

Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

Panther Press



December 2023

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News From Mrs. Cassel and Mrs. Lynch:

Happy Holidays Gallaher Families! We are so thankful for all of the unwavering support of our Gallaher School Community! There is no way we could do what we do with students every day without the excellent teamwork from all stakeholders! We hope you enjoy a safe and restful holiday break with your family and friends. We know 2024 will bring about excellent results for our Gallaher students as we saw in 2023!! We could not be more proud or thankful. Enjoy the upcoming break, and we look forward to hitting the ground running in 2024!

From the Office



Counselors' Corner

This month's counseling lessons are focused on building friendships. Friendships help kids develop emotionally and morally and boost social skills. Not only do kids learn how to communicate with others, but healthy friendships can be instrumental in helping them learn to control their emotions and express their feelings constructively

The holidays can bring lots of joy but can also produce stress. Please take care of yourself and practice healthy coping strategies when feeling stress. Here are some tips:

- 1) It's ok to say "no"
- 2) Stick with a budget
- 3) Create relaxing surroundings
- 4) Maintain healthy habits
- 5) Share feelings
- 6) Respect differences
- 7) Be realistic
- 8) Take a break

Nurse's Notes

This month is so exciting. There are many different parties, dinners and playdates to attend. That means there is also the chance of getting sick from germs that others spread. Remember: The best way to stay healthy during this time is to wash your hands frequently. Due to Covid 19 we have all learned the correct way to wash our hands, so let's keep the germs away.

Even though it is cold out, we still need to remember that our bodies need hydration. Try to set a goal to drink at least 2 glasses of water a day. It is an old wives tale that going outside when you are not dressed warmly will make you get sick. While you won't get a cold or flu from this it is still important to dress warmly to prevent your body from getting too cold.

Does anybody know where a person loses the most amount of heat from their body???? The answer is: Through your head. Remember to always keep your head covered and warm.

I hope you and your families have a safe and happy holiday season. See you in the new year.

Important Dates

December 11-15

The Holiday Shop

December 13:

Picture Make-Up Day

Friday, December 22 –

Monday, January 2:

No School

(Winter Break/PD)

January 3:

School Resumes

School Spirit Days!

December 8– Represent your favorite Special (Gym, Music, Art, STEM, Library)

December 15– Gallaher Shirt Day

December 18- Wear your favorite Winter Hat

December 19- Wear Winter colors (blue, white, red, green, silver)

December 20- "Ugly" or Cute Sweater Day

December 21- Pajama Day

January 5 - Disney Day



Related Arts



Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech

40% of young children are interacting with strangers online, so students in the library are learning about being safe when playing multiplayer games such as Roblox and Minecraft.

We also discussed turning off their location on apps like Snapchat and Instagram.

Ms. D - Visual Arts

Art this month is all about WINTER!

All Grades are working on making snowflakes, Snow Globes, and Snowman art.

We have been working and finishing our scissor cutting skills and learning about new techniques and materials!

4th grade is using Charcoal for the first time.

2nd grade is learning how to use salt with Watercolors!

Ask your student: What colors are better for winter art? Warm or Cool Tones?

Ms. DeLeo- STEM

The first week of December is Computer Science Week!

We are celebrating by learning all about coding and robots in STEM! We have been practicing by making our own codes and designing robots to help us do everyday tasks.

Mr. Fortunato - P.E.

We will be starting off the month with Basketball! Dribbling, passing, and shooting skills will be practiced first before getting into small-sided games and learning how to play the classic game, Knockout!

Ms. Polman - Music

Our Gallaher musicians are focusing on developing their music literacy- the ability to read music, write music, and communicate their musical ideas with others! Through Daily Oral Music (D.O.M) exercises, they are developing these skills for rhythms, pitches in solfege for singing, and reading the notes on the music staff for playing instruments.

Kindergarten

Mr. Reed - Room 127

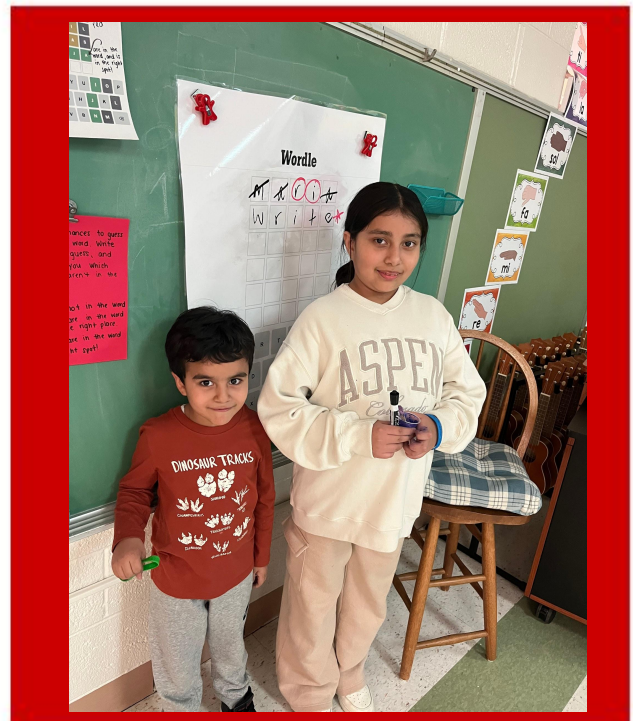
Our class has been working hard to identify the first and last sounds we hear in words while writing. In math we've practiced counting by 1's, 10's, and now by 2's up to 20. Though we had to close our Herbologist job because the garden is done for the year, we were able to open our Game Keeper job and get FOUR new class pets!

Ms. Arban - Room 128

Happy almost Winter Break, yes we are all counting down along with reviewing positional words by looking for the bear in Math. In Reading, we are learning how to use our sight words in our Writing. In Science, we are continuing to look at weather and hoping for some precipitation in the form of SNOW! Winter is around the corner as the first official day is December 21.

Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

This month we have worked on being proactive and making responsible, respectful and safe choices. We have started our portfolios so we can keep track of the amazing things we are doing! We have been using our computer programs, Lexia and iready to help us learn to read. We have loved doing our math centers and especially our calendar.



Ms. Childs - Room 126

We have begun the countdown to Winter break this month! We are enjoying playing Math related games during work places. We have also been working on reading skills such as identifying beginning sounds in words and rhyming. In Writing, we are working on writing a letter from a character's perspective. As we countdown to Winter break, we have been learning about all of the fun Winter holidays!

Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

We are working hard to identify beginning, middle, and ending sounds in words. We are learning to blend and read short a words with three sounds. We enjoy fun read alouds and spot the difference brain breaks. During the month of December, we will read different variations of the Gingerbread "people", discuss the changes in the season, and learn about the upcoming holidays!



Staff Spotlight



Hi, everyone! I am Mellanie Roscoe, the school psychologist at Gallaher. I work with students in all grade levels. My goal is to promote children's learning, positive behavior, and development.



I live in New Jersey with my husband and son, Landon. He is my world and I love every moment of being a mommy. In my free time, I am usually spending time with family. I enjoy modeling, dancing, and scrapbooking. I also enjoy hiking and traveling. My favorite place that I have traveled to so far is Hawaii!

First

Ms. Carrell - Room 123

We are so excited to be 50 days smarter! We are becoming better readers while we are learning our first grade words. We love to do our assignments on Benchmark. We have played Blooket to assess our learning on certain skills. We continue to do our Lexia minutes and Iready Reading lessons. Most importantly, we are working as a team to meet first grade expectations.

Ms. Cagle - Room 122

We are learning about words with I blends. In social studies we are learning about the 7 continents and learned a song to help us remember. We made lights to hang in our classroom. We think it is super pretty. We are very excited for pj/movie day next week. Our teacher said that we can bring a stuffie in to watch the movie with us! In math we are learning how to subtract and we even get to play blooket. We just celebrated 50 days in school and have learned so much! We love being in 122!

Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

In Math, we learned about Fact Families, telling time and Making Ten. We have read stories that teach us lessons like telling the truth and helping each other. We finished short vowels and are learning I-blends. We wrote about our turkeys in disguise. In Geography, we learned about maps, globes and map keys.

Ms. Weldon - Room 119

Learning is going great in room 119. In reading we learned about characters, problems, and solutions in stories. We had fun celebrating being 50 days smarter! We have been working on fact families, and friends of ten in Math. We are doing great with short vowels, and now we are working on I-blends. We did an awesome job with our turkey disguise projects. We love learning map skills. First grade is so much fun!

Ms. Leonhard - VA

We all enjoyed our Thanksgiving break! In reading, we've been learning about characters. We work on our high frequency words and do iReady reading and math. In Number Corner, we have been collecting hours on analog clocks and learning about fractions. In math, we have been using our number racks to practice our addition and subtraction. We just began a social studies unit on geography. We are looking forward to winter break.



Staff Spotlight



Hello! My name is Mrs. Haynes and I am a small group teacher at Gallaher. I work mostly with 3rd and 4th grade this year. I have worked at Gallaher since 2016. I taught 3rd and 1st grades before moving to small groups. My husband and I have 3 boys together. In my spare time, my family and I love to travel. Our goal is to visit at least one new place each year. I love Disney and Harry Potter. Winter is my favorite season and I hope to see some snow this year!



Second

Ms. DaSilva - VA

We enjoyed our break but we missed our friends and teacher in VA. In reading, we are studying characters and their challenges. We continue to focus on place value in math. Last month, we learned about clocks and telling time in Number Corner. In Library, we are learning how to type without looking at our keyboard and also we are taking surveys. In STEM, we are learning about AI and how to teach it to recognize objects and also coding. We are setting individual and class goals. We have all earned a certificate in Lexia and are excited to see our progress this marking period.

Ms. Alms - Room 116

Happy Holidays! We are working hard to improve our Reading & Writing skills. In Math, we're learning about hundreds, tens, and ones and adding two by two digit numbers. We can tell time also on an analog clock. Every night before bed, read for 15 minutes from a favorite book. Also, keep a diary or a journal to write in and practice writing sentences. Let's make big progress!

Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

We are working hard here in room 117. In reading we are focused on what characters learn when they face difficult challenges and how they overcome these challenges. Math is focused on 2 digit addition and subtraction using place value to understand how to do this efficiently. We are also writing opinion pieces about what makes the best pet. We are all looking forward to winter break. We can make it!!!!

Ms. Wilson - Room 118

We are super excited to welcome a new student and friend, Teagan V.! Teagan has received a warm welcome to Room 118. The most fun activity this month was celebrating our Class Goal - completing an Iready Math and Reading lesson (and passing) each week. We celebrated with cookies! We are becoming experts in adding two digit numbers. In Reading, we are learning about how characters respond to challenges.

Third

Ms. Read - Room 101

In reading we have been reading different stories and talking about the different consequences characters face. In math we have been learning rounding where we use the saying "5 and above give it a shove, 4 and below let it go." This unit in social studies we are learning about maps and globes. In science we are going to be learning about animal traits.

Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

This month we have practiced rounding and 3 digit subtraction. In reading we have focused on folktales and discussing character actions. We started a new unit in science about environment and traits. In social studies we have been learning about maps and geography!

Ms. McClarin - Room 104

We have been busy as bees. In Reading we have been learning about similes, parts of plot, and seeing how character's actions effect the other parts of the story. We continue to work toward more efficient ways to add, subtract, and multiply in Math. But, Writing class has been our favorite subject this month, as we are practicing persuasive writing strategies by trying to convince Santa that we are the best elves for the job! We can't wait to share our work.

Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

We are starting to be experts on our multiplication facts. We have found a few fun games online that help us practice.. Every student has earned at least one certificate on Lexia, Hafsah has earned 6. We are really working hard on learning cursive. We know how to write every letter and most people can write their first and last names. We have a VA get together on Dec. 20th at noon at EDEN Center. We are excited.

What's happening in class?

Do you want to know what your student is working on in ELA or math? Click the links below and choose the grade level you need.

December ELA: Unit 3
[Elementary ELA \(K-5\)](#)

December Math: Unit 3
[Elementary Math](#)

The Holiday Gift Shop: December 11-15

Pay now at www.holidayshopvoucher.com

The Holiday Gift Shop® is coming to our School!



**While shopping at this year's Holiday Gift Shop®
your students can take part in giving back!**

A portion of all gift shop sales will be donated to Toys for Tots
so that they can purchase toys for children in need.

Fourth

Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

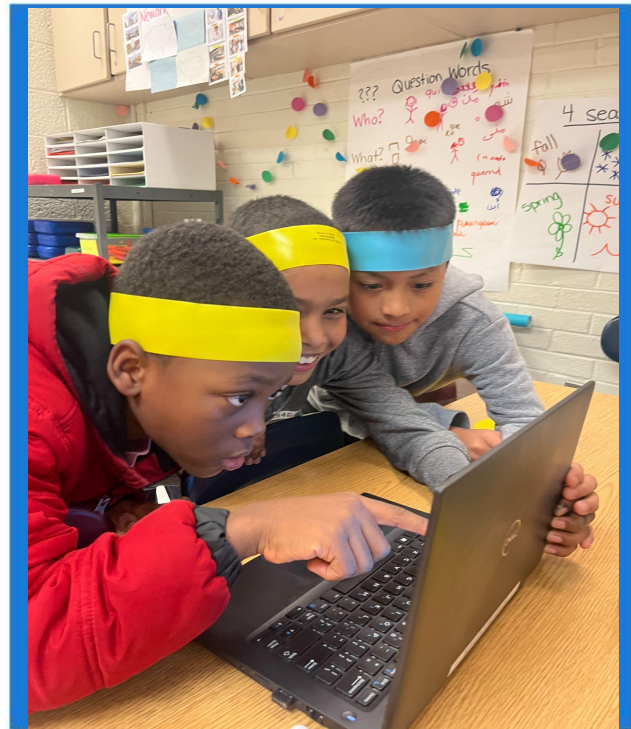
Room 106 has been working hard on fractions this unit. Ask us what an equivalent fraction is! In social studies we have been working on learning about different countries. In science we have been learning about different types of energy. In reading we have been practicing how to understand characters in a story. Our next topic is government! We keep working on our leader in me skills.

Mrs. Brown - Room 108

108 has been in the land of fractions! We have been finding equivalent fractions and learning about adding and subtracting with like and unlike denominators. In reading we continue to determine qualities of a character based on their actions and the things they say. We even acted out scenes in a play! In writing we are forming opinions about if a text or a play can help us to understand characters better. Ask us what we think about Mr. Gnat and Mr. Bull, and why we think this!

Ms. Smith - Room 105

We have been working hard in Room 105! In math we have entered the world of fractions and have been learning about equivalent fractions and addition with fractions. We have also perfected our second writing piece of the year! We shared our opinion on "The Gnat and The Bull". We just finished reading some familiar stories like Peter Pan and The Wizard of Oz. Now we are excited to start our unit on government!



Ms. Frank - VA

We can't believe that it is already December! These are things we learned in November:

- Always be grateful
- Never to give up
- Multiplication and division are fun
- Characters reveal themselves through their actions
- It is important to use context clues when you don't know a word.



Staff Spotlight



Hello! My name is Ms. M and I am the Reading Specialist for the Virtual Academy. I also have the privilege of working with the on-site students periodically. As a Reading Specialist, I'm lucky to be able to work with students at all grade levels from Kindergarten through Fifth Grade. In my free time I enjoy reading, listening to music, and spending time with family and friends. I have a 5 year old daughter named Ava and a 7 year old son named Cole. I love working at Gallaher and helping all of our students become better readers!



Fifth

Ms. Bucci - Room 111

Room 111 has been rocking it! We have been crushing our iReady and Lexia lessons, and looking at our goals in our reading. We earned a special recess together with our other 5th grade friends, because of doing so well in our Specials. We also learned how to become gardeners, and harvested radishes, kale, and other healthy things! We have become more confident in working with fractions, and are excited to learn about decimals this unit.

Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

Likes & Learning
~annotating, creating mental images, and the theme of bravery in Jason Reynold's story "As Brave as You"
~making contrasts & comparisons
~learning to write character studies
~math strategies: ratio table & power of 10 as we work with decimals & fractions
~iLexiaNaturally!

Mr. Dabney - Room 109

Community Leaders are focusing on 2 Target goals to help us achieve at high levels: demonstrating high quality scholar work and demonstrating mastery of knowledge and skills. Scholars are encouraging each other and reminding each to try their best. We are always reminding ourselves that we are scholars in a community of scholars. Keep up the great work. Way to go Community Leaders!!!!

Ms. Burton - Room 110

Here in Room 110, we have been working with fractions in every way possible. We have added, subtracted, reduced, found the least common multiple, and the greatest common factor in order to find common denominators. In reading we have been focusing on character traits and forming opinions about writing styles of different authors. In writing we have been forming opinions. Find out who we would invite to dinner and why!

Ms. McDermond - VA

Fifth grade VA has had a busy month. We have read excerpts from Jason Reynold's novel and wrote an opinion essay about his writing. We are learning about decimal place value in Math. So far this year we have passed over 100 Reading Lessons and almost 100 math lessons with an 80% or better on IReady. Our class has received 14 Lexia certificates. We are helping East Ferris solve their water shortage in our Science Unit. In Social Studies we are learning about producers and consumers. We have completed 49 Read Naturally Stories.



Staff Spotlight



Hello to everyone! My name is Mr Glass. I am the behavioral Interventionist here at Gallaher. My day to day is handling any behavioral issues here at Gallaher, Kn-5th. I am in my 3rd year here at Gallaher and couldn't be happier at where I am at. I love building the relationships I have with everyone here (teachers and students). One thing about me is that I am a very family oriented person, I love traveling with my family as it's a nice getaway to enjoy life. I am a HUGE Eagles fan alongside my family, we love watching the game together as it's a tradition. **#flyeaglesfly**

