



APRIL/MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER



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

Spring Break—March 21—April 1, 2016.

Classes Resume Mon. 4, April 2016.

NYS ELA Assessment—Grade 7 and 8, April 5, 6 and 7.

NYS MATH Assessment—Grade 7 and 8, April 13, 14 and 15.

30 Week — Grades Close April 22. Report cards will be mailed May 6, 2016.

Parents and Partners Dinner—May 12, 2016.

Honor Society Induction Ceremony—April 27, 2016

Picnic In The Park— May 20, 2016. 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 25 and June 3.

Memorial Day—Monday, May 30th, no school.



TOO LITTLE TIME!

Special points of interest:

- ☉ April Calendar and Lunch Menu
- ☉ May Calendar
- ☉ Immunization Update
- ☉ Menchie's Fundraiser

CLINIC 278-5826

ABSENTEE LINE
286-4200 (leave message)

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FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SMITH, PRINCIPAL GASKILL PREP SCHOOL

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students:

It's warming up a bit, and the school year is winding down. After returning from spring break, testing will take place one (1) day later. Spring Break this year is from March 21st through April 1st. Students will return on Monday, April 4th and New York State ELA testing will begin on Tuesday, April 5th.

It is important that as we enter this critical period of time, students need to be attending school daily and are at their academic best. As you know, test results will be used to determine each student's level of need. Please know that the test is not an indicator of a student's aptitude ability, and merely indicates a student's performance and track level, and what the student is ready for.

Student Performance Level	Student Track	Student Readiness
Level 3 and Level 4	High Level	College and Career ready on Common Core Regents Exams for graduation
Level 2	Passing Level	On track to score the passing level for graduation on Common Core Regents Exams
Level 1	Needs Level	Requires additional supports to address student needs early enough to meet graduation requirements

These assessments based on the Common Core State Standards benefit students in many ways. For example, *test scores help us to monitor and continuously evaluate our district instructional programs such as the **Accelerated/CAP programs** in order to provide the best academic programs as possible for our students.*

Scores are used to:

- inform instruction in the classroom
- address student needs and strengths
- expose student to the learning content
- prepare student to succeed in high school

Scores are not used for:

- student grades
- teacher evaluation
- student promotion

NOTE: *This year's test will have fewer passages and questions and will not be timed.

It is important that students participate in the upcoming 3-8 assessments! Even more important at the Prep level as opposed to the elementary level, taking the test prepares our students for taking the Regents exams which ALL students are required to pass in order to graduate from high school.

Taking the NYS ELA and math assessments during Grades 7 and 8 serves as practice for the Regents exams. Test taking consists of skills using strategies which helps students improve their scores. The more a student is familiar with strategies and format, the more a student is comfortable with test taking and will do better on the Prep level and Regents test, yielding better results. *Our children are less than two (2) years away from attending high school and are being prepared for the next and final phase of their secondary education – high school graduation.* If your child is not familiar with graduation requirements, please share with your child the requirements as shown below.

**Continued—FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SMITH, PRINCIPAL
GASKILL PREP SCHOOL**

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

A.) Students must complete and pass the following **courses** as part of the district's graduation requirements:

- ⇒ English 4 credits
- ⇒ Social Studies 4 credits
- ⇒ Mathematics 4 credits
- ⇒ Science 4 credits
- ⇒ Art or Music 1 credit
- ⇒ Physical Education 2 credits (0.5 unit each year for 4 years)
- ⇒ Second Language 1 credit
- ⇒ Health 0.5 credit
- ⇒ Electives 1.5 credits

22 total credits

B.) Students must also earn a 65% or higher on 5 of the following **Regents Exams** as part of the district's graduation requirements:

Traditional Pathway

1. Integrated Algebra/Common Core
2. Living Environment
3. Global History/Geography
4. Comprehensive English/Common Core
5. One Pathway Assessment: (Sequence examination in Science (Earth Science) or sequence examination in Math (Geometry)).

Alternative Option

- One Math (e.g. Integrated Algebra/Common Core)
- One Science (e.g. Living Environment)
- One Social Studies (Global History and Geography or U.S. History and Government)
- Comprehensive English/Common Core

If you wish to not have your child take the state assessments, please notify our Main Office in writing, no later than Wednesday March 30th. Please indicate your child's name, grade and your contact phone number.

As always, feel free to contact me should you have any questions or are in need of additional information.

Thank you for your support as we prepare our children for a successful tomorrow!

Sincerely,

S. Smith, Principal

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



Grade 8

Look forward to your children working on preparing for the Grade 8 NYS Intermediate Math Assessment April 13-15th. 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 finishing up Chapters 11 and 10/12 (combined) then begin preparation for the regents exam on June 16th. Please make sure you check to see if your child is doing their daily homework. They also are required to bring their graphing calculator to class every day until the regents exam, which means having working batteries as well.

Washington, D.C. Trip - May 11-13th

Please mark down May 5th @ 6:30pm as the MANDATORY PARENT/CHILD MEETING. No excuses will be accepted for non-attendance and will cause your child to be removed from the trip. We will discuss details about the trip and give parents the opportunity to meet their child's chaperone for the trip. Luggage check will be May 10th from 7:30-9am in room 115.

There will be a basket auction on May 5th from 3-7pm to help offset additional costs associated with the Washington, D.C. trip. You do not need to be present at the drawing to win!

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 have received the 30-week report cards. Counselors have been 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



Band News From Mrs. Bordeleau

Upcoming events

Spring Concert May 24th 7pm

Please wear your Gaskill Band Polo, tan/khaki pants and nice shoes. Arrive at 6:30pm to warm up and tune.



Darien Lake Music Festival June 3rd

7:15am- 6:30pm

This year's band will be performing at the Darien Lake Music Festival on June 3rd. 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.

April/May



All classes:
HOMEWORK

YES, THERE IS HOMEWORK IN SCIENCE. YOUR CHILD SHOULD BE BRINGING THEIR SCIENCE NOTEBOOK HOME AT LEAST TWICE A WEEK, AND SHOULD BE STUDYING THE MATERIAL IN IT. THIS WILL BE THE MAJORITY OF THE SCIENCE HOMEWORK. PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO STUDY.

All students are responsible to make up any work they missed when they are absent. Students are always welcome during academic study period and/or after school for extra instruction and/or to make up work.

Grade 8

Besides working on the required curriculum, we will be reviewing for the NYS Science Assessment, which is given in two parts, one at the end of May (Lab portion), and the other on June 6th (written). Please encourage your child to study at home.

Accelerated Science

Besides working on the required curriculum, we will also be reviewing for the Living Environment Regents Exam, which is given on June 15 in the afternoon. After school review will begin at the end of May, all students are welcome. We will also be completing the final two state labs. Please encourage your child to study at home.

FROM MRS. ENGLANDER

News from the Desk of Mrs. Englander

The NYS ELA will be given here at Gaskill on April 5, 6 and 7! We have been working very rigorously this year! I have very high hopes for your son or daughter!

Thanks for your support at home!



Preparing for The ELA

Pay attention in class. Exercises and activities throughout the year practice skills that will benefit you on standardized tests.

Know what to expect. Your teacher can provide you with information about the tests you will be taking.

Get plenty of sleep the night before the test and eat a healthy breakfast in the morning.

Arrive on time. Running late can raise your stress level and hurt your performance.

We have been practicing for this test ALL YEAR! You can persevere through these long passages and articles! Don't give up!

Taking the ELA

Read directions and questions carefully.

Consider every choice. Don't be fooled by distractors, or answers that are *almost* correct.

Spend time wisely. Use the planning pages when offered!

Use EVIDENCE from the text and the RAS2 Method to be successful on your short answer and extended response questions!

Use any extra time to check your work.

**DISTRICT AND SCHOOL
AUTODIALER PHONE MESSAGES**

OTHER NEWS!!

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.

Next Parent Group meetings:

Monday, April 25 and May 30, 2015 at 6:30 P.M.

Menchie's Fundraiser May 20th 3-11 PM See Flyer

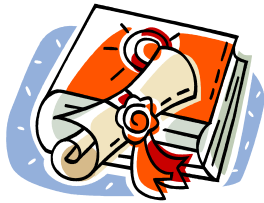
Universal Pre-Kindergarten Program applications are available in the school office. The Pre-Kindergarten Program is for City of Niagara Falls residents who will be 4 years of age on or before December 1, 2016. For more information on the Pre-Kindergarten Program call—286-4253.

STILL DIDN'T ORDER YOUR 2016 YEARBOOK?

STILL DIDN'T ORDER YOUR 2016 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 \$30.00 (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 \$30.00 (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 grounds 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:

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 and all hoods must be down. Baby T's, tank tops, halter tops, sleeveless or shoulder less dresses. No low cut apparel and no spaghetti straps. Students may not wear head gear in school except for those whose spiritual belief dictates otherwise or for documented medical purposes. No sunglasses. No Skintight or spandex clothing. Open toed sandals/shoes are **not** permitted.

CHORUS NEWS FROM MRS. FROMMERT

Chorus Events

April

- 4th: soloists/ small group only
- 8th: Full Chorus
- 11th: Full Chorus
- 12th: Full Chorus
- 19th: soloists/ small group only
- 20th / 21st: A/B day chorus
- 22nd: Full Chorus
- 25/26th: A/B Day Chorus
- 27: soloists small group only

Please note, that due to the testing schedule, there is no consistent chorus rehearsal this month.

May

- 6th: Full chorus
- 13th: Full chorus
- 16-26: Full Chorus
- 24th: 7:00pm concert at GMS
Uniform: White tops/ black bottoms
- 26th: Concert Period 7 & 8
Uniform: Gaskill Music tee/ blue jeans

June

- 3rd: Competition at Darien Lake
Uniform: Gaskill Music tee/ shorts



Chorus