

## Robert S. Gallaher Elementary

# Panther Press



**October 2023**

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

Hello Gallaher Families! October is such an exciting month at Gallaher! We have completed all of our beginning of year assessments and will set our School-wide Goal, as well as enjoy WIG day together! October is when we set our Wildly Important Goals (WIGs) for our school, for each class, as well as each individual student. Students use their beginning of year data to set reasonable goals for themselves. You will get to see how they progress across the year! Thank you for your continued support!

**From the Office**





## Counselors' Corner

Greetings from your school counselor, Ms. Wilson, and your school social worker, Mrs. Hazlett!

This month we are focusing on the topic of "Sharing" with our students for their classroom guidance lessons.

World Mental Health day is on Oct. 10, 2023. This is an opportunity to talk with your loved ones about what mental health is, how we need to look after it, and how important it is to get help if you are struggling. If you would like to participate in celebrating this date, your student can wear green, as the green ribbon symbolizes good mental health for all.

If you have a student who is in need of counseling services or referrals to community resources, please reach out to us at [Brittany.Hazlett@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:Brittany.Hazlett@christina.k12.de.us) or [Maggie.Wilson@christina.k12.de.us](mailto:Maggie.Wilson@christina.k12.de.us)

## Nurse's Notes

Welcome back to school! Please remember that all emergency forms are due this month. Also, please send in the latest copy of your student's physical exam and immunizations.

This month's weather is always tricky. Make sure you check what your student is wearing before they leave for school.

With Halloween coming, please make sure to check the candy your student is eating. Have a safe and spooky month!

## Important Dates

**October 12** - Picture Day

**October 13** - No School -  
Teacher PD

**October 16** - No School -  
Teacher PD

**October 28** - Flapjacks  
with Family and Friends:  
Applebees 8-10 am

**Nov. 1** - Family Skate  
Night: Christiana  
Skating Rink 6-8 pm

**Nov 8** - X-STREAM Night:  
Gallaher 5:30-7:30

## School Spirit Days!

**October 6-** Disney Day

**October 10-** Wear Green

*In support of Mental Health Awareness Day*

**October 11-** Wear a WIG

*WILDLY Important Goal Day*

**October 12-** Dress to Impress

**October 20-** Animal Shirt

**October 27-** Gallaher Shirt Day

**October 31-** Story Book  
Character



# Related Arts



## Mrs. Finocchiaro - Library/Tech

In Library, students learned about Peter Reynolds and Ellen Ochoa. Mr. Reynolds first knew he wanted to be an illustrator when he was in kindergarten!! And Dr. Ochoa was the first Hispanic woman to go to space even though she was rejected three times, she chose not to give up!

## Ms. D - Visual Arts

5th Graders are learning how to plan and combine different ideas to create their own project. They are planning in their Sketchbooks like a true artist!

All other grades are learning their colors, Rainbow order, Color groups and families, and more!

**Ask your student:** What does R.O.Y.G.B.I.V. Stand for?

**Answer: Rainbow order!**

## Ms. DeLeo- STEM

In STEM, students have been completing STEM challenges to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. We made rockets to celebrate Ellen Ochoa and Soccer Goals to celebrate Lionel Messi

## Mr. Fortunato - P.E.

In P.E. we have been assigned our colors for the year, and competing in our teams to learn to work cooperatively with one another to succeed.

## Ms. Polman - Music

In music class, students are learning about the importance of a **steady beat!** They've discovered that there are patterns of **strong and weak beats** that can be felt in music and they're learning how to organize beats into groups called **measures.**



# Kindergarten

## Mr. Reed - Room 127

We have spent the first month of school learning the rules and routines of kindergarten. We are learning to be leaders in the classroom while earning Panther Bucks and Dojo Points along the way.

We are excited to embark on our journey through kindergarten!

## Ms. Arban - Room 128

Hard to believe it is October!! In Kindergarten we are doing a great job learning our routines. We have been earning lots of Panther Dollars and Dojo points. In Reading we are naming the letters of the alphabet. Math is all about counting and shapes.

## Mrs. Walsh - Room 125

We have had a great first month of school and are working hard on following the rules to be respectful, responsible, and safe! We have been working hard to learn all our letters and the sounds they make. We have been looking closely at one letter each day!

In math we have been learning about shapes and doing lots of counting!





Ms. Morgano  
Ms. Childs - Room 126

We are working on our chromebooks and learning about letter sounds.

In number corner, we are learning about patterns.

We are learning about rhyming words.

In science, we are planting!

We are practicing sight words.

We are learning about fiction and nonfiction books.

We are practicing the names of solid figures.

Ms. Evans-Wilson - VA

As we leap into the fall, we are continuing to work on our routines and build up our stamina. In Reading, we are learning our letters, sounds, and rhyming. In Math, we are learning our shapes, numbers, and patterns. We are exploring the seasons and how trees look during the different seasons!



## Staff Spotlight



If you have been a part of the Gallaher Community for more than one year, you may know me as Mrs. Ragan, the 3rd grade teacher. However, last year I began a new adventure as Gallaher's Instructional Coach! My main job is to look at our school data and support the teachers in improving instructional practices and doing whatever it takes to help each student to excel here at Gallaher. You may see me directing the afternoon carline, helping with testing students, assisting in the school garden and even doing lunch duty for Ms Alm's class. My favorite part of working here is getting to know the students and watching them work hard and achieve many learning goals! On my free time, I love to walk and head to the beach with my husband and 2 sons.





# First

## Ms. Carrell - Room 123

Greetings from the pineapple room. We have been busy building a community and learning first grade rules. In small reading groups, we have 3 jobs to do- Independent Work, Mrs. Carrell and Chromebook. We EEK on the carpet. We love the work stations during math. Our calendar helps us with patterns. We love first grade!

## Ms. Cagle - Room 122

In reading, we are learning how to work at our centers. We are starting to buddy read! In science we are planting seeds, learning about the sun and moon, and have a surprise pumpkin experiment that Mrs. Cagle is keeping a secret from us! We get to find out on Friday! We are super excited about! We practiced observations by looking at cicada shells, they were super cool! We love first grade so far!!!!

## Mrs. Greenzweig - Room 120

In Math, we are adding using the number racks. We made paper popsicles to find what flavor is the best and to count by 2s. We are learning about sounds and words in Reading. We also learned non-fiction and fiction. We wrote about our families. We made owl booklets to help us with the rules. We made paper faces and wrote our talents on paper apples. That was our "harvest of talents" hallway project.

## Ms. Weldon - Room 119

We are off to a great start! In Reading we are learning strategies that good readers use. We are learning to preview text, make predictions, visualize, reread, and chunk words. In math we are adding, skip counting, and measuring. In writing we wrote about our families and what we like about school. In Science we are learning about night and day. First grade is so much fun!



## Ms. Leonhard - VA

We can't believe that it is already October! We have been learning the rules and routines of virtual first grade. We are learning about being leaders in Leader in Me. In math we've been counting by 2's and 5's and practicing our addition facts. In reading, we've been reviewing the letters of the alphabet. We learned about Johnny Appleseed on his birthday.



## Staff Spotlight



Hello! My name is Ms. Hanifee, and I am one of the MLL Teachers at Gallaher. I service all English language learners from Kindergarten to Fifth grade. I have been teaching for over a year now, and this is my second year at Gallaher. In my freetime I like to go for walks, read, and watching baseball with my family (GO ORIOLES!).





# Second

## Ms. DaSilva - VA

Second Grade VA is off to an excellent start. In math, we are making equations to 20, comparing numbers, and learning how to tell time. We are using Lexia and Read Naturally on Classlink. We have been discussing stories and writing in our reading response journals everyday. We are excited to learn about Landforms and how they change. We know what it means to have a Growth Mindset and all about Respect.

## Ms. Alms - Room 116

We are off to a great start! In Reading we are reviewing phonics and spelling patterns. We are practicing constructive conversations and responding to text in our journals. In Writing, we are reviewing capital letters, ending marks, and writing super sentences. In Math, we are counting by twos, fives and solving problems. Our Social Studies lessons teach us all about respect!

## Mr. Brutscher - Room 117

We are off to a quick start here in room 117. With our new program, Lexia, students are working hard to improve their reading skills. In math, our focus has been adding and subtracting using the number rack. Our social studies lessons have been focused around respect for all and how to show respect to others including our peers and adults. Let make this an awesome year.

## Ms. Wilson - Room 118

What a great start to second grade! Solving story problems, skip-counting and sharpening our fluency facts are making us better mathematicians. In reading, we are reading fiction and non-fiction books. We practice writing responses in our journals with the correct punctuation every day! In social studies, we are learning to be respectful.



# Third

## Ms. Read - Room 101

We have had a great start to our school year! We have read some fun books in ELA that helped us learn about author's purpose. In math we have been working on our addition and subtraction skills. We love getting to work with partners to solve challenging word problems too! In social studies we do activities that teach us about rights, responsibilities, and privileges.

## Ms. Dannaker - Room 103

We have started out third grade strong! We have started learning about patterns in number corner and read some fun stories already in ELA. In science we have done an experiment with forces! In social studies we are learning about rights, responsibilities, and privileges. 103 wants to continue our good work and be amazing role models. .

## Ms. McClarin - Room 104

Our class has been busy the first month of school. We have been learning cursive, playing math games, practicing reading in Lexia and iReady, and so much more. In Social Studies we have focused on the difference between rights, responsibilities, and privileges. We are working on being responsible and respectful as we get to know each other and the expectations of being third graders.

## Ms. Elmagrisi- VA

Virtual Academy third grade has been really working hard to learn the tech skills and academic skills needed to become successful. Did you know that we can all now use Kami, Schoology, Iready, Lexia, and Readlive? In Math, we will have our first test soon on addition and subtraction. Students are also learning how to be leaders while on zoom.





## Staff Spotlight



Hi, my name is Donna Arvay and this is my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Gallaher. I teach small group instruction to students in kindergarten, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade. I have been in the teaching profession for over 20 years and have previously taught kindergarten, first, fourth and fifth grades. Younger students may recognize me from the breakfast or car riders' line. My husband and I have been married for 12 years. We have two children, Jude (9) and Caroline (6) and a Chocolate Lab named Abby. During our free time, we like to go to Longwood Gardens, Phillies games, museums, or to parks. We love traveling to warmer climates and have recently been on a Disney Cruise.



# Fourth

## Mrs. Coughlin - Room 106

This school year has been so fantastic and exciting so far! We have showed up each day ready to work. In math we have been working on prime and composite numbers. We also and working on solving multiplication problems. In reading we have been practicing making annotations, making inferences and predictions when reading a story. We also completed our first history bag project.

## Mrs. Brown - Room 108

What a great start to the school year! In math we have been working on strategies to solve multiplication & division problems. In reading we are working on establishing routines for groups and listening. In science we have been digging deep to explore types of rocks. We have started to share our history bags and learn about each other's lives in social studies.

## Ms. Smith - Room 105

We have had a great start to the school year in Room 105! In math we have been practicing strategies to make multiplication and division more efficient. In reading, we have been getting back into 'school mode' by practicing our listening skills and establishing routines. In writing we created personal narratives and had our friends and family play a game of Guess Who! In Social Studies we have been learning all about our classmates and their personal history!





## Ms. Frank - VA

It has been a great start for our 4th grade virtual class. We are getting to know each other and establishing our routines and expectations. 99Math has already become a favorite in our room. Students are doing a great job working on multiplication and division problems using a variety of strategies. We are looking forward to starting our first unit in Reading about nature.



# Staff Spotlight



# HELLO!



My name is Katie Smith and I am new to the Gallaher family! In May, I graduated from Penn State with my Masters in Special Education. Now, I am so excited to start my first year of teaching in 4th Grade! I live in Hockessin with my mom, my dad, little brother, and my golden doodle Sully. In the summer I like to travel to Florida and go to the beach. I love to scuba dive and relax with a good book on the boat or by the pool. When I cant be at the beach, I like to shop, do arts and crafts and watch tv! I can't wait for an awesome year at Gallaher!



# Fifth

## Ms. Bucci - Room 111

Room 111 has been rocking it this month! We have learned how to work together as a team, and have gotten mostly ALL 5s in our Specials! We have learned classroom routines, and have successfully completed almost a full unit in Math, learning multiplication strategies. In Social Studies, we are learning about MONEY, and supply and demand. We are showing respect to our classmates and teachers.

## Ms. Orndorff - Room 112

A few of our favorite things:  
Zah'nye: our schedule  
Matthew, Han, & Josh: all the cool math strategies  
Rebecca & Olivia: our classroom friends & the best teacher ever!  
Cambria: cursive  
Gavin & Emily: Lexia  
Zevin: the challenging work  
Estefani: 5th grade clubs like band, strings, & choir  
Marvin: looking forward to long division

## Mr. Dabney - Room 109

We're learning about multiples and factors.  
We're learning about corn plants and writing an essay about them.  
In science, we're learning about the economics of quantity.  
We are having a great time in 5th grade so far!

## Ms. Burton-Hutchinson - Room 110

Welcome to Room 110, where we come to Win!! This last month we have worked on a variety of math strategies like halving and doubling, as well as finding the volume of a rectangular prisms. Social Studies has been all about microeconomics (money, money, money) and Reading, we have been making progress with annotating text to further our understanding.



## Ms. McDermond - VA

Our VA 5th Graders have had a busy start. We finished reviewing routines in Benchmark and are ready to begin Unit 1 Cultivating Natural Resources. In Math we have been learning about strategies for multiplication and volume of prisms. We are helping to solve a problem with a rainforest ecosystem in Science. In Social Studies we are learning about economics and the Laws of Supply and Demand.



## Staff Spotlight



Hi! My name is Mrs. McLaughlin and I am one of the English language teachers here at Gallaher! This is my 4th year at Gallaher. I am lucky enough to work with Kindergarten to 5th graders. I love watching my students learn and grow over the years. You can also always say hi to me in the back parking lot while you drive through the car line! When I'm not at school, I am with my husband, my 2 daughters and my dog. Mikaela (4) and Kennedy (2) keep us laughing all day long. We love to go to the zoo, to the park, and to the pool. When we are at home you can often find us watching whatever sport is in season. Right now, we chant GO BIRDS every Sunday and will be shouting GO PHILS as long as they let us.