

Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

Panther Press



February 2024

In This Issue

From the Office

Counselors' Corner

Nurse's Notes

Related Arts

Kindergarten

First Grade

Second Grade

Third Grade

Fourth Grade

Fifth Grade

News From Mrs. Cassel and Mrs. Lynch:

Hello Gallaher Families! What an exciting start we have had to 2024! Gallaher is maintaining its status as the Elementary School with the 2nd highest growth in the Christina School District in Iready Reading and Math - exactly where we were at this time last year! Keep working with your students on Iready and Lexia - we will soon be the elementary school with the highest growth! As a reminder, per our Healthy Celebrations Policy - no food sent into school for celebrations may be distributed. Please use non-edible items instead! Please keep this in mind as we head into Valentine's Day and the remainder of the year. Thank you!

From the Office



Counselors' Corner



School counselors are just one part — but an important part — of a system that ensures students have excellent educational experiences. As part of a school support team, school counselors provide critical social-emotional and academic supports. Through a comprehensive school counseling program that promotes success and achievement for all students, school counselors can help set students on a path for postsecondary success.

Activity Idea: See how many acts of kindness your students can do! Each time a student shows kindness to someone else, have them write or draw about it on a strip of paper. Then, form the strips into circles and connect them to make a [paper chain](#). Then, hang the chain up in your office or classroom. Better yet, make it a school-wide initiative and then display the chain in the lobby, hallway, or other common space where it can be an encouragement to all who see it!

Kids Books About Kindness:

[One Drop Of Kindness](#) by Jeff Kubiak

[The Power Of One](#) by Trudy Li, dwig

[Kindness Grows](#) by Britta Teckentrup

Nurse's Notes

February is Children's Dental Health Month. Everyone should brush and floss 2 times per day to prevent tooth decay. Regular visits to the dentist also help keep our mouths healthy. When brushing your teeth you can sing the Happy Birthday to You song. This will make sure you are brushing for the proper amount of time. Let's use our health teeth to

SMILE!!!

Important Dates

Thursday, February 8th -
PTA meeting 7 pm

Monday, February 12 – No School (Parent Conferences)

Monday, February 19 – No School (Presidents' Day)

Friday, March 8 – No School (Professional Development)

School Spirit Days!

February 2 – Pajama Day

February 9 – Sports Shirt or Jersey Day

February 14 - Pink vs. Red Day

February 16 - Hoodie Day

February 23 – Gallaher Shirt Day



Related Arts



Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech

This month in library, students will celebrate Black History Month and I Love to Read Month.

Did you know 15 minutes of daily reading can make people feel 69% more accomplished, 55% more relaxed and 33% happier?

Students can check out books from the library or on GetEpic and Sora!

Ms. D - Visual Arts

Students in 3-5th are working on making 3D shapes on a flat paper!
We are working on making our drawings more realistic!

Students in KN-2nd grade are still working on their color mixing and reading the story Mouse Paint!

Ask your students: "What is the difference between Primary and Secondary Colors?"

Ms. DeLeo- STEM

-5th Grade students are starting to learn the basics of 3D printing!

-4th Grade students are working on Electricity.

-3rd and 2nd grade is working on Robotics

-KN and 1st grade students are learning Animal Science!

Mr. Fortunato - P.E.

In P.E. we will transition into soccer so that when spring comes, we will be prepared to get outside and hit the field!

Ms. Polman - Music

5th graders are beginning a project to write their own raps!

3rd & 4th graders are beginning to learn to play the recorder.

1st & 2nd graders are continuing to grow their music literacy skills.

Kindergarteners are beginning to explore the elements of music through "The Carnival of Animals"!

Kindergarten

Mr. Reed - Room 127

Hello, families! Spring is upon us and the weather is clearly breaking for the better! The class is absolutely JACKED to see if Punxatawney Phil spots his shadow or not. Our Weather job certainly will be hotly contested to see if we're more accurate than ground dwelling varmint! In reading we are making child friendly criterias for success and practicing giving each other clear an actionable feedback.

Ms. Arban - Room 128

Happy February from Room 128!! We are counting up to the 100th Day which should arrive before the end of the month. In Reading its all about "Chop It Out" as we practice saying ALL the sounds in words. We continue to be weather watchers in Science and in Social Studies we are wondering IF the Groundhog will see his shadow or not.

Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

We have have been working on our Lexia and iready to help our school reach our goal of lessons completed!

We have been switching our groups around so we can work with lots of different friends cooperatively!

We have been doing a great job of following our mission statement and being respectful, responsible, and safe.

We love celebrating our star of the week!



Ms. Childs - Room 126

We did a great job navigating lots of weather related days last month and our first virtual day. We did an amazing job for our 1st time learning online! There are lots of celebrations that we are looking forward to such as Friendship Day, Groundhog's Day, & our 100th day of school! We are working hard and getting better every day with our reading, writing, and math skills!

Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

We are continuing to study weather and all things related winter. We are working on counting to 100, ways to make 5 and 10. We are working on using our sight words in our writing. Each day we work on Lexia and we are excited to earn Lexia certificates. We are approaching 100 days of school and hoping we have one more good snow storm before winter ends!



Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Leonardo Aviles. The staff and kids know me by Mr. Leo. It is a pleasure for me to work at Gallaher because the staff is really easy to get along with and we are like a big family here at Gallaher. I am the head custodian.

My responsibilities are to maintain the building when it comes to its cleanliness, maintenance of the mechanical parts and upkeep of the grounds.



First

Ms. Carrell - Room 123

We had a great learning experience on our Zoom Snow day! We have continued to learn how to hop on number lines to add and subtract with multiples of 10. We are using our writing checklists to go back and edit our writing to make sure we are using uppercase letters and punctuation. We will soon start our light and sound unit for science and learn about how sound travels.

Ms. Cagle - Room 122

We have been meeting our objectives during lessons. In math we are learning about number lines and how to add and subtract on them. In reading we are learning about the digraphs SH, TH, and NG. We are practicing our reading. We also have been practicing our choral reading. This is when we all read together at the same time and the same pace. We just finished learning all about I blends and how they sound. We are getting ready to start a brand new science unit! All about SHADOWS!!!!!!

Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

Every morning, we do iReady Math lessons and, every afternoon, we do iReady Reading lessons. We are helping the school WIG of 5,000 lessons passed and we are learning! Every day, we do Lexia lessons. We are counting the Days in School and fixing equations so they equal the day number. We are happy for Day 100!

Ms. Weldon - Room 119

We have continued to work hard in Room 119. We are doing a great job using the number line to add and subtract. We have enjoyed learning about communities in reading. We have been working on our IReady reading and math lessons. We are focusing on meeting our class and schoolwide goals. We are starting our science unit on light and sound. We had fun writing opinions pieces in writing! There's so much to learn in first grade!!

Ms. Leonhard - VA

Happy February! Our class started unit 4 in reading - Stories Have a Narrator. We have been learning to read words with the consonant digraphs sh, th and ng. In math, we have been adding and subtracting on a number line. In social studies we learned about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We took the iReady reading and math mid-year tests. We are looking forward to celebrating the 100th day of school this month.



Two Important and Very Short Surveys!



FAMILY ENGAGEMENT SURVEY: We are always seeking to improve our outcomes at Gallaher for both students and families. Our Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging Team at Gallaher would like to assess the experience of our families at Gallaher. We would appreciate it if you would take 3-5 minutes to share your thoughts on the Google Survey..

SUPPORTING PARENTS SERIES OPTIONS: Please take 1-2 minutes to tell us which topics you would most like covered at our Supporting Parents Series set to begin in late February. Like last year, these will be on Zoom in the evenings, allowing people to log in and listen for convenience.

Please see caption on Class Dojo for the links to these surveys

Second

Ms. DaSilva - VA

Even though we are virtual we loved having a snow day. We are officially half way through 2nd grade and have learned so much already. In reading, we are studying folktales and learning about how characters can have different points of view. We are earning more certificates on Lexia and having fun. We are finishing up our measurement unit in math and excited to move on to place value. We love our class and have a great time learning with our friends and teacher!

Ms. Alms - Room 116

We all worked hard to meet our goal numbers on the Iready Diagnostic. We did great! In Math, we are learning to measure using inches, feet, and yards. It's been fun measuring objects in the classroom. In Reading, we are working hard to read like a smooth river. Our new unit has folktales and they are fun to read. Keep reading at home everyday and practice your math facts!

Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

Room 117 is working really hard this January. We all did very well on our mid-year I-Ready. Math has been focused on measuring with inches, feet, and yards. In reading we are working on point of view, and how a story can change depending on who is telling the story. Let's make sure we are continuing to read at home, remember you can use Lexia or I-Ready lesson at home.

Ms. Wilson - Room 118

January was so cold! We all had fun on our first virtual day. May February bring warmer, drier weather. We are using rulers and yardsticks to measure in inches and yards. In Social Studies we are learning about landforms and identifying different types of landforms. In reading, we are about to explore different folktales, which should be fun. Most importantly, we are practicing how to be good citizens!

Third

Ms. Read - Room 101

In reading we are learning about point of view and how to compare ours to the author. In math we are still practicing our measurement skills. We just finished writing an information essay about an animal we researched. We are excited to start learning about economics in social studies this marking period!

Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

We are starting to learn about character point of view and narrative writing. We are feeling confident about telling time and learning more about measurement. In social studies, we are finishing our unit on maps and globes. We are excited to begin inheritance and traits in science.

Ms. McClarin - Room 104

As we look ahead this month, students will be deepening their understanding of area and perimeter, as well as, fractions in Math. Our focus in Social Studies will be Economics. We are enjoying our new read aloud Holes. The discussions have been full of questions and connections to the unique characters we are being introduced to. Comparing points of view is our Reading focus.

Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

In Reading this week we are starting to read plays. This week we read a silly version of a Cinderella play. In Math, we are working on measurement and will have a Math test on February 1st. The class will have a family meeting on Friday at 8:30am. Please bring an adult. The following week will be a little different, so please check your dojo for information.

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.

February ELA: Unit 4 & 5
[Elementary ELA \(K-5\)](#)

February Math: Unit 4 & 5
[Elementary Math](#)

News from the PTA

Please join us for our upcoming PTA meeting!

Thursday, Feb 8th, 7pm.

You can come in person to the Gallaher school library or join us on Zoom at the link below. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83542706879>

We hope to see you there!

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/gallaherelempta



The Scholastic Book Fair is coming! **SAVE THE DATE** for **March 18th-25th** and get ready to empower your reader with book choice. Start exploring together:

<https://www.scholastic.com/bf/gallaherelementaryschool>

#ScholasticBookFairs

Fourth

Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

WOW! 4th grade really worked hard on our iReady testing for middle of the year. Ask us if we hit our goal! This month in reading we are working on identifying and understanding point of view with characters in a story. In math we are finishing up learning subtraction and addition strategies. Science we will be working on vision and light. Then finally in Social studies we will focus on black history month.

Mrs. Brown - Room 108

We had so much fun during our snow day! It gave us time to learn about each other and work on previous taught skills. All students in 108 made growth towards their iReady goal—we are so proud of ourselves! In math we are learning about different units of measurement, and when it's appropriate to use them. In reading we are seeing the world through the eyes of others. This helps us understand different points of view!

Ms. Smith - Room 105

We have been working hard to reach our iReady goals! We are excited to see our growth and talk about what our goals will be for the rest of the year. We have just finished our third essay of the year! We have learned a lot about the government and how it affects the way that we live. Now, we are excited to start discussing different points of view! Finally, we have been really focused on mastering our addition and subtraction strategies in math class!



Ms. Frank - VA

Middle of the year Iready testing was successful in VA! We worked really hard to increase our scores. We are starting a new way to keep track of our Iready lessons next week. Please take a look! This week we are starting a new unit in Reading to work on understanding different points of view. Looking at the world through the eyes of others is always interesting and important.

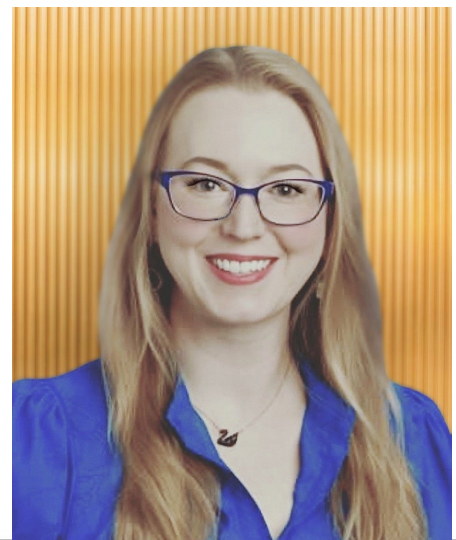


Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Katharine MacCollum. This is my fourth year teaching at Gallaher. I grew up in Pennsylvania, and am a graduate of Virginia Commonwealth University. In the past I've taught at Downes Elementary, as well as a High School teacher for consumer health courses.

In addition, I also have a background in dance and have taught at local studios and universities. My husband and I enjoy watching other people's dogs and visiting our families.



Fifth

Ms. Bucci - Room 111

In Reading classes, we have learned all about the Constitution, and wrote essays on voting rights. In Math, we are learning about the coordinate plane, and even learned some Algebra in Number Corner. We are perfecting our strategies for long multiplication and division. We rocked our middle of the year iReady Diagnostic tests. Learning about water has been our quest in Science classes. We had our first Virtual Learning Day, and it was awesome! We are looking forward to February!

Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

In between rocking the Soc. Stu. Assessment and midyear iReady, we've been learning so much! In math, we have been using ratio tables and other strategies to multiply/divide decimals and fractions. In reading, we studied and wrote about voting rights amendments. And we let off a little steam at our awesome Beach Party celebration.

Mr. Dabney - Room 109

February, here we come! Community Leaders are tackling challenging skills such as integrating information from multiple sources in order to write knowledgeably about a topic. In Math, we are exploring plotting points on a coordinate grid and working with complex math expressions. It's up from here. Let's go Community Leaders!!

Ms. Burton - Room 110

It's February already!!! We spent the month of January learning about the Constitution in Reading. We had fun calculating Susan's technology time and money for her allowance in Number Corner. We showed our dynamic growth with our i-Ready Diagnostic tests in Reading and Math. Lastly, practiced multiplication and division using a variety of strategies, as well as plotting coordinates on graphs. Our January was Awesome!

Ms. McDermond - VA

In math we are learning how to multiply using the Standard Algorithm. Our next Social Studies unit is about Geography. In reading, we are learning about character traits and how to identify their traits. We will be writing a Narrative for our Unit 4 project. We are doing multiplication equations in Number Corner. For Leader in Me we are learning to make deposits into our Emotional Bank Accounts.



Staff Spotlight



My name is Mrs. Wendy Robinson. I teach small groups, mainly in 5th grade. It is hard to believe, but this is my 19th year at Gallaher!

In my personal life, I have a husband and 2 grown children. My son is now a rocket scientist - so cool! I also have a boxer named Piper and a cat named Rocky.

My hobbies include scrapbooking and making jewelry. I also love spending time with family and friends and I spend as much time at the beach as possible.

