

Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

# Panther Press



**January 2024**

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## **News From Mrs. Cassel and Mrs. Lynch:**

Hello Gallaher Families! We are coming up on our mid-year assessments in Reading and Math. We are eagerly anticipating the results of the mid-year assessments! We set goals with our students and our students are excited to see their progress toward those goals! As a Leader in Me School, our students set goals individually, and their individual goals support an overall classroom goal. All classroom goals support the school-wide goal. We are excited to report our progress next month! Thank you for your support!

**From the Office**



## Counselors' Corner

The school counselor will be covering friendships for the month of January.

Friends are people that you can have fun with. Friends share, play together, and laugh with each other. A friend likes you for who you are. A good friend can cheer you up when you are sad, and keep you company when you are lonely.

January is Mental Wellness Month! It's a time to bring awareness to mental health disorders, break the stigma, and encourage anyone to seek help. Ways to recognize this month are to talk about mental health and to take care of your own.

## Nurse's Notes

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Did you know that January is National Walk Your Dog month. If you have a dog, why not volunteer to help your family by walking the dog. If you don't have a dog, but have another kind of pet, you can volunteer to help take care of that pet. January is a month where we don't get a lot of outdoor activity so walking your dog can help keep you healthy too.

Remember even though it is cold outside we still need to drink a lot of water to keep our bodies hydrated.

Another important thing to remember is continue washing your hands frequently, covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing and wear a mask as needed.

## Important Dates

**January 15** – No School  
**January 22** – Gallaher Family Skate Night, 6-8pm  
**January 25** – End of Marking Period 2  
**January 26** – No School  
**January 29** – No School (Professional Development)  
National School Counseling Week. February 5th-9th.  
**February 12** – Parent Conferences  
**February 19** – No School

## School Spirit Days!

**January 12** – Decades Day - Pick an outfit that represents a decade

**January 19** – Eagles Day and Football Day

**January 25** – Gallaher Shirt Day

**February 2** – Decades Day - Pick an outfit that represents a decade



# Related Arts



## **Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech**

3rd-5th graders will have the chance to join a live Zoom with Jeff Kinney, author of Diary of Wimpy Kid and KN-2nd will learn about Matt de la Pena, author of Last Stop on Market Street. Did you know that Roblox has a location sharing feature? Check your child's settings.

## **Ms. D - Visual Arts**

It's a New Year and there is new art to be made!

Grades 3-5th are working on basic drawing skills and techniques. They soon will be working on drawing 3D objects, places, and people!

KN-2nd are working on color mixing. Drawing basics, and then sculpture!

## **Ms. DeLeo- STEM**

Happy New Year!  
4th grade is starting a unit on electricity this month! We are creating circuits and discussing the differences between an opened and closed circuit. We are also experimenting with how energy travels through different materials!

## **Mr. Fortunato - P.E.**

In P.E. we have been learning basketball fundamentals which we will use during our tournament. Following basketball, we will begin learning about the 5 Health Related Fitness Components to keep us healthy!

## **Ms. Polman - Music**

Our Gallaher musicians are growing their music literacy skills through Daily Oral Music exercises including reading and performing rhythms, melodies, and pitch recognition.

Also, recorders are just around the corner for 3rd & 4th grade! 3rd grade will play these instruments in class, while 4th grade will also be bringing them home to practice.

# Kindergarten

## Mr. Reed - Room 127

Hello, January and Happy New Year all!

In math we are learning addition in earnest by finding combinations of numbers that make 3, 4, and 5. We continue to practice counting by 1s, 5, and 10s as well.

In reading we are reviewing the rules and focusing on high frequency words as well as reading and listening comprehension.

## Ms. Arban - Room 128

Jumping into January and excited about the New Year!! In Reading we are continuing to focus on letter sounds and sight words. In Math, we are becoming experts at counting to 100 by 10's and 1's. In Science, we are noticing the changes that occur in the season of Winter. All are eagerly awaiting the possibility of snow as the temperatures fall. Happy New Year from room 128!!

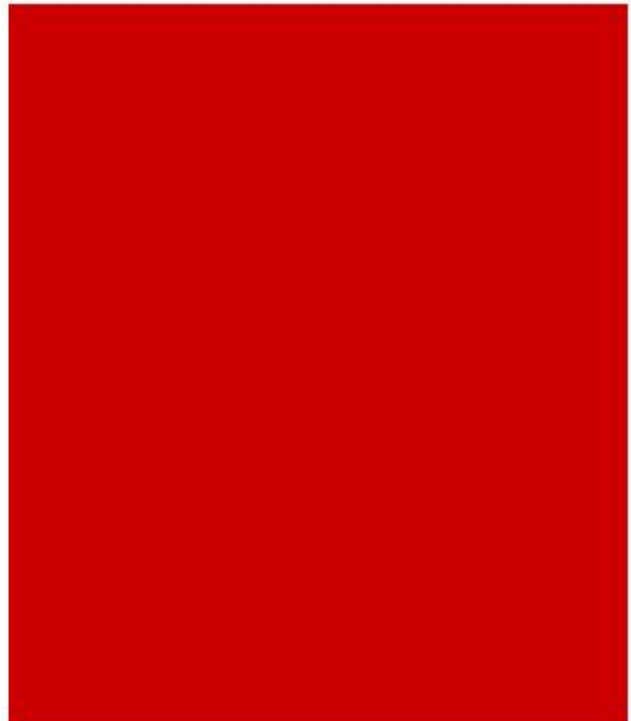
## Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

We have been working hard on our reading and math centers to practice what we are learning!

In Leader in Me, we have been learning how to make a plan to meet our goals!

We have been using a new way to work together in groups called Dino Pods! We love being able to work with new friends all the time.

Finally, we have been working hard to meet our Lexia minutes each week!



### Ms. Childs - Room 126

This month we will be observing and talking about the weather and trees in our new season of Winter! We are working on being able to identify and write number 0-20 and have been learning how to add within 10. We are improving our Reading and Writing skills by taking our time to sound out CVC words and identify sight words. We are excited for the 2nd half of the school year!

### Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

Happy New Year! This month we will be studying the winter weather and arctic animals, starting off with the pleasant penguin. In reading we will continue to sound out words and work on our comprehension skills. In writing we will work on using sight words to write a sentence. We love to move up levels on Lexia and earn awards! In math we will continue to add and subtract within 10!



## Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Ms. DiNardo and I am one of the secretaries at Gallaher. I started here on February 8, 2021 so my three year anniversary is just around the corner! Although I have only been here for three years, it feels like I've been here forever – probably because I am an alumnus of Gallaher myself! Yup – I attended Gallaher from 1970 thru 1976 and I have pictures in the office to prove it where I'm rocking the latest 70s fashions. I love working here and interacting with all of the teachers, students, parents, and of course Mrs. Cassel, Mrs. Lynch and Mrs. Roberts! Never a dull moment in the office!

Before coming to Gallaher, I worked at AstraZeneca and retired after 36 years – 17 years in the Legal Department and 19 years working on clinical studies. I have two daughters, Rachel and Michelle and 6 grandchildren - Mikayla 12, Lucas 10, Adalynn 6, Gia 3, and twins - Aubrey and Adison, who are almost 1!

When I'm not spending time with family (or babysitting my grandchildren), I am very active with Girl Scouts as a co-leader of Mikayla's troop. I also enjoy making quilts and sewing projects. We love to spend time at our seasonal campground in Maryland – only 40 minutes away and it seems like a vacation every weekend from March thru October!



# First

## Ms. Carrell - Room 123

Happy New Year from Room 123! We jumped right back into learning. We are also jumping on the number line to help us add and subtract. We can now write a 5 sentence paragraph with a topic sentence, detail sentences and a closing sentence. We are focused on meeting our goals that we could not do yet!

## Ms. Cagle - Room 122

In reading we are learning about connections. The 3 connections are personal, world and book. In math we are learning how to add and subtract on number lines. We can show you the directions on the compass rose. We also got to repot our plants, it's so fun to get messy!

## Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

In Math, we are learning about addition and subtraction equations using the number line. In Phonics, we have been doing blends like s-blends. Our reading stories are about community. In Social Studies, we made a big map called Gingerbread City. We put gingerbread houses, streets, a lake and a map key on it. In Writing, we all published our turkeys in disguise stories. We are making a book of our What Is It? riddles.

## Ms. Weldon - Room 119

Happy New Year! We are back and off to an amazing start. We are adding and subtracting using the number line. We are reading about being a good citizen in our communities. We are writing our new year resolutions, and setting learning goals. We are learning about Martin Luther King Jr. as we approach Martin Luther King Jr. Day. We will continue to work hard in Room 119 and follow the 7 habits. We are excited to learn new things in 2024!

## Ms. Leonhard - VA

Happy New Year from 1st grade VA! In math we are using number lines to add and subtract. We have been reading and writing about communities. We can now write several sentences in writing. In phonics we have been learning to read words with consonant blends. We just took the iReady reading test. Soon we will take the math assessment. We have been learning geography in social studies.



## Staff Spotlight



Hi! I'm Mrs. Wagner, one of Gallaher's speech-language pathologists (SLP). I have been an SLP for over 30 years and this is my 2nd year here. My husband, son, and I live in West Chester, PA. with our two amazing dogs. Our daughter lives in Montreal, Canada! Besides my job at Gallaher, I also love many outdoor activities like skiing, gardening, beachcombing, hiking, camping, and biking. Happy New Year!

# Second

## Ms. DaSilva - VA

Happy New Year! We are halfway through the school year. We are working really hard and our iReady Reading scores are phenomenal! We are learning about measurement in math. We know that 12 inches are in a foot and 3 feet are in a yard. In Social Studies, we are learning about different landforms on Earth. Our focus in reading is about why we need a government. We have read different informational texts about our government and also read some historical fiction about George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, and Betsy Ross. We love to read and have a fun time learning!

## Ms. Alms - Room 116

Happy January! In Reading you can ask us what we have learned about the government and community workers. In Math, we're going to do a lot of measuring. For fun, practice measuring different things at home. We're going to start doing Free Write Friday! We had fun using our imagination and being creative to write stories! Remember to read for 15 minutes every day!

## Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

Room 117 is working really hard after break. In math we are focused on measurement using inches, feet, and yards. In reading we are learning about community workers and our government. We are also writing about either firefighters or police officers and how they help us. Social studies is focused on our earth and the landforms that make up our planet. We are finishing up our I-ready reading test and math will start next week

## Ms. Wilson - Room 118

Wow! It's January and we continue to learn! In Math, we are measuring in inches and feet. We are learning all about government and its laws. Ask us and we can tell you some laws and why they are important. Landforms are our focus in Social Studies. We are getting better and better at writing. We are including details and coming up with some creative introductions!



# Third

## Ms. Read - Room 101

We are starting off the year strong! We spent the first week back reviewing our routines and procedures. In reading we read informational texts about Rosa Parks and Cesar Chavez. In math we are practicing our telling time skills. We are also starting to learn about elapsed time. We are looking forward to reaching our new years goals we made!

## Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

We are excited to be going into the new year together! We have been writing informative essays on our favorite animals and reading about government and non fiction text in reading. In math, we are starting to learn about time and fractions! Science has been fun as we have done experiments to learn about animal survival.

## Ms. McClarin - Room 104

We just finished our middle of the year iReady Reading test. Everyone was able to show growth! In writing class, we are learning how to write an informational piece on animals. We are learning about maps and globes in Geography. In Science, we are learning environments that are best for animals to survive. We are learning about measuring mass and volume. We use liters for volume and grams for mass. Also, we have been practicing how to tell time and figure out elapsed time.

## Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

EVERYONE in our class has earned at least one Lexia certificate. Our class is seeing huge growth on our Iready lessons and mid year checks. In Reading, we are finishing up our Government for the People Unit and will be moving into a Comparing Points of View next week. In math, we are learning to tell time, and other measurement units. We also set new goals for the year.

## 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.

January ELA: Unit 3 and 4

[Elementary ELA \(K-5\)](#)

January Math: Unit 4

[Elementary Math](#)



# Fourth

## Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

This month 4th grade is working hard on subtraction and addition strategies. In reading we have been learning about the government and summarizing the topics we read in class. In science we are learning about energy. In social studies we will be focusing on the history of enslavement and black history month projects. For leader in me students created their mission statement and focused on their mid year iready goals

## Mrs. Brown - Room 108

Wow! WE are halfway through our school year together! In Math we have been working on learning and choosing a strategy that feels good to us to help us add and subtract. In reading we continue to research ways that the government influences the way we live. Our informative writing pieces have taught us what a natural disaster is, and how the government can help provide aide when one occurs. We are working on meeting our middle of the year iREADY schores. Ask us how we did!

## Ms. Smith - Room 105

We have been busy in room 105! In math we have been working on strategies that can make our addition faster. In reading we have been learning about the government and how to create a perfect summary! We are currently working on an informative essay that describes how the Government can help after a natural disaster. Finally, we have been working hard to reach our goals during mid-year testing!



## Ms. Frank - VA

Did you know that the second Monday of January is National 4th Graders day? We just learned that this year and had fun celebrating on the 8th! It is hard to believe that the school year is halfway done. We have been busy learning all different strategies to solve math word problems. We are getting better every day!



# Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Hilda Ortiz. I have been at Gallaher for the past 3 years. I am one of the custodians at Gallaher. I love my job because I get to meet so many people! I love to make people smile and laugh! On my time outside of work, I love to spend time with my family and go shopping!



# Fifth

## Ms. Bucci - Room 111

In Room 111, we have been working diligently on learning all that we can about decimals! We have successfully completed 3 units in our Math curriculum, and have begun our 4th unit! In Reading class, we are learning about time order words, summarizing, and different skills while learning about the Constitution and voting rights. Before winter break, we had a movie celebration, and got to enjoy crafts and fun with our classmates! Happy 2024!

## Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

Right before the weather got cold, we were out in our garden harvesting and preparing it for the winter. We've been learning about decimals and the open array for division in Math. In Reading, we have learned about the Constitution and amendments that protect our voting rights. In Science, we have started learning about what could cause water shortages. And we continue to work on having a growth mindset, being responsible for our own learning, and mastering our daily learning targets.

## Mr. Dabney - Room 109

Greetings Gallaher families! For the month of January, your 5th Grade Community Leaders are engaging in text-based discussions in every subject, bringing the content to life and demonstrating high-quality scholar work. The hot button topic among Community Leaders center around the struggle equal Voting Rights for all Americans from the 19th century until the Voting Rights Act of 1965!

## Ms. Burton - Room 110

Happy 2024, what a journey it has been. As December was coming to a close we were working hard with decimals. We added, subtracted, rounded, and expanded them. Whew, I'd say we were experts. In Reading we have been sharpening our skills with summarizing, differentiating between important information and interesting facts. Since our return, we have been completing mid-year i-Ready Diagnostics.

## Ms. McDermond - VA

Fifth Grade VA is very busy. We are learning about voting rights and writing an informative essay about one of those rights. We are doing many ratio tables and other multiplication strategies and learning about decimals in our new math unit. In Social Studies we are learning about bartering and money and in Science we are continuing to learn about Earth Systems. Our Social Studies State testing has been rescheduled for Tuesday, January 23.



## Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Ms. Bucci and I am one of the 5th grade teachers at Gallaher. I have loved this year so far - I definitely have the best class in the school! :)

When I'm not at school, I am hanging out with my kids, Rocco and Izzy. I like to go for bike rides and find the newest spot with the best lattes.

Here is a beautiful picture of my best friend, Mrs. McLaughlin and me.

