

Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

Panther Press



November 2023

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News From Mrs. Cassel and Mrs. Lynch:

In November, we recall all the reasons we are thankful - and our Gallaher Community is right at the top of the list! We are so excited to host so many amazing family engagement opportunities to celebrate our Gallaher Community. We enjoyed our Flapjacks with Family and Friends as well as our first Gallaher Family Skate Night at the beginning of the month! We look forward to our 2nd Annual X-STREAM Night on November 8th, and conferences throughout the month! Thank you for your support!

From the Office



Counselors' Corner

Hello everyone from Mrs. Hazlett and Ms. Wilson!

This month's counseling lessons are on the topic of Bullying Prevention. Please have a conversation with your student(s) about this topic to further enhance their understanding.

As a school we celebrated World Mental Health day on 10/10/23 by wearing green.

With the holidays coming up, please be on the lookout for resources we will be sharing as we are made aware of them. Please reach out to Mrs. Hazlett at Brittany.Hazlett@christina.k12.de.us for specific inquiries.

Nurse's Notes

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Diabetes is when you don't process sugar and carbohydrates well. We will be selling bracelets later in the year for the Diabetes Society. Keep a look out for them!

Remember to bring in all of your current physical exam and shot records in to the nurse as they are updated.

Have a healthy November. Enjoy your Thanksgiving feast.

Important Dates

November 4 – Annual Fall Festival at Shue Medill Middle School

November 7 – PTA Meeting at 7pm

November 8 – Gallaher 2nd Annual X-Stream Night, 5:30-7:30pm

November 8 – End of MP1

November 9 - No School -Grading Day

November 10 - No School -Veterans' Day

November 20 & 21 - No School
Parent/Teacher Conferences

November 22-25 - No School
Thanksgiving Break

School Spirit Days!

November 3- Flannel Day

November 8- Wear Fall Colors

November 17- Geography Shirt



Related Arts



Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech

Our authors this month were with Kate DiCamillo (Tales of Despereaux), Kelly Yang (Front Desk), and Aaron Reynolds who taught our students to embrace being unique, that everyone has a story, and don't give up - even after 390 rejection letters.

Ms. D - Visual Arts

Students in 5th grade are working against the clock to finish their very own Pop Art Project from planning to reality!

Students 2-4 have finished learning about color groups and how artist use color to express their feelings.

Ask them What is a Cool vs. Warm Color?

Students in KN-1st are working on their mind muscle connection and Scissor Safety! They practiced how to walk with scissors and cut playdough, paper, yarn, fabric, and straws!

Ms. DeLeo- STEM

In STEM, 3rd-5th grade students are experimenting with the 3 states of matter and how matter can change. K-2nd grade students are learning about structures and building strong bridges!

Mr. Fortunato - P.E.

In P.E., we have learned fundamental skills that can be transferred over into any sport. We will begin our team sports unit with floor hockey!

Ms. Polman - Music

In music class, 1st- 5th grades are learning about meter and how we can create rhythms using notes and rests of different lengths.

Kindergarten students have begun exploring their 5 voices: speaking, whispering, shouting, singing, and inner voice.

Kindergarten

Mr. Reed - Room 127

Mr. Reed's class has been learning the 8 habits, working together, and learning a ton! In math we are counting, writing, and comparing numbers up to 20. In reading we are tracking with our fingers, rhyming, and practicing beginning and ending sounds. In science we have been tracking the weather as well as measuring Gallaher's garden plants.

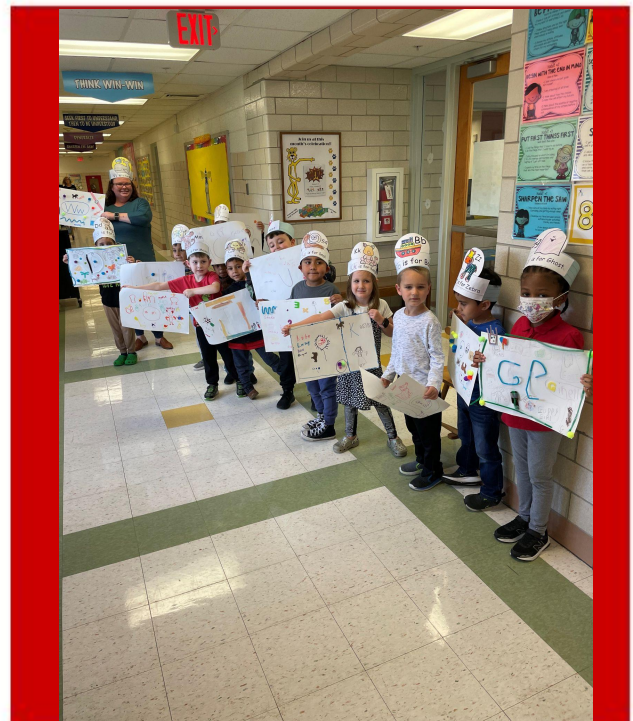
Ms. Arban - Room 128

November is all about change, changing weather and the beautiful colors on the trees. In Science, we have been exploring the signs of Fall and noticing all of the changes. In Reading, our focus has been on learning letter sounds along with the sight words I and like. In Math, we are practicing addition to 5 and being able to compare numbers (greater than, less than or equal.)

Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

This month, we have finished our ABC bootcamp and worked with Mrs. Brown's 4th grade class to make posters and hats and show off what we learned with a parade!

We have been working hard on our computer program, Lexia because it shows us what we know and what we need to learn. In math we have worked on greater than and less than. We keep working hard to learn our rules and routines!



Ms. Morgano - Room 126

We have been matching numerals to the ten frame and learning about the number rack. We learned the difference between fiction and nonfiction. In science we learned about the parts of the plants and their needs. Also, learning about how to make proactive choices during Leader in Me. We really enjoyed playing green light and red light during gameday.

Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

Red, green, yellow, brown leaves are blowing all through the town! We have been learning about all things Autumn! We have worked on patterns and positional language. We have learned to identify and write our numbers to 10. We are starting to identify our teen numbers. We are learning our letters and sounds. We enjoy talking about our favorite foods and toys, using the sight words I and like!



Staff Spotlight



Karla Astfalk



I have been a small group teacher at Gallaher for 7 years. My favorite subjects to teach are reading, writing, and math. I enjoy working with third and fourth graders.

When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family. My daughter, Gwen, will be going to college this fall. My son, David, enjoys playing soccer and lacrosse.

My husband and I love spending time with our silly dog, Daisy. This is a picture of her in her new costume. Do you know who she is going to be for Halloween?

First

Ms. Carrell - Room 123

We are getting closer to being 40 days smarter and loving first grade! We earned a pizza party for being the highest First Grade in PTA participation. We have set up our portfolios and are excited to start displaying in them. Our goal is to have at least 2 Iready Reading lessons completed and 60 minutes in Lexia a week! We can do it because we are always being positive.

Ms. Cagle - Room 122

We have been learning about life cycles in reading and science. We are reading about the life cycles of frogs, and oak trees. In Science we are watching the life cycle of a pumpkin named Jack. Jack looks old and is covered in mold. We are also learning about day and night and why there is less sunlight in the winter than in summer. We have been learning about short i in the middle of words. We are working towards earning a game party for getting a 4 or a 5 in specials all week.

Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

In Math, we made pumpkin flashcards to practice addition facts. We also used dominoes to help us with addition and comparing numbers. In Reading, we are learning about life cycles. In Phonics, we sound out words. We learned about leaders and authority in Social Studies. We are learning about verbs and nouns in Writing.

Ms. Weldon - Room 119

We have been learning about fact families and using dominoes to help us with addition. We have been enjoying learning about life cycles in reading. We are practicing our sight words. We love the short vowel song, and we practice reading cvc words. We are learning about the moon in Science and about leadership in Social Studies. We are practicing writing proper nouns in our writing. First grade is fun!

Ms. Leonhard - VA

October was a busy month in 1st grade VA class! In reading, we have been learning about the life cycle of frogs and oak trees. We play a game called Mr. Frog to practice high frequency words. In math we love doing Number Corner and we have been working with dominoes to practice counting and adding. In social studies we completed a unit on Civics and learned about citizenship. Finally, we learned about bullying and fire safety. We are looking forward to November.



GALLAHER GETS -STREAM

FAMILY FUN NIGHT!



November 8, 2023

5:30-7:30pm

Gallagher Elementary School

Second

Ms. DaSilva - VA

November is here and we have learned so much. We've loved reading and learning about different animals and their habitats. In Math, we are using an open number line to add and subtract numbers. We have also been exploring measurement. We are tracking our learning by setting individual and class goals. We have accomplished so much already in 2nd grade!

Ms. Alms - Room 116

We've enjoyed reading and learning about how animals survive in their habitats. We are going to write our first essay about a habitat! In Math, we're learning about measuring, adding, and subtracting. We started our science unit to learn about how the shape of land can change. We began our class goal of everyone doing one Iready reading and math lesson each week. We made our goal for the first week!

Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

Wow, I can't believe it's already November. It sure is going fast. We are working hard here in room 117. We are working on adding and subtracting two digit numbers in math. We are starting a new unit in reading about characters facing challenges. We are finishing up our first real writing piece about grasslands. In science we are looking at landforms and what they are made of.

Ms. Wilson - Room 118

It is November and we can't believe how much we've learned! We know place value, how to skip count by 5s, 10s, and 100's. We can add two-digit numbers. In Reading, we identified different habitats. In Science we are learning about landforms and what they are made of. In addition, we are learning to write super sentences in writing. Wow! We are super smart!

Third

Ms. Read - Room 101

This month we have been reading about animal adaptations. We did an informative writing piece about Tiger's adaptations. In math we have been using fun new strategies to learn how to multiply. In social studies we are learning about how rights and responsibilities go together. In science we got to do experiments with magnets!

Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

This month we have been collecting water and measuring in Number Corner. We have almost mastered multiplication! We have started tracking out class goal and our glow chart to reward good behavior! In reading, we have started a unit on Animal Adaptations. In science we have done experiments with magnets and learned about forces. We are very proud of all we have accomplished.

Ms. McClarin - Room 104

Fall is here and we are really getting into the third grade curriculum. We have been sharpening our geometry vocabulary during number corner and learning about measuring liquids in liters. During writing we have been writing our own stories and can't wait to share them with you at conferences. One of our favorite things to do last month was participate in the PBS activity day. We played Ultimate Rock, Paper, Scissors, Red Light/Green Light, and Sharks and Minnows. It was so fun!

Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

This month we have been reading all about animals and their adaptations like camouflage. We have also made animal posters on our favorite animals. The students will have a show and tell with the posters soon. In math, we are starting to learn about multiplication. Students have learned some fun games to play to practice. We LOVE Lexia to practice our reading!



Staff Spotlight



Hello and Happy Fall! My name is Mrs. Hazlett and I am the Social Worker and Visiting Teacher here at Gallaher Elementary. I work with students in Kindergarten through 5th grade. This is my second year at Gallaher and I am so happy to be here at our school working with our super sweet and amazing students. I enjoy long distance running, hiking on trails, traveling, and spending time with my family. I have 3 boys and they are always keeping me busy! I'm excited for the school year ahead!



Fourth

Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

WOW what a month of great learning! This month we focused on our multiplication skills and division. Ask us what a remainder one means! In reading we are now moving to a new focus about characters in a story and making inferences. We have practiced identifying the main idea too. In writing we finished our first writing essay about chipmunks. We learned a lot of fun facts.

Mrs. Brown - Room 108

In math we have been testing our strategies to solve story problems. Ask us what our favorite math strategy is! In reading we have been exposed to many texts and poems. We have practiced visualizing through the details the writer gives. We have finished our informational writing pieces about the appearances and behaviors of chipmunks. Come check them out in our 4th grade hallway. Many of us played or cheered on friends during kickball!

Ms. Smith - Room 105

In math we have been using arrays and other strategies that can help us to solve math problems. In reading, we just finished our unit on nature! In science and social studies we have been learning about fossils and how to make timelines! Our favorite activities this month have been our rock observation and exploring the rock simulation. The students in room 105 are excited about learning new and challenging things!



Ms. Frank - VA

Things that 4th grade VA do well

:

- Respect each other
- Follow most directions
- Great job learning multiplication facts
- Awesome at skip counting
- Love arrays
- Getting Lexia certificates
- Read fluently
- Writing with punctuation
- Help each other with computer issues



Staff Spotlight



Mrs. Polman is Gallaher's new music teacher!

Mrs. Polman teaches grades K-5 and directs our 4th & 5th grade Chorus. She has 20 years of experience teaching every grade level, PreK-12, and even taught at Ball State University in Indiana, helping prepare new music teachers.

Mrs. Polman was born and raised in Detroit until her family moved to Dover where she attended Caesar Rodney High School. She earned her Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Grace College in Indiana, followed by a Master of Music in Vocal Performance from Ball State. When she's not at school, she travels across the country and around the world performing as a classical singer and conductor.

Mrs. Polman's favorite thing to do is to spend time with her family. Her husband is also a music teacher, singer, and conductor. They have a daughter and son, one of whom attends Gallaher! She loves animals, crafting, sewing, reading, camping, hitting the beach, and being involved at her church.

Fifth

Ms. Bucci - Room 111

We are excited to be finishing up our unit in reading on CORN! No more corny jokes in Room 111! In math, we are working through addition and subtraction of fractions, and now moving into multiplication of fractions. In Science, we have created our ecosystems, and are excited to see how they work together. Last week, we all learned how to play kickball, and had so much fun!

Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

Likes & Learning
~Adding/subtracting fractions with unlike denominators
~How corn is produced in the U.S.
~Eco-columns: aquariums & terrariums
~Annotating & close reading
~Math strategies: money, clock & ratio table
~PBS Celebration, water ice, extra recess for 100 lessons in iReady, & Skate Night!

Mr. Dabney - Room 109

We are transitioning from multi-digit multiplication to division and multi-step word problems. As always in Community Leaders we focus on 4 areas: Giving **S.T.A.R.S.**, demonstrating character, mastery of knowledge and skills and showcasing high quality scholar work!

Ms. Burton-Hutchinson - Room 110

We are finishing up our unit on Natural Resources in reading. In math we are working on fractions. In Science we are building aquariums and terrariums, and last but not least in Social Studies we are still working on the Economics Unit. We are super excited about the number of Lexia and i-Ready lessons we have been passing as a class.

Ms. McDermond - VA

In Reading, we have been learning about natural resources and how these resources are cultivated. We wrote an informative essay about how corn is grown in the U.S. In math we have learned about fractions and how to use money and clock fractions. In science we are writing an ecosystem restoration plan to help the trees and the animals. Lastly, we are learning about how businesses are competing by setting prices.



Staff Spotlight



Hello and how do you do? My name is Mrs. Burton and I am a 5th grade teacher here at Gallaher. Even though I am new to Gallaher, I've been teaching for 22 years. I am a New Jersey native and huge sports fan. Let's go J-E-T-S!!!

In my spare time I love spending time with my family watching or playing sports. Come around to Room 110 and say hello and get to know all the different sides of Mrs. Burton.

