

Important Dates

Nov. 17 9:00- 9:30am	Breakfast with Books for K-4th graders
Nov. 20-21	No school - PD Days
Nov. 22-24	No school - Thanksgiving Break
Nov. 27	First day of term
Nov. 29	Picture Retakes - K-8th Graders
Dec. 5 2:45- 3:15pm	Community Meeting - 3rd-4th grades
Dec. 6 4:00- 6:30pm	Student-Led Conferences for Grades 5-8
Dec. 6 at 6:00pm	Enrollment Information Session
Dec. 7 4:00- 6:30pm	Student-Led Conferences - Grades 5-8
Dec. 12 at 6:00pm	FTO Meeting
Dec. 15 9-9:30am	Munchies with Math - K-4th grades
Dec. 19 2:45- 3:15pm	Community Meeting - K-2nd grades
Dec. 25- Jan. 5	No school - Winter Break
Jan. 6	No school - PD Day
Jan. 7	Return from winter break



Parent Newsletter

November, 2017

"Like" us on Facebook!



Student-Led Conferences - Grades 5-8

Student-Led Conferences for grades 5-8 will be held on **Wednesday, December 6** and **Thursday, December 7 from 4:00-6:30**. Sign-up sheets were sent home with your student on Monday, November 13 and will be due back Thursday, November 16. We would like for ALL families to attend student-led conferences; please contact your child's crew teacher if those dates do not work and you need a different day/time.

Pajama Drive!

It's time for the Scholastic Reading Club Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. This PJ drive benefits Pajama Program, a nonprofit organization that provides new pajamas and books to children in need. GEMS has participated every year since 2012 and we are excited to continue this tradition K-8!

If you and your child are able to participate, please have your child bring in a new pair of pajamas to school by **Wednesday, December 13th**. We will celebrate by having a school-wide pajama day on Friday, December 15th.

Attention Parents/Guardians

Please do not park in front of GEMS to pick up your student at dismissal. This blocks both the bus lane and the middle school pick up line. Elementary students are to be picked up in the back parking lot, and middle school students are to be picked up in the front parking lot by the gym doors.

Important Dates for 5th-8th Graders

New clubs/intensives for 5th-8th graders will start the Monday after Thanksgiving. We decided to hold off a week so that we could spend one week with crews in the PM to continue our focus on culture and community. Students will receive new sign ups for clubs. As always, first we will meet students' math, reading, and other needs, then we will assign clubs. These clubs will continue for the months of December and January.

Invitations are going home by team leaders for each grade 5-8's **Celebration of Learning**. Here are the dates and times:

5th grade: December 5 from 6:00-7:30

7th grade: November 15 from 6:00-7:00

6th grade: November 28 from 6:15-7:15

8th grade: November 29 from 5:45-6:45

Celebrate GEMS

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



Lydia Green-Miller, Native American dancer from the Ojibwe tribe preformed for the 4th graders in music class. Lydia Green-Miller is a graduate of GEMS!



BARNES & NOBLE
BOOKFAIRS
Graham Elementary and
Middle School
Saturday December 2nd
Barnes & Noble at
Easton Town Center
4005 Townsfair Way
Columbus OH, 43219

The Café will also feature school spirit beverages-
The Green GEM and the Orange GEM. YUM!

Can't attend our bookfair at Barnes & Noble?
Visit BN.COM/bookfairs to support us online from 12/02/17 to 12/09/17
by entering Bookfair ID **12269718** at checkout.
A percentage of your Barnes & Noble purchases will benefit our school/organization.

#BNBOOKFAIRS

A colorful illustration of a winter scene with several houses of different colors (red, blue, yellow, green) and sizes, some with lights on, set against a snowy background.

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.



On Thursday, November 16, GEMS students in grades 5-8 enjoyed a performance of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors* performed by The Ohio State University's theater department. We appreciate our Family Teacher Organization for making this opportunity possible. Stay tuned for GEMS students' performance of this same play in the spring!



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!

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

December 6

January 10

January 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

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: **80593**. 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.

Coke Rewards Program

Donate your Coke reward points to GEMS. Go to www.mycokerewards.com. Click on the School tab and Donate to a School. Donating your Coke reward points allows GEMS to buy equipment, games, etc.

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!

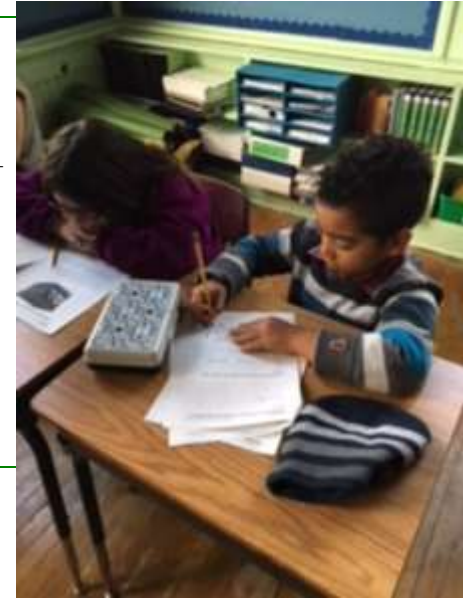
Kindergarten: Have made it to the 50th day of school! We have learned 2D and 3D shapes in math block and are so excited for the wedding of Q and U in skills block! During expedition, we are drawing our tools!



1st Grade: Have finished learning how to add and subtract within 10 and finding missing addends. We are now working on adding problems with 3 addends. In Reading, we continue to focus on individual phonics skills in order to grow our reading and writing skills. In Expedition, we went on fieldwork to the fruit farm where we learned about producers, consumers, goods and services. We will be ready to sell pencils soon!

2nd Grade: Are furthering our knowledge about butterflies for expedition and beginning to focus on the monarch butterfly specifically. In math, we are expanding our understanding of place value, counting, comparison of numbers to 1000, and making a connection between numbers and money. We are still doing independent and small group work for skills block. Additionally, we are holding student lead conferences this month so if you have not signed up for a time yet please contact your student's teacher!

3rd Grade: Packs each day full of learning. In math we are currently studying measurement-liquids and mass! Next we will be learning how to round to the nearest 10 and hundred, also in the context of measurement. In Expedition we are trying to wrap up the research phase of our fall project so we can start creating the final product. In skills block we are reading fiction and nonfiction texts and learning how to make connections and draw conclusions. We are also squeezing in time to practice for the first student led conferences of the year. All of the 3rd and 4th grade crews are busy practicing skills that can be applied to school and home!



4th Grade: Have been hard at work this month, especially in math and expedition! In math, we are working on multiplication and division and are continuing to persevere through multi-step word problems. In expedition, fourth graders have studied causes of the American Revolution and the beginning of the United States of America. We are working on our first case study project and are jumping into the shoes of Native Americans during the formation of the United States. Please come join us at our miniature Celebration of Learning on Wednesday, November 29th from 5:30-6:30! We will share a journal entry, our moon drawings from art and sing a Native American song.

Guidance: In guidance students are learning about empathy! Students are learning about what it means to understand and feel the feelings of others. Students also shared a time when they have shown empathy towards another person.

Art: During the month of November students in kindergarten have been working hard to create scientific pencil drawings of tools. Students are almost ready to start their final expedition product that will focus on shading and value. First graders are finishing up their final drafts for their first grade champion expedition on logos, and graphic design. Students will be voting on the best drawing which will then be printed on a pencil! Second grade is building their knowledge with shading and value in order to prepare for their spring expedition on butterflies. Lastly, fourth grade is hard at work on moon value drawings for expedition final products. They are learning about Native Americans in class and will finish up drawings this week! Students in art have been discussing the importance of making multiple drafts in art and have shared ideas on why it is so critical to becoming a professional artist.

Yoga: 3rd graders have finished their trimester of yoga. They were able to identify 25 yoga poses and reflect on why yoga is helpful in their lives. Some of the quotes collected were "yoga helps me calm down when I'm angry." I encourage all students to continue to practice yoga and teach others the yoga breaths they learned. Students said one of their favorite things about yoga is doing partner poses like "double boat" and "double tree."

Music: GEMS musicians have are wrapping up an awesome first trimester! 4th grade have been working hard on learning songs for our play that will take place in March. They have also learned some fun music games and a Native American song! All other grades have been learning about the instruments of the orchestra by studying our composer of the month, Sergei Prokofiev and his work Peter and the Wolf. We are looking forward to an awesome second trimester!

PE: 3rd grade is finishing the trimester focusing on demonstrating our Habits of Scholarship in Physical Education through different activities. 5th and 7th graders designed and played their own mini-golf course.



Nurse Notes:

A flu shot clinic will be held at GEMS on **Tuesday, December 12** by Columbus Public Health. Watch for forms coming home soon! Cold weather brings hats and coats, and with it a higher incidence of head lice. Below are some tips to keep them away.

- Remind your children to not share hats or any other head covering with other students. This includes brushes, headbands, hair ties and earmuffs.
- If your child has lice, make sure to treat them immediately and comb out all the 'nits' or eggs. Don't forget to treat bedding, clothes and coats!

Medication Reminder:

If your child needs to take a specific over the counter medication, or prescription medication, these need to be given out by the office staff. Students are NOT permitted to carry any medication, other than inhalers or epi-pens, during school hours.

6th Grade: Students have been comparing adventure and survival. Students began by studying Mount Everest and the Sherpas that climb the mountain for a living versus the Westerners that pay thousands of dollars to reach the summit for adventure. In art class, they have learned about artists who use their voice to examine the relationship between people and nature. They made tapestries to investigate the human relationship between the landscape and resources in Ohio. In English and Science class, students learned about the rock cycle and the way humans impact the transformations of rocks over time. To share their learning, students created a story from the perspective of rock. The Celebration of Learning will be held on November 28th to share the tapestries and rock stories.

7th Grade: Students have been studying what life was like when our school was built in 1908. We focused on the automobile because it was a key invention during this time period. Students went to the archives at Ohio History Connection to study pictures, old newspapers, and Ohio maps, all from different time periods and city directories. From these resources, students wrote podcasts about the ways Columbus changed with the invention of the automobile. Boyce Lancaster from WOSU helped us practice our radio voices and then students recorded podcasts at Musicologie, a professional recording studio in Grandview. Students presented the podcasts along with a living museum of inventors from the early 1900s at our Celebration of Learning on November 15th.



8th Grade: Students have been studying and researching the four food chains presented in *Omnivore's Dilemma*. Students traveled to Lucky's market and Waterman Farm to learn more about the food chains from local experts. As the final product, students are writing a persuasive essay to convince their audience which food chain would best feed the growing world population. The 8th grade celebration of learning will be held on Wednesday, November 29th from 5:45 pm - 6:45 pm at the school. The 8th graders are excited to showcase their learning from this trimester. We hope to see you there!



5th Grade: The 5th grade GEMS have spent the last two Thursday afternoons at the OSU Planetarium. This field work was used to help students “see the planets” without going to space! We learned so much, applied our knowledge from our expedition, and became obsessed with black holes. Here are our students enjoying the comfy seats, a beautiful view of Earth, and the Universe (every white dot is a galaxy!). So many amazing visuals. Thanks Slettebak Planetarium!



Welcome Mr. Treadway

Mr. Treadway is excited and proud to be joining the crew at GEMS, and is looking forward to teaching 7th and 8th grade science. He has a passion for the natural world, and is not above spending his afternoons searching the limestone in creek beds for fossils. He also enjoys breaking Latin words down, reading fantasy books, and making puns when you least expect them. His favorite tree is the sycamore, followed closely by the ginkgo. Fun fact, the first tree of the *ginkgo* genus was found in the Jurassic, which is older than any flowering plants.

Support the Annual Fund!

You will received a letter soon 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 visit our website (www.GEMSSchool.org) and click on the donate button. Or mail in your reply envelope.

Thanks in advance for your participation!

Sign Up for Bus Notifications

Sign up for Remind notifications for late bus notices. GEMS office is using Remind to inform parents when Columbus City Schools's buses are running late. The office will send out a notification when buses are more than 15 minutes late, and a second notification when the bus actually departs. We are hoping this helps us to get this information to parents as quickly as possible. Be sure to sign up for the correct bus number so you receive accurate information.

- Bus 280: Text @774hg92 to 81010
- Bus 438: Text @bus438 to 81010
- Bus 820: Text @bus820 to 81010
- Bus 878: Text @bus878 to 81010

- Bus 452: Text @bus452 to 81010
- Bus 716: Text @bus-716 to 81010
- Bus 865: Text @bus865 to 81010

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.