



OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER—2016

Dear Parents and Guardians.

Here's what's new and upcoming for Gaskill Prep.....

ACADEMIC SUPPORT AT GASKILL

Gaskill Prep foremost priority is to make sure ALL students are ready for the next level of their educational career---high school. Students who are considered not at grade level can receive additional academic support either during school or afterschool. This support known as academic intervention services (AIS) are targeted for students considered below grade level in math or English & language arts. AIS is highly recommended so that students are proficient prior to moving on to high school.

*If your child is not currently receiving AIS services during the school day, additional academic support will be available after-school beginning in late October and will conclude in May. Consistent attendance and positive behavior are required for participation in this program. If you would like to complete a preliminary application to secure a space for your child, please complete the enclosed application and return to Gaskill's Main Office no later than **Tuesday, October 18th.***

NEW SCHOOL CLUB

Gaskill will offer a new afterschool club during the 2016-2017 school year, the 'Cooking Club'. The purpose of Cooking Club is to teach students how to cook healthy meals using whole foods on a budget. The club will create an opportunity for students to cook together while sharing their own culinary knowledge and experiences with other students. This will allow students with little cooking experiences to learn useful skills in order to prepare them to cook on their own. Mrs. Churakos, club advisor, will be promoting eating healthy options by cooking meals with fresh and healthy ingredients as well as raising awareness about sustainability. The Prep level cooking club will be an integral and key component of the school district's wellness plan which aims to educate students about nutrition. The afterschool cooking club will help to create a healthier school by teaching students how to prepare a healthy meal on their own. The club is partially funded by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Niagara County's Creating Healthy Schools and Communities program.

Please place on your calendar the following important academic dates:

Tuesday, October 4 th	NWEA Testing
Wednesday, October 5 th	NWEA testing
Thursday, October 6 th –	Book Fair begins
Monday, October 10 th	NO SCHOOL
Thursday, October 13 th	Parent/Teacher Conference Day
Friday, October 14 th	Book Fair ends
Monday, October 17 th	Parent Education Group Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Friday, November 11 th	NO SCHOOL
Monday, November 14 th	20 week marking period begins
Thursday November 24 th	NO SCHOOL
Friday, November 25 th	NO SCHOOL
Tuesday, November 29 th	10 week report card mailed

*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 14th for the 10 week marking period, and December 16th for the 20 week marking period.*

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.

*Sincerely,
Principal Smith*

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Special points of interest:

- Scholastic Book Fair—Oct. 6-14
- A/B Day Calendar
- Health Services
- School Picture Day—Oct 28

IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS FOR PARENTS

TRANSPORTATION:

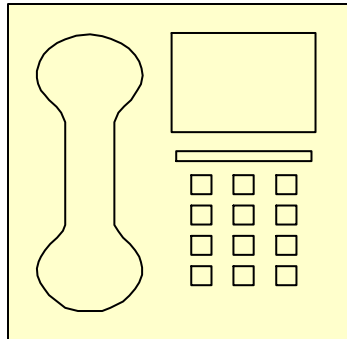
286-4269

ATHLETIC OFFICE:

286-0794

NURSE PRACTITIONERS:

286-0787 OR 286-0788



COMMUNITY EDUCATION CENTER:

286-0771

NFBOE CENTRAL OFFICE

286-4211

LUNCH NEWS FROM MRS. WIEPERT

FROM THE DESK OF MRS. WIEPERT

Did YOU return your 2016-2017 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.



MR. FROMMERT—MATH

Grade 8 math students will be working on transformations and congruence & similarity.

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 paperwork and \$125 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).

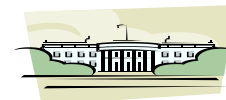
November 18th: 2nd deposit due \$125

January 20nd: final deposit due

May 10th: 5:30pm mandatory parent/child meeting (GPS auditorium)

May 16th: 7:30-9am luggage check (band/chorus check from 8:30-9am)

May 17-19: trip



From Mrs. Englander

The school year is starting out wonderfully! Thank you so much for your help at home!

Foundations classes will be reading Inside Out and Back Again by Thanhha Lai. This is a book about refugees from The Vietnam War. We will make connections and read non-fiction articles about the refugee crisis all around the world in 2016!

CAP classes will begin a Poetry Unit focusing on the literary elements most often found on the NYS ELA exam. We have selected both American and European classics for us to read, and I am really looking forward to building upon the skills that your child has acquired K-7!

YES, THEY HAVE HOMEWORK!

Your child should be reading a book of their own choosing for 20-30 minutes nightly!



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 2016-2017 academic year a healthy one!

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

Yearbook News From Mrs. Franke

Attention Parents and Guardians!

Give your child the gift of having their 2016-2017 memories! Buy a yearbook at Parent-Teacher Conferences on October 13th! Yearbooks are \$30.00 You may put a \$15.00 deposit down now and pay the rest in the Spring or pay the full \$30.00 now. CASH only. See Mrs. Franke in Room 211.

Thank you for your support!

GASKILL PREPARATORY SCHOOL

910 Hyde Park Blvd.

Niagara Falls, New York 14301

Main Office (716) 278-5820

Fax (716) 278-5829

Mrs. Sheila Smith, Principal

Mrs. Janice Graham, Assistant Principal

Mr. Francis Coney, Dean of Students

Mrs. Kathy Urban, Dean of Students

October 2016

Dear Parent /Guardian

Gaskill Preparatory School will be offering additional academic support in the areas of Math and English & language arts tentatively to begin in late October. The afterschool program will be designed to both increase student knowledge and provide additional support for classroom work & homework assistance. Consistent attendance and positive behavior are required for participation in this program. The program will operate through May 2017.

Students will be selected for the afterschool program based on various assessments results and teacher recommendation.

Busing will be provided for those students who already receive bus transportation. In addition, we anticipate the ability to provide a daily snack for each student.

Due to the time constraints, we ask you to return this permission slip no later than **Tuesday, October 18th** to the Main Office. Please feel free to contact school counselors, Ms. Cowart – Grade 7 or Mr. Zafuto - Grade 8 if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Mrs. Smith

Principal

_____ *Yes, I would like my child to receive additional academic support during the school year.*

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____ Homebase _____

Subject (by priority): ELA _____ Math _____

Parent Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

PLEASE RETURN BY TUESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2016