

GASKILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

FEBRUARY - MARCH

2016



Special points of interest:

- A/B Day Calendar
- Menus
- Year Book Order Form

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2/5 20 week marks close
 2/12 School Dance
 2/15 No school
 2/16 No school
 2/18 20 week report cards mailed
 2/24 No school—Parent/Teacher Conferences
 12 p.m. - 2 p.m.; 4 pm.- 7p.m.)
 3/14 Final trimester begins for art, music, and health
 3/18 20 week celebration



Inside this issue:

Some Reminders	2
Parent Group News	
Mrs. Englander	
Mr. Frommert	3
Counseling Corner	
Attendance Reminders	
Band News	4
Tips on NOT being late!	
From the Nurse	5

Please use the link from the front of the District Webpage (Parent Portal is Here). The link is <https://nfschools.powerschool.com/public/home.html>

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. SMITH, PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are continuously on the quest to increase student achievement here at GPS. Here's a few new initiatives to support our students...



DELAYED START

This year the district will be implementing a new approach in reducing the number of snow days. The purpose of a 'delayed start' to schools is to allow temperatures to rise in the morning or to allow more time for roads, sidewalks, and/or lots to be cleared so students may attend school at a later start time rather than missing an entire day of school due to inclement weather. The determination of delayed start will be made by the Superintendent of Schools. If a delayed start is called, Preparatory schools will start at 9:35 a.m. (7:35 a.m. normal start). Bussing will be two hours later than your child's pick-up time. For example, if your child is picked up at 6:43 a.m., he or she will be picked up at 8:43 a.m. A continental breakfast will be provided at school upon our students' arrival.



AFTERSCHOOL STUDY HALL

Beginning Monday, February 1st from 2:30 pm. - 3:30 pm. our **After School Study Hall Program** will begin at Gaskill. The program will provide students the opportunity to make-up instructional assignments/ tasks which count toward their grades if they are **consecutively illegally tardy or absent three (3) times or more; or receives a discipline action resulting in a building-level suspension for a minimum of three (3) days.** (An illegal absence constitutes visiting relatives, vacation, babysitting, oversleeping, missed bus, etc.)



AFTERSCHOOL MATH PROGRAM



We are excited about the commencement of our afterschool math program! The GPS Afterschool Math Program will run through May 20th. It is designed to increase student knowledge of math and provide additional support for classroom and homework assistance. Grade 7 students will attend on Mondays and Tuesdays; Grade 8 students will attend Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. Consistent attendance and positive behavior are required for participation! A new district math program 'Think Through Math' will target a student's current level of understanding and create a pathway toward achieving grade level success. The program combines game mechanics with intrinsic and extrinsic strategies to encourage students. For more information, contact Mr. Frommert.

2016 NYS ASSESSMENTS

Soon, our students will be participating in the NYS assessment program in English Language Arts and Math. The assessments, although not used for a grade, nor for promotion decisions, provide valuable data that helps teachers make instructional decisions, as well as identifying individual student's strengths and needs. **This year's assessments will be shorter in length. It is important to note that assessments provide a snapshot of a student's readiness for high school where they will be required to take the Regents exams in order to graduate. Thus, taking the state assessments at the Prep level serve as good practice for students who will be required to take Regents exams at the high school level.** ELA assessments will be held April- 5-7 and math assessments will be held April 13-15. If you have any questions or want more information about the NY State assessment program please feel free to contact me.

Mrs. Smith, Principal

SOME REMINDERS!!

- SCHOOL BEGINS AT 7:30 A.M. Make sure your child arrives on time.
- SCHOOL ENDS AT 2:30 P.M. Buses are on the Forest Ave. side so pick up your child in front or on Independence.
- DO NOT BRING IN FAST FOODS FOR LUNCHES. SCHOOL RULE IS HEALTHY MEALS.
- GIVE YOUR CHILD MESSAGES BEFORE SCHOOL. HAVE A SECRET PLACE FOR THE HOUSE KEY OR LOCATION TO GO IF YOU ARE NOT HOME.
- BE INVOLVED WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL!

WE ARE ON THE WEB!
NFSCHOOLS.NET



You e-mail me and I will e-mail you!

GASKILL PARENT GROUP

Happy New Year!

*Welcome back for 2016 at Gaskill Prep!
Our next Parent Group meeting will be held Monday, **February 22nd** @ 6:30 p.m. (no March meeting) Come out and join us in making plans for events for our children.*

Fundraisers In Progress or Upcoming:

Pizza Sales & Bake Sales

End of Year Activities

*Hope you see you at our next meeting.
We need your input and want your assistance with school activities.*

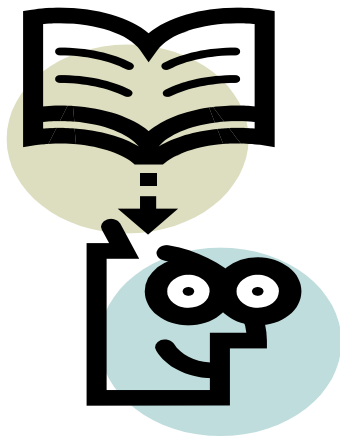
Parent Group Officers

Tina Bailor, President

Wendy Stiltner, Vice President

Brandie Brown, Secretary

Annemarie Tomabene, Treasurer



FROM THE DESK OF MRS. ENGLANDER—CLUSTER 8—2

News from the Desk of Mrs. Englander

My foundations classes will be reading Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai.

This unit is aligned to the *Common Core*, and you can find all 564 pages of materials at this web address!

<https://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/8m1.pdf>

My CAP classes will be reading A Midsummer's Night's Dream by William Shakespeare.

This unit is aligned to the *Common Core*, and you can find all 760 pages of materials at this web address!

<https://www.engageny.org/resource/grade-8-ela-module-2b-unit-2>

Please ask your children about their school supply situation! Many of the pens and pencils purchased in September are LONG GONE, and many students are coming to class needing to borrow a pen or pencil.

Thanks SO MUCH for all of your help at home! Let's get your babies to ninth grade together!

FROM THE DESK OF MR. FROMMERT—CLUSTER 8—2

Mr. Frommert – Math

Grade 8 math students will be working on working with radicals and integer exponents, along with investigating patterns of association and bivariate data.

Algebra students will be working on Unit 3 Exponential and Quadratic Relationships.

As always, please feel free to contact me regarding your children, either by phone (278-5820) or by email

(dfrommert@nfschools.net).

Washington, D.C. info

Please remember that in order for your child to remain eligible for the trip, they cannot be suspended from school any day of the school year, and cannot be failing more than 2 courses. Also keep May 5th in your calendar marked for our MANDATORY parent/child meeting at 5:30pm. You must be present with your child to stay eligible for the May 11-13th trip. As always, please feel free to contact me regarding your children, either by phone (278-5820) or by email

(dfrommert@nfschools.net).

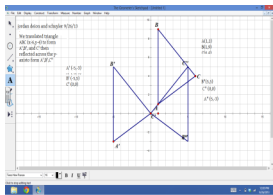
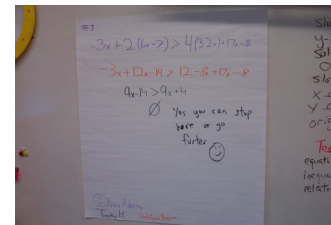
May 5th: 2:30-7pm Basket Auction

5:30pm mandatory parent/child

meeting (GPS auditorium)

May 10th: 7:30am – 9am luggage check

May 11-13th: Trip



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FROM THE COUNSELING CORNER—MRS. MECCA & MR. ZAFUTO

Greetings and Happy New Year from the Student Service Center. Can you believe we are half way through the academic year? The 20-week report cards have arrived home. How did your child do? Is he or she passing all their academic subjects? The counselors will once again meet individually with any child who is failing one or more subjects. If you child needs some extra academic help, check out the Liberty Partnership Program ~ during ASP and after school Monday through Friday, right here at Gaskill. Sometimes, that little extra one on one help is all that is needed to be successful. Check it out.

The counselors will assist the administration in the PRIDE Celebration. PRIDE is our version of BINGO. We invite all the students who have achieved high honors, honors, commendable achievement and perfect attendance to partake in this fun filled event. Both the students and the teachers really enjoy this celebration.

Just a reminder that the counselors are here to help your child have a successful educational journey through the prep. school years. If there is anything we can do to assist you or your child, please do not hesitate to call us at 278-5820.

Until next time....

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

ATTENDANCE REMINDERS

- ◆ If your child is absent, please call the GPS attendance line at 286-4200 to report the absence.
- ◆ If your child is absent, an automated telephone call will go out mid-morning. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Main Office at 278-5820.
- ◆ When your child returns to school, a written excuse with the date(s) and reason for the absence is required.
- ◆ Thank you for your continuing support.

Gaskill Prep Band News

Gaskill Prep Band News

Congratulations to all of the Gaskill Prep Band members for an excellent performance at the Winter Concert. After a lot of hard work, the band truly displayed their talent. I'm proud of every student for performing to the best of their ability!! I am very excited about the Spring Concert and look forward to performing more challenging pieces of music. Parents, thank you for encouraging your child to practice. Remember, practice 20 minutes every day!!! The overall success of the band depends on each student putting forth their best effort.

Mrs. Bordeleau

Upcoming Events

May 24 th	7pm	Spring Concert
June 3 rd	All Day	Darien Lake Music Festival and Competition (more info soon)



SOME TIPS ABOUT HOW NOT TO BE LATE TO SCHOOL!

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



- We are now into the 2nd half of the school year. Please remember to replenish your child's school supplies as needed. Pencils, pens, loose leaf paper, tissues are a few of the supplies that are used daily in school.

With the Winter weather coming, here are some good tips on how to get to school on time:

- Prepare the clothes you want to wear the night before and have them laid out.
- Go to bed EARLIER!
- Do not sleep with the TV, radio, etc. playing. This will interrupt your good sleep!
- Set your alarm clock to get up 15 minutes earlier.

Have a friend call to make sure you are up on time.

Put your clock where you have to get out of bed to turn it off.



FROM THE NURSE:



New York State requires physicals for all students in 7th grade as well as any student that was a new enter from another school district. A doctor's physical done after 9/1/2014 is acceptable. Please send a copy in to the clinic. School physicals will begin in February and are done by the district Nurse Practitioner. If you do not want your child to receive a school physical, please call the school nurse with a doctor's appointment date.



There are dates set for spring sport physicals. If your child plans to participate in a spring sport, they need to stop into the clinic and sign up for an appointment ASAP.



For their safety and well being, children who are ill in school should be seen in the clinic. We need to determine the extent of their illness or if they will need to be referred to a doctor. If your child calls or texts you that they are sick and need to go home, please ask them to go to the nurse and we will call you from the clinic. If they are not seen in the clinic, they will need to be signed out through the main office.



New York State requires screening for vision, hearing and scoliosis be done on all 7th graders and scoliosis be checked on all 8th graders. If you receive a referral, please have your child seen by their doctor for follow up and return the referral to the school nurse.

The goal in the Health Office is to try to ensure the safety and well being of your child when in school. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us.

Phone: 278-5826

Fax: 278-5829