianteagle.com/about/apples-for-students to sign up online or by calling 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!

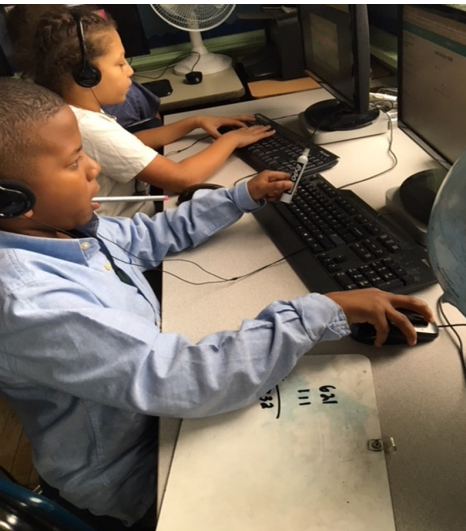
When you make a purchase on Amazon Smile they will now donate 0.5% of your total purchase to GEMS.

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

Kindergarten: We have started measuring in Math Block. It is going to prepare us for Expedition in a few weeks! In Skills Block we are reviewing CVC words and will be starting reading complete sentences on our own very soon!

1st Grade: Started 2018, learning how to make responsible choices and how to be thoughtful to others. We will continue focusing on these Habits of Learning throughout February. This month in math, we will begin comparing length and measuring with non-standard units. We are continuing our individualized focus on phonics skills, with many students working on different concepts in order to become stronger readers, writers and spellers.

2nd Grade: Classes Turquoise and Tanzanite are learning about the differences between butterflies and moths, and butterfly adaptations and defenses. In math, we are deepening understand of what place value means and how to easily add and subtract 10s and 100s. We are still teaching social skills and the importance of reading. We are starting mid-year assessments and are using them to help our students grow where they need it.



3rd Grade: Classes, Ruby and Zircon, are ready to get back to work this month. For math, third graders are working Multiplication and Division with all multiples 0 through 10. Both classes are gearing up for Spring Expedition, and we will help kick this off with Field Work to COSI on January 26th. We will be giving kids hands-on-experience with our “yet-to-be-revealed” topic for Third Grade’s Spring Expedition. In the meanwhile, both classes are spending some time focusing on writing. Mr. Kaveti’s class is starting to craft strong paragraphs, using topic, details, and concluding sentences. Both classes are enjoying their Trimester 2 Specials of Art and Tech (where kids are learning typing skills). We will use some time in January to give students mid-year assessments that help us measure their growth, including the MAP test in both Reading and Math. We look forward to updating you on our progress. Despite a few early dismissals and snow days, we are ready to get back to action!

4th Grade: Classes, Morganite and Alexandrite are gearing up to go to the Freedom Center in Cincinnati, OH on January 31st! We are studying the Underground Railroad and this field work will deepen our understanding of the important people and events that took place during this rich time in history. Until then, we are excited to announce that we have partnered with COSI to do a short-term dinosaur expedition which will culminate with a field trip to COSI on February 21st! 4th grade will have "Science Fridays" in the classroom to study, create, draw, and learn about dinosaurs. In Math we are starting Module 4, which takes us down the road of Geometry. We will be able to construct, recognize, and define geometric objects before using our new knowledge and understanding to classify figures and solve problems. Sending warm hugs from Rooms 11 and 12!

Have you made your annual fund gift?

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 visit our website (www.GEMSSchool.org) and click on the donate button. **Thanks in advance for your participation!**

Art: This month in art kindergarten will start a unit on clay and begin to experiment with structures as we lead up to their spring expedition involving blue print drawings. First grade will continue painting and learning how to mix colors as well as paper weaving. Second grade is finishing up their homemade rainbow scratch art and will then begin expedition butterfly drawing techniques. Lastly, third grade has been hard at work on oil pastel drawings and will begin using watercolor towards the end of this month!



Yoga: Kindergarteners and Fourth Graders continue to enjoy yoga instruction. They have learned to focus their attention to complete balance poses, use teamwork to complete partner poses, and relax their mind and body during relaxation. Ask your child to teach you the "sun dance" to participate in yoga with them at home!

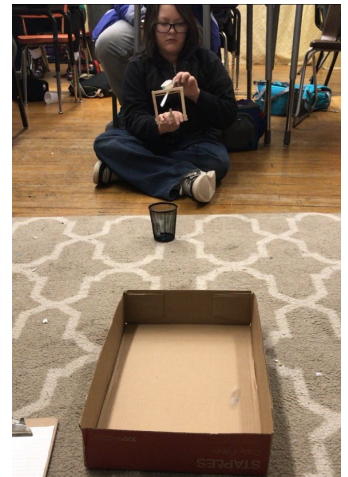
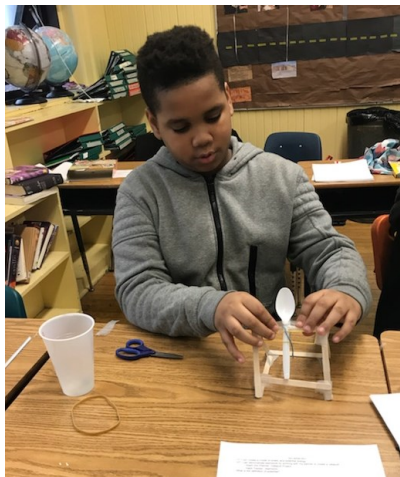
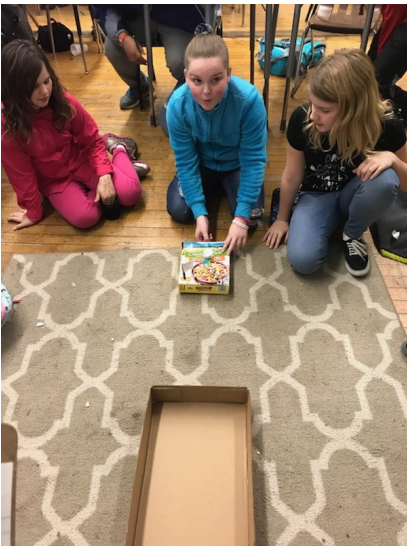
Music: The GEMS musicians are doing a great job with some musical review as we come back from winter break! All grades are learning about a new composer of the month Antonio Vivaldi! 4th grade is starting their recorder karate challenge this month. 2nd grade is starting on composing rhythms and songs of their own. 1st grade is continuing to work on singing with solfege and using their beautiful singing voices! Kindergarten is starting some new musical games and learning all about the steady "heart" beat of music!

Technology: 3rd graders continue to achieve higher words per minute and accuracy in typing. Please encourage your child to use the free program "Dance Mat Typing" at home or at the public library. They are persevering through the levels and continuing to use the home key row to learn to touch typing skills.

PE: 4th Graders are learning the soccer skills. After the student learn to dribble, pass, and shoot we will play games!

Guidance: Students will be learning about self-esteem in guidance. They will be learning about what makes them special and unique and how much more exciting our world is with all different types of people.

In 6th grade Science, students created catapults to demonstrate potential and kinetic energy.



Nurse Notes:

Flu Season is in full swing! Please remember the following for when your student(s) is ill:

- The student(s) needs to be fever free for a full 24 hours before returning to school.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze, best practice is to use the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often.
- Check out this flyer for parents from the CDC - https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pdf/freeresources/updated/fluguideforparents_trifold.pdf
- It's NOT too late to get your flu shot if you haven't yet!



The fifth grade had an inspiring time at the Ohio History Center talking with artist Tariq Tarey about his photographs of Bhutanese-Nepali refugees and their experiences. We imagined what it would be like to leave your home, your friends, and everything you know to travel to a new country. Students discussed the importance of empathy and how to welcome refugees to the United States.



7th Grade: Before we left for break, 7th Grade students visited Station 18 to learn about the life of a firefighter. We specifically focussed on learning about the ways firefighters see cultures colliding in their daily interactions within the Columbus community.



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