



A MESSAGE FROM MRS. SMITH, PRINCIPAL

"... because it's the parent and the teacher and the child -- it's that triangle -- and the more we can involve parents in their child's education, the better the child gets."
Cindy Rushing

Dear Parents,

It's great to be back at Gaskill Prep. I look forward to working with you and your child this year. We have much to do as a school community, and I know we can further assist our children along their life-long path given the interest shown within our Gaskill community!

As a start, please place on your calendar the following important dates:

Tuesday, October 6th PEG's Pizza Hut Fundraiser from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., 7721 Niagara Falls Blvd.

Parent- Teacher Conferences to be held Thursday, October 15th

Parent Education Group (P.E.G.) meetings, October 20th and November 17th at 6:30 p.m.

10 Week Report Cards mailed on or about December 1st

*We encourage you to attend your child's **Parent-Teacher Conference**. Parent-Teacher conferences serve as a face to face check point to determine if current instruction is meeting the complex needs of students. The relationship between a parent, teacher,*

and a student must be continuous. It is our intent that this on-going dialogue will continue to ensure a positive course for your child's learning during the school year. Please keep in mind that your child must maintain a 65% or higher course grade average in order to be promoted to the next grade. Getting off to a good start is critical given instruction becomes more rigorous as the school year progresses. Five week report cards are scheduled to be sent out on or around October 10th and 10 week marks close November 13th.

You can also monitor your child's learning by familiarizing yourself with your child's subjects. You can learn about grade-level curriculum by logging on to the district's website at www.nfschools.net, click on 'Academics', and hi-light curriculum by grade level. In addition for monitoring purposes, you can register for the district's parent portal where you can track your child's grades, attendance, and other records.

As always, we continue to request that you encourage your child to read as much as possible. As you know, reading is a vital skill needed across all subject areas. Over the course of the school year, your child is expected to read daily both in school and out-of-school. Independent reading helps our students to develop and improve skills that will allow them to be better readers, writers, thinkers, and life-long learners.

*Please feel free to call our office at any time if you have an idea or a question. I **truly believe** that Gaskill is a GREAT school with GREAT students and staff, therefore, we undoubtedly will have a GREAT year!*

**Mrs. Smith,
GPS Principal**

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Special points of interest:

- Scholastic Book Fair—Week of Oct. 12
- Attendance/Tardy Policy
- A/B Day Calendar
- Health Services
- School Picture Day—Oct 30

MRS. CONSTANTINO—SCIENCE

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.

Remember: Being prepared, paying attention,
having respect, studying at home and being safe
are the guidelines for being successful in science
class!

Grade 8 Science- NYS Lab is in May and the Written Exam is June 6.

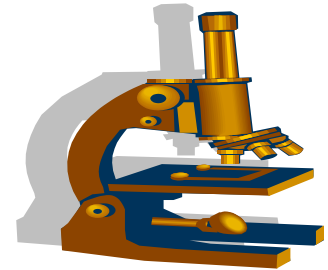
In 8th grade we will constantly be reviewing for
the Grade 8 New York State Science Assess-
ments. We also have some form of graded assign-
ment every week and/or every other week, so
students should be studying for homework. You
can always check PowerSchool for dates of up-
coming assessments.

Accelerated Science- Regent's Exam is June 15 Living Environment Requirements governed by the State

The above also applies for accelerated classes.
We always have some form of assessment (Test,
lab, quiz, and/or project) that students can be
studying for at home. And remember:

This is a Regents Science course, and by state
regulation it has specific laboratory requirements.
This includes the actual laboratory work
(completed in school) and an acceptable written
report for each lab. If a student fails to meet these
requirements by the beginning of June 2016, he/
she will not be permitted to take the Regents
examination. This will also exclude them from
taking the Regents exam in the summer, since
they did not meet the lab requirements during the
school year. All students will be informed of the
requirements as well (and will constantly be
reminded).

And all students are always welcome
after school for extra instruction and/or
to make up work.



MR. FROMMERT—MATH

Parent Teacher conferences are set for
October 15th. Please know that if you
bring your child to a scheduled confer-
ence with me, they will get 10 points to
use towards any test of their choosing.

Grade 8 math students will be working on
transformations and congruence & simi-
larity.

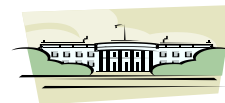
Algebra students will be working on
Chapter 2 (linear equations) and Chapter
3 (linear functions).

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 bring in your completed paper-
work and \$100 deposit to get one of the
first 96 spots on the trip. Spots 97 and
higher will be placed on a waiting list.
As always, please feel free to contact me
regarding your children, either by phone
(278-5820) or by email
(dfrommert@nfschools.net).

November 13th: 2nd deposit due \$125
January 22nd: final deposit due
April 27: 5:30pm mandatory parent/child
meeting (GPS auditorium)
May 10: 7:30-9am luggage check
May 11-13: trip



IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS FOR PARENTS

TRANSPORTATION:

286-4269

ATHLETIC OFFICE:

286-0794

NURSE PRACTITIONERS:

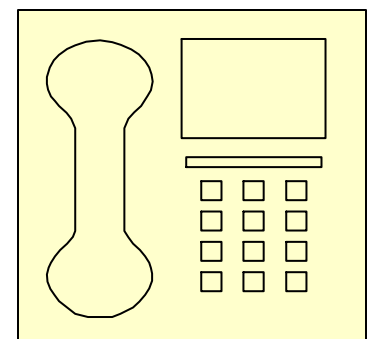
286-0787 OR 286-0788

COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER:

286-0771

NFBOE CENTRAL OFFICE

286-4211



FROM THE STUDENT SERVICE CENTER

From the Counseling Corner....

Welcome back and Happy New Year! Mr. Zafuto and I, Mrs. Mecca, have been working very hard to get all the students in the correct classes. This year Mrs. Mecca will be working with students in grade eight, and Mr. Zafuto will be working with students in grade seven. If you ever need to get a hold of one of us, please call the school 278-5820 and ask for extension 162 for Mrs. Mecca and extension 164 for Mr. Zafuto. We are here to help your child to have a very successful school year.

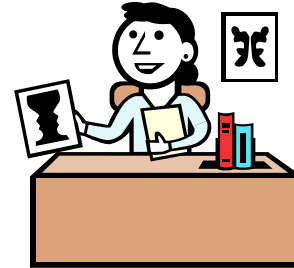
If your child has been absent for 3 days or more, you may call the Student Service Center to request homework assignments. Homework requests take one day to process. Please stress to your child that if he or she misses school, it is their responsibility to make up their work. Start good habits early in the school year.

We are looking forward to a rewarding and successful year at Gas-kill Preparatory School. Your child's schedule is very full. This year we have academic study hall first period. This time will be used to make up school-work, finish homework, work with the counselors and many more activities.

It is a nice way to start the student's day. If there is anything we can do to help you ~ please don't hesitate to call us.

Until next time.....

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



*Character Traits for September, October and November
Respect, Responsibility and Citizenship*

FLU VIRUSES

Back to school means spending time together and, as always, that can mean sharing colds, flu and viruses. The District was among those Niagara County agencies that met to discuss preventative measures to avoid spreading illness, and recommends the following courses of action for students and staff, summed up by the acronym "CHAST":

Coughing—Don't cover your mouth with your hand when coughing; cough into your elbow.

Hand washing—Wash hands often and

thoroughly with soap and water.

Avoid sick people—In school or outside school, limit contact with sick people as much as possible.

Stay home when ill—Students and staff should not return until they have 24 hours with no symptoms of illness

Touching—Refrain from touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Parents, students, and staff can rest assured that schools are cleaned with disin-

fectant regularly and of course, school nurses are on staff to assist anyone who may feel unwell. By working together, we can help make the 2014-2015 academic year a healthy one!

*Sing Row, Row Your Boat to make
sure you are washing your hands
long enough.*

LUNCH NEWS FROM MRS. WIEPERT

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WIEPERT

Did YOU return your 2015-2016 lunch application? Soooooo, if you did not return an application, please do so.

If at anytime during the school year your income changes, you become laid

off, or disabled, make sure you fill out a lunch application. If you have any questions at any time, feel free to call Mrs. Wiepert at 278-5820.

Breakfast begins at 7:15 a.m. each morning.



Gaskill Prep Band News

The Gaskill Prep Band has had a terrific start to the school year! Students are rehearsing daily during 1st period and weekly group lessons have begun. Students should be bringing their instruments home daily and practicing for 20 minutes.

Parents, please look for information to come home with your child regarding... POLO SHIRTS- All band students wear a Gaskill Band Polo Shirt as part of their concert uniform. (price will be \$10-15)

Updates and reminders for Band are available through remind.com. To receive messages via text, text @mrsbordele to 81010. Or to receive messages via email, send an email to: mrsbordele@mail.remind.com. Students and parents are encouraged to use this free service.

Please Save the Date for our **Winter Concert, December 16th at 7:00PM**. Students must arrive at 6:30pm to warm-up. Make sure you have the correct concert dress- Band polo, Khaki/tan pants and nice shoes. As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns at 278-5820 or kbordeleau@nfschools.net

Thank you,
Mrs. Bordeleau



From Mrs. Schove's English Language Arts classroom:

Please encourage students to read every night for at least 20 minutes, and to list books completed on the annotation log provided.

Parents & Guardians can sign up to receive one way "reminders" of class assignments for Mrs. Schove's ELA classroom: Text the word @mrrschove to number 81010, or @ela7cap for accelerated students to sign up today.

In October students will complete the foundations unit that includes the reading of The Gold Laced Coat and a review of plot, characterization, point of view, genre and paragraphing. We will be completing a culminating research project and scheduling a visit to Old Fort Niagara this month. Look for the permission slip. This Seventh Grade class trip is sponsored by **The Old Fort Niagara Historical Society**.

Our next focus will be Module 2A: Working Conditions in Industrializing America – Students will read and analyze an historical fiction book, Lyddie, set during the Industrial Revolution, Study the history of Cesar Chavez's efforts to unionize, and apply what they have learned about working conditions to the world today.

Daily assignments are expected to be completed and submitted for score at the beginning of the next class.



GASKILL PREP LOVES TO READ!!!



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thursday, October 15, 2015

During Parent/Teacher Conferences

Dear Parents,

Our Scholastic Book Fair is scheduled during parent/teacher conferences. We invite you to our school to share in this celebration of books and reading. Not only does the Book Fair help raise funds to purchase essential classroom and library resources, it encourages reading among our students.

As students grow older, it is important to keep books in their lives. Students who remain readers are more likely to be lifelong learners. Readers develop larger vocabularies, a greater knowledge of the world, and higher academic achievement. Reading is more predictive of success than intelligence, economic background, or gender.

Our Book Fair provides a wide variety of books specifically selected to appeal to middle school interests. Students will discover that books are entertaining, inspirational, and a resource for dealing with emerging emotions.

During conferences stop by to browse and find books that can help your child stay connected with reading. Students are also allowed to come and browse while you are at your scheduled conferences. We look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Copelin
Gaskill Preparatory
School

The Book Fair will be open to all students during the entire week of October 12, 2015

Fall



GASKILL PREP SCHOOL

910 Hyde Park Blvd.
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

Phone: 278-5820
Fax: 278-5829

"A GREAT PLACE TO LEARN"

We are on the web!
www.nfschools.net

ABSENTEE CALL IN PHONE NUMBER 286-4200

Any time your child will be absent from school, please call the absentee line and leave a message. Leave your child's name, home base, reason for absence, who's calling and a call back phone number. Send a note to your child's home base teacher when s/he returns to school.

ABOUT LUNCHES BROUGHT INTO SCHOOL

If your child forgets his/her lunch, feel free to drop off a bag lunch and we will see that they get it. Please do not bring in McDonalds, Burger King, Wendy's, or fast food of any kind. This begins a trend of student's wanting fast food delivered. Students who get fast food do not eat in the cafeteria, they eat their lunch in the office and then are sent up to the cafeteria if there is time left. We appreciate your cooperation.

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS TO WRITE ON YOUR CALENDAR!

PARENT GROUP MEETINGS @6:30

Monday, October 19th
Monday, November 16th
Monday, December 21st
No January Meeting
Monday, February 22nd
No March Meeting
Monday April 25th
Monday, May 16th
Thurs., May 12th-Parent/Partner Dinner
Monday, June 20th—Welcome Incoming
7th grade parents.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

October 12th—Columbus Day—No
School
October 15th—Parent/Teacher Confer-
ences—No School for Students
October 30th—School Picture Day
November 11th—Veteran's Day—No
School
November 26-27th—Thanksgiving Day
10-week celebration—December 18
December 16th—Winter Concert
@7:00pm
December 23—January 1—Winter Recess

January 18th—Martin Luther King
Day—No School
February 15th—President's Day—No
School
February 16th—District-Wide—No
School
February 24th—Parent/Teacher Confer-
ence Day—No School for Students
20-week celebration—March 11th
March 21—April 1—Spring Recess
Honor Society Induction Date TBD
May 24th—Spring Concert @7:00 p.m.
30 week celebration—May 26th
May 30th—Memorial Day—No School
June 22nd—Half Day, 11:00 dismissal
June 22nd—8th Grade Celebration
Yearbooks distributed.



News from Mrs. Englander:

During October and November we will be reading and discussing Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird.

I couldn't be more excited to share this American classic with your child in class! Outside of class, your child should be reading 20-30 minutes every night.

So, YES.....they DO have homework for ELA!



“Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.”

In 1991 the Library of Congress conducted a survey of book readers. Readers were asked to cite books that had made a difference in their lives. One of the books most often cited was Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The only book ranked higher by readers was the Bible.

Harper Lee's novel, originally published in 1960, opens with an adult Scout Finch reminiscing about her childhood. Through Scout's memories, the reader is transported into the world of a small southern town in the 1930s. Using a literary technique called **flashback**, Lee interrupts Scout's chronological narrative to reach back in time and enhance and amplify the story with prior events.

Throughout her childhood, Scout develops and expands her values and ideas as she encounters characters who come from all levels of Maycomb's society. While other novels have explored similar themes as *To Kill a Mockingbird*, few have done so in such a rich and enduring way. Scout learns about justice and injustice by watching the trial of an African American man. She witnesses the divisions of class and race in her small town. She discovers courage, both in herself and in those around her, and she comes to respect the diversity of the people in her community, people such as Tom Robinson and Boo Radley. There is rarely a situation in which Scout does not learn something new about education, superstition, bravery, or cowardice.

The story Lee tells evolves in a world where children lose their innocence as they grow up and encounter the harsh realities of adult life. Yet Lee's story is also about accepting people for who they are, whether they have a different skin color, like Tom Robinson, or are eccentric, like Boo Radley!!!

Thanks

Mrs. Englander

Welcome Back to School ~ From The Tea Room Ladies

Recently I had the opportunity to visit your school. For some of you, it was your first day of middle school, for others, it was a day to return. I would be in the group of those returning to Gaskill. For you see, 40 years ago this month, I was a student at Gaskill Junior High! I recall it as a fun and exciting time and feeling very grown up having finally left elementary school. I made many new friends and joined in on many different clubs and activities. Little did I realize 40 years ago how important these friends would become to me. Today, looking back, I can tell you that some of the people that you meet now, may remain in your life or return when you least expect it. How do I know that? It happened to me and a group of 50 ladies who have known each other, many since Gaskill Junior High. All of you, no doubt, are familiar with Facebook. Through that site, I began a group called The Tea Room. We are a group of ladies that have been friends since middle school and high school, and your counselor, Mrs. Mecca, is one of these ladies. We share ideas, memories, good time and bad times. Recently a conversation of ours included wanting to do something nice for Gaskill students returning to school. We all got together and bought school supplies ~ from pens, pencils, notebooks, paper ~ all the things needed for a successful start to the school year. We were happy to do this. Our wish for you is to have a wonderful school year! A big thank you goes out to the following Tea Room Ladies ~

Kathy Dembeck Licata

Kathy Wade Iodice

Cindy Ciccarelli

Mary Wade Hayes

Jo-Jo Vicino

Angela Vicino Mecca



