



APRIL/MAY 2014 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE DESK OF MR. BRADLEY,
PRINCIPAL GASKILL PREP SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

It looks like it's starting to warm up (a little) so it must be time to talk about things like spring break and final assessments.

Spring Break this year is from April 14th through April 25th. When students return to school from spring break on April 28, 2014, New York State Math testing will begin on April 30th. It is important that as we enter this critical period of time, students need to be in school and at their academic best. As you know, test results will be used to determine each student's level of achievement. Academic achievement will also be used again this year to determine which students must attend summer school.

Students who fail one or two core classes (core classes = ELA, math, science and social studies) must go to summer school and pass the classes in summer school. Students who fail 3 or 4 core classes will not be permitted to attend summer school and will not be promoted to the next level. If you have questions regarding this information, please contact your child's counselor at 278-5820.



TOO LITTLE TIME!

Special points of interest:

☺ April/May Calendar and Lunch Menus

CLINIC 278-5826

ABSENTEE LINE
286-4200 (leave message)

Please encourage your son or daughter to read everyday after school for at least 1/2 hour.

Please review the attached calendar for all of the upcoming events at Gaskill Prep School.

30 Week Report Cards—Report cards will be mailed April 18, 2014.

Spring Break—April 14—April 25, 2014. **Classes Resume** Mon., April 28, 2014.

NYS ELA Assessment—Grade 7 and 8, April 1st, 2nd and 3rd.

NYS MATH Assessment—Grade 7 and 8, April 30th, May 1st and 2nd

Honor Society Induction Ceremony—May 6, 2014.

Parents and Partners Dinner—May 15, 2014.

Picnic In The Park— May 30, 2014. The 30-week celebration for students who have achieved High Honors, Honors, Commendable Achievement and or Perfect Attendance for this ten week period. Students recognized for outstanding behavior are also invited to this celebration.

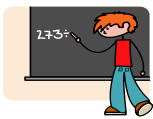
Grade 8 Intermediate level Science Performance Test—Between May 21 and May 30, 2014.

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FROM THE DESK OF: MR. FROMMERT—MATH Cluster 8-2



Mr. Frommert - Math

Look forward to your children working on preparing for the Grade 8 Intermediate Math Assessment April 23-25th. All 8th grade math students have to take this assessment. This excludes Algebra 1 students. Grade 8 students will be reviewing transformations and functions prior to the assessment. Following the test we will be delving into the Pythagorean Theorem, square and cubic roots, and quadratic functions.

Algebra students will be working on Chapters 10-12 in preparation for their 2 final exams. More information will follow for these June dates. They also are required to bring their graphing calculator to class every day until the regents exam, which means having working batteries as well.

As always, please feel free to contact me regarding your child by email at

dfrommert@nfschools.net

FROM THE COUNSELING CORNER

From the Counseling Corner.....

Are your children academically ready for the end of the school year? It will be here before you know it. Parents should be receiving the 30-week report cards. Counselors will be meeting with students who have failed one or more major classes. Has your child been in conference with us? It is so very important for your child to be in school every day. If he or she happens to be absent, they need to make up the work they have missed. June will be here shortly, and we would like all our students to be successful and pass into the next grade level.

The counselors assisted the administration at the 20-week "PRIDE Bingo Celebration." We invited students who had achieved high honors, honors, commendable achievement, and perfect attendance to attend this fun event. Plans are now in the works for our final celebration ~ which some kids

say is the BEST ~ and that is Picnic in the Park. Picnic in the Park is held across the street at Hyde Park. We bring in a DeeJay, and grill hot dogs. It is a fun day had by all. We hope your child will be invited.

We hope that your child has a successful ending to the school year. We will probably be receiving summer school applications shortly, and contacting those students who need to attend. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Student Services at 278-5820.

Until next time.....

Mrs. A. Mecca & Mr. S. Zafuto, School Counselors
School Counselors

Band News From Mrs. Bordeleau

Upcoming events

Rock n Roll Hall of Fame Field Trip- May 9th

Spring Concert- May 21st 7pm

Darien Lake Music Festival- June 6th

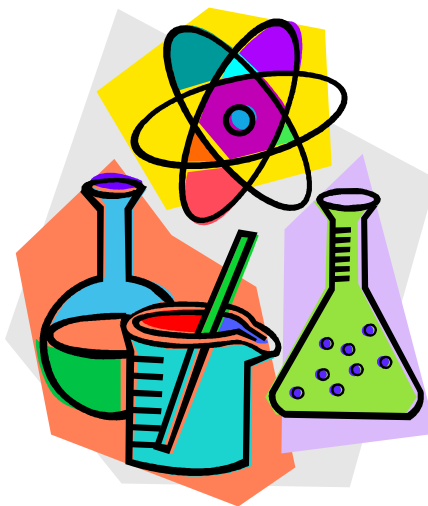
This year's band will be performing at the Darien Lake Music Festival on June 6th. The band will perform and compete against other area schools. Following the festival, students will enjoy the rest of the day in the park. Look for more information to come home with your child.

Mrs. Constantino—Science

From Mrs. Constantino – 8th Grade Science

Grade 8

Expectations are high for all students. After the break we will begin our review for the New York State Science Assessments. Students should have their notebooks home at least three times a week for studying. The Grade 8 NYS Lab will be at the end of May, and the written portion will be on June 2.



FROM MRS. ENGLANDER

Getting Ready for the NYS ELA Exam!

I care for your child...you care for your child... Let's work together to get ready for this BIG test!!

Learning Begins at Home

The New York State Learning Standards require students to acquire a working knowledge of subjects and to apply that knowledge to meaningful tasks at each grade level. The New York State Testing Program will ask them to demonstrate the knowledge and skills they need to solve real-life problems—knowledge and skills that you can help to improve through daily activities and conversations in the home.

When you teach your child to double a recipe, interpret a map, explain a newspaper article, or predict the outcome of a story, you help your child analyze the meaning of what he or she has heard, read, or viewed. Every time you ask your child to explain information—whether from a graph, cartoon, or news report—you help your child develop skills needed for success in school and on these tests. New York State's public schools invite you to take an active role in your child's education both at home and at school. Your involvement can lead to better attendance, higher test scores, and a greater likelihood that your child will continue on to higher education.

How Parents Can Help

Parents can play an important role in helping their children to do well in school and to prepare for these tests. Here are some things you can do:

◆ **Talk with your child's teacher.**

Getting to know your child's teacher is an excellent way to stay informed about your child's performance at school. Attending parent-teacher conferences and school events is a good way to maintain regular communication with your child's teacher.

◆ **Be supportive throughout the year.**

Make sure your child comes to school ready to learn, attends school regularly, and completes all homework assignments. Ask your child about his or her performance in school, and be generous with praise.

◆ **Encourage good work habits.**

You can help your child learn good work habits at home and at school. Explain the importance of carefully following directions, avoiding careless errors, and checking work to make sure it's done correctly.

◆ **Present a positive attitude toward the tests.**

Let your child know that you have confidence in his or her abilities. Explain that some of the test questions may be difficult and that it does not matter if other students finish earlier. Encourage them to try their best!

◆ **Be sure your child is physically prepared on the day of the test.**

Taking a test requires a student's full attention, so your child should have a good night's sleep before the test. Make sure your child has a healthy breakfast and a nutritious lunch.

**DISTRICT AND SCHOOL
AUTODIALER PHONE MESSAGES**

Please make sure that the Main Office has a current working telephone number so you will receive important announcements from the School District.

These telephone calls include school closing information.

OTHER NEWS!!

Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program applications are available in the school office. The Pre-Kindergarten Program is for City of Niagara Falls residents who will be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2014. For more information on the Pre-Kindergarten Program call—286-4253.

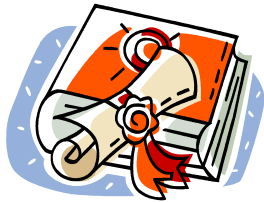
Next Parent Group meeting—Monday, May 19, 2014 at 6:30 P.M. *No April Meeting*

STILL DIDN'T ORDER YOUR 2014 YEARBOOK?

STILL DIDN'T ORDER YOUR 2014 YEARBOOK? THERE IS STILL TIME.....

We only have 75 Gaskill Yearbooks left! The yearbook will be in FULL COLOR again this year !!!! Don't miss out. The cost is only \$25.00 (cash please)

Please fill out the bottom slip and return it to Mrs. Mecca in the Student Service Center today !!! The book is beautiful in color. Students will receive their yearbooks on Moving Up Day in June.



Fill out this sheet and bring it with you with your \$25.00 (cash only please) to Mrs. Mecca's office.

Student Name _____

Student Homebase _____

Homebase _____

SPRING DRESS CODE REMINDERS

Spring is almost upon us and the weather will be getting warmer!:) Please take the time to review the dress code policy with your child in order that we may have a successful and uninterrupted completion to the school year.

PROPER DRESS:

We take pride in the appearance of our students. Your dress reflects the quality of the school, your conduct and your school work. ALL students are expected to dress and groom themselves neatly in clothes that are suitable for school activities. Your dress and personal appearance is and always has been, the responsibility of your parent/guardian and yourself. If there is sufficient rounds for concern, a home contact will be made and if possible, the student will be requested to change into more appropriate clothing. Students should always keep a sweatshirt or sweater in their locker for cool days.

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT APPROPRIATE FOR SCHOOL AND SHOULD NOT BE WORN DURING THE SCHOOL DAY:

Leggings, short-shorts, cut offs, half shirts, cut-off shirts, or cut-off pants. Shorts or jams are allowed in summer as long as they are in good taste and to the knee.

Any article of clothing with offensive language or symbols; alcohol or drug advertising or questionable printing.

Clothing worn in a purpose it was not intended for. No pants below the waistline.

Baby T's, tank tops, halter tops, sleeveless or shoulder less dresses. No low cut apparel.

Students may not wear head gear in school except for those whose spiritual belief dictates otherwise.

