

## Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

# Panther Press



**March 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:**

Greetings Gallaher Family! We are excited for March and the great learning that continues to take place at Gallaher! We just completed the IABs (Interim Assessment Block) which will give us great information about our students' academic progress to date, and the areas that we still need to grow! This will help us as we look to our state assessment at the end of April and May for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. We are always excited to show off the great things that are happening at Gallaher and the growth our students are making!

**From the Office**





## Counselors' Corner

Happy March to our Gallaher students and families! This month our counseling lessons are focusing on Identifying Feelings and Coping Skills through our Zones of Regulation curriculum.

Please be on the lookout for our family engagement parenting series starting this month via zoom in collaboration with Child Inc.. More information will be provided to you in our weekly Gallaher announcements.

Lastly, School Social Work week is from March 3- 9th. As a way to celebrate, please take a moment to teach your child about the importance of mental health and support and resources in our community.



## Nurse's Notes

**March is National Nutrition month. This month is devoted to helping people learn what foods are good for your body and what aren't. A few facts about your body and food: What food group is used by the body's cells to produce energy? Answer: Carbohydrates which are turned into sugar.**

## Important Dates

March 8 – No School  
Student Led Conferences

March 14 - PTA Meeting

March 18-25 - Book Fair

March 27 – End of Marking Period 3

March 28 – No School  
(Grading Day)

Friday, March 29-Friday, April 5  
No School (Spring Break)

Monday, April 8 – First day back

April 10 - No School

## School Spirit Days!

March 1– Dress Like a Book Character

March 7- Wear a color that makes you happy for SEL Day

### **SPIRIT WEEK!!**

March 11- Gallaher Shirt Day

March 12- Twin Day

March 13- Pajama Day

March 14- Wear a Shirt with a number

March 15- Green Day

March 21- Mismatch socks

March 22– Princess vs. Superheroes

March 26- Dress to Impress (Picture Day)

March 27– Gallaher Shirt Day



# Related Arts



## Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech

**Book Fair - 3/18 - 3/22**

We will also be celebrating  
Read Across America,  
Women's History Month and  
Write Your Own Story Day

"Reading can take you places  
you've never been before"  
- **Dr. Seuss**

## Ms. D - Visual Arts

5th-3rd Grade Students are working  
on creating SHAPE EXPLOSIONS!

They are doing an awesome job  
using all of their drawing skills to  
create and *illusion of space!*

**Ask your 5th-3rd grader: "What is  
one type of way you can make a  
flat drawing look 3D?"**

KN-2nd Grades are transitioning into  
using their skills to create and build!

They will be splattering paint! They  
will be building sculptures and **they  
MIGHT get messy!**

## Ms. DeLeo- STEM

5th grade is starting 3D  
printing in STEM! They will  
be learning about how to  
design 3D printing models  
on a software called  
Tinkercad.

## Mr. Fortunato - P.E.

With spring right around  
the corner, we have been  
preparing by learning the  
fundamentals of sports  
which we can play out on  
the field.

## Ms. Polman - Music

Kindergarten and 1st gd. are exploring  
the elements of music through two  
musical stories- "The Carnival of  
Animals" and "Peter and the Wolf".

2nd gd. is increasing their music  
literacy skills in rhythms and notes on  
the music staff.

3rd gd. is learning how to play the  
recorder, while 4th grade is off to a  
great start in the Recorder Karate  
program.

5th graders are composing their own,  
original raps.



# Kindergarten

## Mr. Reed - Room 127

Mr. Reed's class has been celebrating 100 days of kindergarten. We did 100 seconds of exercise, including push ups. We counted 100 objects and wrote what we would do with \$100. We even ate 100 snacks!

In math we are reviewing money and shapes.

We love school!

## Ms. Arban - Room 128

In Reading, our new unit is all about technology. Kindergartners have a hard time believing that Mrs. A never had an iPad or cell phone growing up!! In Math, we are making predictions, will March come in like a lion or a lamb? We voted "lion". Hard to believe that over a hundred days of school have passed and we are now looking forward to Spring, well at least according to the groundhog.

## Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

This month in Leader in Me we have been learning about thinking abundantly to make sure everyone can win!

In reading we have been working hard on our word wall words and syllables. In math, we have been doing Number Corner and learning comparison words as well as counting our days in school.

At this point in the year, we are getting very good at following our routines to help our day run smoothly!





### Ms. Childs - Room 126

In Math, we have been working hard to learn how to count by 10s and learning to identify our teen numbers. We have also been enjoying learning about shapes and playing fun games to help us learn the names of shapes and their attributes. We are also working hard in Reading on things like decoding and blending sounds in words. We are looking forward to Spring and hopefully warmer weather coming soon!

### Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

This month we shared of love for reading with guest readers from 4th grade and our district science coach. In math, we continued to learn about 2D and 3D shapes, composing and decomposing our teen numbers, and celebrating 100th day. We also learned about black musicians, inventors, athletes, artists, scientists, and change makers! We are excited for the changes Spring will bring!



## Staff Spotlight



Hi Everyone, I am **Dr. McDonald**. I am called Dr. McDonald because I have a doctoral degree in nursing. I have been at Gallaher now for 3 years. I am so excited to be here with all of you. Prior to moving into school nursing I worked with many different age groups and populations. I have been a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner, taking care of premature and sick infants for the past 16 years in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Christiana Care. I was also a traveling nurse practitioner and worked in Tennessee, Florida, Maryland and PA.

I have 3 grown children, 2 boys and 1 girl. My oldest son just got married in September. He married a wonderful girl, who is also a Neonatal Nurse. My second son works at a plumbing supply store and my daughter is a elementary school teacher in Philadelphia.

My door is always open to you and your children so feel free to contact me with any questions. My direct line is 302-454-2225.



# First

## Ms. Carrell - Room 123

We are officially 100 days smarter! We all were super excited to be recognized for at our awards ceremony. We continue to show growth by completing our IReady and Lexia lessons. We will be wrapping up Sound and Light. The sunshine has allowed us to see our shadows! Our penguin friends have continued to help us with our math lessons. We are so lucky to have each other.

## Ms. Cagle - Room 122

We have been working hard on our opinion pieces during writing. Right now we are writing about our favorite ice cream flavor and why it is the best. We started a brand new curriculum for math and are excited for all the new math centers. We are doing I ready math and they even gave us a Plory (orange character on Iready) for our classroom! We are learning about Black History Month. It is so interesting learning about some of the people who helped us have the world we do today. We challenged Mrs. Cagle to a reading challenge and are trying to beat her!

## Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

In Math, we celebrated the 100th Day of School. Some of us dressed up like we were 100 years old! We got awards certificates for our good work in Specials and in our class. In Math, we are learning about 2-D shapes. The new theme in Reading is technology. We are learning about light and sound in Science.

## Ms. Weldon - Room 119

We have continued our awesome learning. We are 100 days smarter! We have enjoyed learning about important leaders and inventors for Black History Month. Learning about Sound and Light were so much fun. We now understand shadows. In math we had fun learning about measurement and penguins. We were so excited to receive awards during our first awards ceremony. The learning and fun never ends in Room 119!



## Ms. Leonhard - VA

February has been a busy month for our 1st grade VA class! We celebrated the 100th Day of School. In math we have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes. We have been celebrating Black History Month. Two of the people we learned about are Ruby Bridges and Rosa Parks. We started Unit 5 in reading which is all about technology and robots. We continue to work hard on our Lexia lessons and iReady reading and math lessons.



## Staff Spotlight



Hello, everyone! My name is Victoria Bennett! I am the new Special Education Coordinator here at Gallaher. I work with K-5th grade on-site and virtual students and families who have or need special education services. I started at Gallaher in January right after Winter Break. Prior to that, I worked for 17 years in Colonial School District as a Special Education Teacher. Most of my years were spent teaching Kindergarten, but I also taught 1st through 4th grade early in my career. I have a 10 year old son, Liam, who I love very much! We live in Newark, DE with our dog, Simmonds, and our cat, Gritty. I love the Philadelphia Flyers and try to go to games as much as I can during hockey season! I also love to go to the beach and spend as much time there as possible! I am proud to be a Gallaher Panther and look forward to getting to know all of you!





# Second

## Ms. DaSilva - VA

March is almost here! We are ready for Spring and warmer weather. We are excited for the first VA Awards Ceremony to celebrate all of our accomplishments. We can't wait for the 100th day of school. What will we look like when we are 100 years old? This month, we took a Virtual Field Trip on the Kalmar Nyckel. In math, we are learning about place value and money. In reading, we started our new unit and learning about inventions and solving problems through technology. We also want to thank our 5th grade readers that came on Fridays to read to us. Happy 100th Day of School!

## Ms. Alms - Room 116

In Math, we are working hard to learn how to read and write numbers to 1,000 in numbers, words, and expanded form. In Writing, we wrote a fictional diary entry. We had to pretend we were a villager in the story. It was fun. Our reading is getting a little faster and a little smoother. Keep practicing your reading, writing, and math at home. How many of you are keeping a diary to practice writing?

## Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

We are working hard here in room 117. Math is focused on place value to 1,000; understanding ones, tens, and hundreds. We are starting a new reading unit on technology, students will be writing about their favorite piece of technology. We are doing well with our Lexia and I-Ready lessons. Make sure to keep reading at home and always trying your best each day in class.

## Ms. Wilson - Room 118

March is here and we are ready for spring! We continue to do our best and our reading Iready scores reflect our progress! In math, we are writing numbers to 1,000 in expanded form as well as written form. We have begun a new unit in reading which is about solving problems with technology. Kids are super excited to write about their favorite technology device! Our first awards ceremony was a huge success!



# Third

## Ms. Read - Room 101

We had a great February! We got to read fun plays and learn about point of view. In math we have been working on multiplication and division. We are starting to learn how to write word problems. In social studies we are learning about economics and how things are produced. We are preparing our LIM binders so we are ready for student-led conferences!

## Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

We enjoyed getting our awards and our Valentine's Day party. In math we are learning division and in reading we are learning character point of view. We have also been writing fun narrative stories with dialogue! We have been super close to our class goals and want to meet it more in March!

## Ms. McClarin - Room 104

Our class really enjoyed having their first awards ceremony. Each child was recognized for their achievements in school so far this year. We are also having fun listening to our current read aloud Holes. The main character is really interesting. Our big focus in Math for third grade is multiplication, division, and fractions. We are also spending time practicing those skills with word problems. Our newest science unit is about animal traits.

## Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

This month has been very busy for our classroom. We had Kalmar Nyckle do a Virtual field trip. The students also were The students were also able to meet in person for a Smarter Balance testing session. We have been studying inventions and inventors in Reading Class. In math, we are working on multiplication and division. Students will have a math test around March 10th. The study guide is on Schoology.



## 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.

March ELA: Unit 5 and 6  
[Elementary ELA \(K-5\)](#)

March Math: Unit 5  
[Elementary Math](#)

## News from the PTA

Please join us for our March PTA meeting! **Thursday, March 14th, 7pm.** You can come in person to the Gallaher school library or join us on Zoom at the following link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83542706879>

We hope to see you there!



### Book Fair is Coming! March 18th-25th

Don't forget to set up your student's eWallet account for cashless, stress-less shopping. Friends and family can even contribute funds!

Do you have remaining funds from the fall Book fair? No worries! You can add it to the Spring eWallet! Click the [link](#) here to find out how!

Set one up here: <https://www.scholastic.com/bf/gallaherelementaryschool>

Questions for the PTA? Email us at [GallaherElemPTA@gmail.com](mailto:GallaherElemPTA@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook! [www.Facebook.com/GallaherPTA](http://www.Facebook.com/GallaherPTA)



# Fourth

## Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

This month we have taken a deep dive into shapes and angles. Ask us to show you our angle exercise! In reading we have been working on point of view and we are not starting to learn about the influences of technology. We finished our black history month projects in social studies and will be focusing on light and vision in science. We continue to work on our 7 habits each day.

## Mrs. Brown - Room 108

Our favorite unit—Geometry! 108 is learning to identify angles based on what we know about benchmark angles. We have learned more about polygons and how to describe them. We use our bodies to model angles and our words to state a shape's attributes. Ask a 4th grader to give a fact about a polygon of your choice! In reading we are learning how technology changes over time and how these advancements shape our future! We are working on meeting our Lexia and Iready goals each week.

## Ms. Smith - Room 105

This month we have been exploring the world of Geometry! In reading and writing we have just finished talking about point of view and writing narrative stories. In Social Studies we have been researching African American heroes that made a difference in history. We are looking forward to starting our new reading unit that focuses on technology and learning about the 50 states in Social Studies!





### Ms. Frank - VA

We have been very busy in 4th grade VA this past month! Here are some of the things that stand out for us:

- We love reading to the VA kindergarten on Fridays.
- We love competing with each other on our multiplication facts.
- We have loved seeing each other in person at testing.
- Our reading comprehension is getting better and better!
- We can't wait for our first awards assembly!



## Staff Spotlight



Hello! I am Karen Elmagrisi. I have lived in Delaware my WHOLE LIFE! I am a product of Christina School District Schools (Bayard, Shue and Newark High School- GO JACKETS!). I have been teaching for 22 years- 19 years at Elbert-Palmer Elementary in Southbridge, Wilmington, 1 year at Bayard School in Wilmington and the remained of the years in the Virtual Academy with Gallaher. I have been married to my husband, Maher for 8 and half years. Maher is originally from Egypt. I have slowly become an expert in several Egyptian dishes like Kofta, Koshary and Basbousa. Maher and I also love taking vacations. Our last vacation was to Costa Rica and Nicaragua (for a day) where we were able to experience the Rainforest, look inside an active volcano from the top, and sit on a beautiful beach overlooking the Pacific Ocean. WHAT AN EXPERIENCE! .





# Fifth

## Ms. Bucci - Room 111

This month has been an exciting one in Room 111! We welcomed our Student Teacher, Miss Miller, on February 5. She has quickly become a huge part of our classroom! We celebrated Black History Month by researching and then journaling from the perspective of a famous black American. In Math, we have perfected our craft using the array and algorithm to multiply larger numbers. We also had our PBS Celebration-Teachers vs. Students Basketball game! We have also been working hard in our iReady lessons. February was an exciting month!

## Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

This month we've learned all about controlling our emotions in LIM. We practiced using the standard algorithm for multiplication in Math. We are writing rap songs in Music class. We wrote awesome narratives about seeing whales. We continue to work on revising and editing our writing pieces. We learned all about interjections! and point of view. And in Social Studies we found the absolute location of Delaware learned about longitude and latitude; the equator and the prime meridian.

## Mr. Dabney - Room 109

This month, the 5th Grade Community Leaders are taking off with our study of Astrology in science unit "Patterns in Earth and Sky". Also, wrapping up our month of community service, scholars have written a very passionate opinion article about whether or not they should be required to do community service as a mandate for graduation. We are extra motivated and excited to serve in our jobs across the Gallaher community!

## Ms. Burton - Room 110

This month we have celebrated Black History with some virtual trips as we have explored just a few of the Historically Black Colleges/Universities (HBCUs). Mathematically speaking, we have sharpened our skills with multi digit multiplication and checking balances using ratio tables. Our Science focus has had us looking at the moon and stars in Astronomy. We are learning some great things here at Gallaher, just ask us about it.



## Ms. McDermond - VA

In Science we are learning about Astronomy and the patterns of the Solar System. In Math we are learning how to multiply fractions using an area model. We finished our Reading unit on point of view and completed our first-person narratives. Our Social Studies unit is all about maps and the journey of Lewis and Clark.

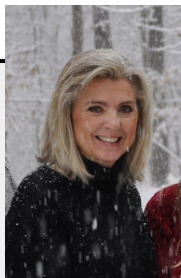


# Staff Spotlight



## *Ms. Skaug*

After a couple of decades as a classroom teacher, I joined Gallaher in the Fall of 2021 as the teacher for the Advanced Academics Program (AAP). I was born and raised in Sweden but am half Norwegian.



I love to cook and bake and will try new dishes on my 3 kids frequently. After traveling to Savannah, GA, last summer, the new dish to explore is Shrimp and Grits, along with an old favorite of mine, Fried Green Tomatoes. And, yes, while in Savannah, I also found this interesting sign posted at a McDonald's. Definitely not something you'd see posted in Sweden!

