

Gayhead Elementary



Fall 2016

Gayhead Elementary School, 15 Entry Road, Hopewell Junction, NY 12533 Telephone: 845-227-1756

Dear Gayhead Families,

It is hard to believe that the first marking period of the school year is over. Our students have settled into their classes and have been working hard to tackle the exciting work of the new school year.

Thank you to everyone who attended one of our "Parents as Partner Nights" in September. There was a great turn out and that is a reflection of the value you as a community of parents and guardians put on the relationship between home and school.

As I'm sure you all know this year our district implemented a diagnostic tool call i-Ready.

At this point in time you should have received two reports that indicate results of the diagnostic your child participated in. There are two points I would like to make about i-Ready; the first is that the level reported on the report is not a score, it refers to a Grade Level. If a report read "approaching level 4" it means approaching 4th grade. The second point is that i-Ready is not used for grading purposes. It is a tool that allows teachers to be more precise in their understanding of student learning. If you have questions about i-Ready or how you can support your child now that you have their report your child's teacher can help.

Parent - Teacher Conferences are fast approaching and are a very important part of the school year. As you think about this meeting some of you might want to share some insights with your child's teacher:

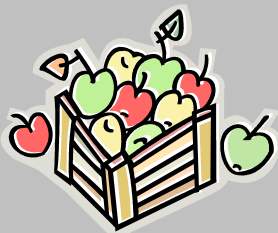
- What do you see as your child's greatest strengths and skills?
- Tell me about a time when you saw your child demonstrating those skills.
- Is there anything else you can tell me about your child that you think would help me support his/ her learning?
- Is there a question you hope I'll ask you about your child?
- Next June, what do you hope your child says about his/her experience in school this year?

I am looking forward to continued success this year. If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me at 845 227 1756 or adam.gerson@wcsdny.org.

Sincerely,

Adam Gerson

Adam Gerson
Principal



15 Entry Road
Hopewell Junction, NY
12533

Phone:
845-227-1756

***Our children...Our
future***



*If there is an emergency early dismissal,
do you have a plan with your child?*

There may be times during the school year when it is necessary for our school to have an emergency early dismissal. It could be due to inclement weather, water or sewer problems, or even boiler failure.

It is important that you have made a plan for your child and that your child knows the plan. It may never occur, but your child should know he or she can go to some place in his or her general neighborhood. Coming home to a locked door could be a very traumatic experience for a young child. Please discuss a plan with your child in case of an early dismissal and the bus takes your child home early and you are not there to meet the bus.

Please also instruct your child what to do and where to go if for some reason the bus does not arrive at your child's bus stop in the morning. This could occur on extremely cold weather days when the drivers might have trouble starting some of the school buses.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the school (845-227-1756).



Toys for TOTS



It's Time to get into the holiday spirit. Gayhead is sponsoring a Toys for Tots drive which will brighten the holidays for thousands of deserving children in Dutchess County.

If you would like to participate please send your child to school with a NEW UNWRAPPED toy.

There is no better way to introduce your own children to the wonderful feeling one gets from giving to others who are less fortunate.

There is a box in the main office.

On behalf of Toys for Tots and our school, we thank you for your generosity!

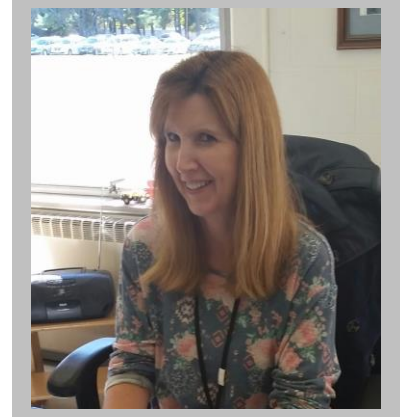
New Faces at Gayhead



Adam Tinter
Social Worker



Brittany Leonard
Special Ed Teacher



Susan Spath
Main Office Secretary



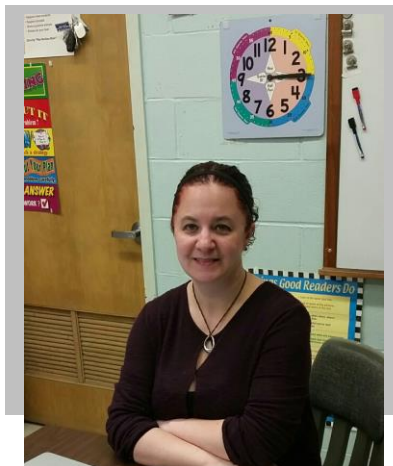
Rochelle Zolotas
Kindergarten Teacher



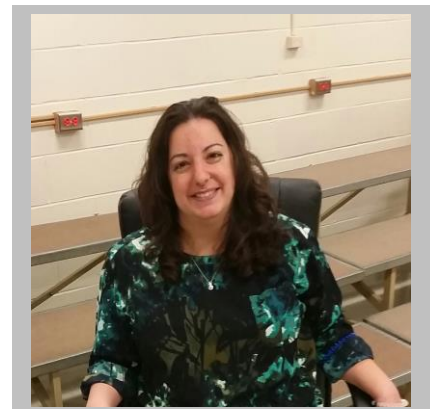
Robin Letizia
Special Ed Teacher



Michelle Hogan
Sp Ed Teacher



AIS Teacher



Melissa Barrett
Music Teacher

Sixth Grade Musical

Shrek Jr.

Our 6th grade musical this year is Shrek Jr. There are close to 100 6th grade students that are in the cast and crew.

With the support of the PTA and the direction of Ms. Eileen Sclafani, Mrs. Shannon Banda and Mrs. Melissa Barrett, Shrek Jr. will be performed for all students in grades K – 6 in March in addition to three daytime and evening performances!

We can't wait to bring this fairytale to life!



Pictured are Ronan Milroy as Shrek, Leo Black as Donkey, Isabella DeNault as Gingy, Emily Burg as the Dragon, Hayden Pantaleo as Lord Farquaad and Dante Nelson as Pinocchio.

What's happening at Gayhead?

Gayhead Speech and Language Pathologists:

Ms. Dean and Mrs. Albin provide Speech and Language services to students that demonstrate articulation, receptive and expressive language and social language delays that impact their academic progress. They work with students through Response to Intervention as well as students that have been identified as needing services through Special Education. Ms. Dean and Mrs. Albin collaborate with teachers regarding classroom and treatment goals. Student progress is monitored quarterly and evaluations are on-going. Mrs. Albin has noticed the positive changes in the classroom's delivery model. The students have been able to talk about what they are doing in the classroom using appropriate vocabulary. Giving her examples of what they have learned and what they need help with during sessions. This year has been great!

AIS Department

We are off to a new and exciting start in the AIS department. We have been enjoying pushing into the classroom and getting to know the students during the first quarter. Being present during the teacher's instructional time has helped us bridge the gap between our interventions and the classroom. Our AIS students greatly benefit from hearing a common language both in the classroom and during our intervention sessions. We look forward to a successful school year!

Music

Music Education is a vital part of the well rounded education your children receive at Gayhead Elementary School. Mrs. Banda and Mrs. Barrett's music classes have been very busy this year. Grades K-2 have been singing a variety of songs, playing classroom instruments, and participating in various movement activities in response to rhythm and steady beat. It is during these important years that a strong musical foundation of rhythm and melody are built. Grades 3-6 focus on music literacy, singing in harmony, and ensemble performance, building on the foundations developed in previous years. Students in these grades are reading, improvising, and performing in groups with multiple parts. We are privileged to foster a love of music in our students at Gayhead. Go Grizzlies!

Kindergarten

Kindergarten is off to a great start! The children have adjusted nicely to the daily class routine and understand our school expectations. Through our school wide PBIS program, classes earn golden bear paws and individuals earn blue bear paws for demonstrating appropriate classroom and school expectations by showing respect, responsibility, and remaining safe. We have celebrated our efforts with Pajama Days and Favorite Sports Team Day. Other rewards will continue as the year progresses. Students have made new friends.

Kindergarteners had a very exciting visit with Farmer Dan. Our children were able to pick out gourds and apples. They enjoyed a delicious treat of cider and donuts.

We have been busy becoming readers and writers. We have been delving into our favorite old storybooks and learning how to write personal narrative stories. Our children have been working diligently on building their stamina by partner and private reading. Children are also learning to identify story elements such as characters and setting. Kindergarteners have practiced their color words and are learning new sight words each week. Now that we have mastered our numbers from 0-9, we will be composing and decomposing numbers. This teaches the children various ways to make a number.

We are excited to celebrate the 50th Day of School. We dress up in 50's attire and have root beer floats! We look forward to more Kindergarten fun and excitement!

First Grade

First Graders are off and running! We started the year learning the rules and routines of first grade. Our reading and writing workshops have allowed first graders to empower themselves and take responsibility for their learning by setting personal goals. In reading, we have been developing good reading habits and becoming word detectives who solve new words. When writing, we have learned how to zero in on the small moments of our lives and turn them into personal narratives. As readers and writers, we enjoy celebrating our accomplishments with others.

The first grade mathematicians are working hard to fluently add and subtract facts to 10, solve word problems in a variety of ways, and to compose and decompose numbers (using number bonds). Our mathematicians are using many hands-on games, activities, and manipulatives to practice these skills.

Through literature and class discussions, first graders are learning about the world around them. As scientists we are observing, sorting objects, and making scientific illustrations. In social studies we have discussed the importance of rules, responsibilities, and citizenship. We have also discovered the meaning of many of our American symbols.

In the upcoming months we will be building on the skills and concepts we have learned. We will be turning our focus to increased fluency in reading and math, writing and reading non-fiction, scientific properties and attributes, and learning about needs and wants in social studies. We look forward to growing and learning together in the upcoming months.

Our **second graders** are changing as quickly as the fall leaves. Here are a few things that we have been working on:

SCIENCE

Observing seasonal changes.
Recording the temperature.
Discovering how tools help us.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Identify, establish, and follow classroom and school rules.
Recognizing symbols of our country.
Learning how to be responsible, respectful citizens and voters.

MATH

Understanding place value to 1,000.
Practicing addition with and without regrouping to 1,000.
Becoming fluent in math vocabulary to solve word problems.

ELA

Use the writing process to publish personal narratives.
Experimenting with techniques from our favorite authors.
Collaborating with writing peers.
Culminating within author celebrations.
Taking charge of reading.
Working hard to solve tricky words.
Paying close attention to authors.
Participating in shared reading and read a louds.

SNEAK PEEK

Looking ahead...
reading and writing non-fiction text
Check out your local library for non-fiction texts on your child's interests.

*****Thanks to the PTA and Dutchess County Community Foundations, we are excited to go to The Bardavon to see The Nutcracker on Friday, December 9th*****

Third Grade

The third graders have been very busy for the first quarter of the year. Learning cursive writing has brought a lot of enthusiasm into the classroom.

Our third grade mathematicians have been working with place value up to 10,000, rounding numbers and adding and subtracting 4 digit numbers. They have also been using strategies to solve word problems.

Our students are working towards becoming fluent readers and writers. They have been creating personal narratives and building their reading stamina.

Our social studies curriculum has consisted of map skills and learning about the world we live in. In science we have investigated seeds and plants.

Spoiler Alert: In the second marking period we will move into our non-fiction reading and writing units. Math classes will involve multiplication skills. Get those flash cards ready!

Fourth Grade

The fourth grade team is off to a fantastic start! We are wrapping up our Workshop units on reading and writing realistic fiction, and our students truly enjoyed our read aloud, *The Tiger Rising*, by Kate DiCamillo. We are looking forward to our next unit, which is a study of non-fiction reading, as well as opinion writing.

The excitement of the Presidential election allowed for us to kick off the year with a deep look into the workings of our U.S. Government, which was exciting for all. Over the next few weeks, we will begin our journey back in time to our very own Hudson Valley, when it was inhabited by the great Native Americans. We are grateful to have already gone on one field trip already this year. Our trek to Bowdoin Park was an awesome hands-on experience for all of our students. They learned how to stalk and hunt small and large game, how to build a shelter, and how to make tools, just as the Native Americans who lived on that exact land 7,000 years ago would have done.

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade has been working both creatively and diligently on our exciting curriculum. In ELA, Reader's Workshop and book clubs continue to encourage our students to read more passionately with deeper meaning and focus. Setting goals and building stamina foster independent reading both at school and at home. In writer's workshop, elaboration brings creative power to our small moment stories. We are moving into nonfiction reading and journalism in writing.

In math, we focused on place value, multiplication & division of whole numbers, and algebra. Our students have been revving up their mathematical learning. They are taking their skills of computation to solve multi-step real-world word problems. The students have enjoyed participating in centers, especially Kakooma on the Chromebooks. Check out the Greg Tang Math website!

In science, we learned about the Scientific Method. We have performed controlled studies. We experimented with Alka Seltzer and Sodium Polyacrylate.

In social studies, we learned about the early civilizations and more complex societies, such as the Aztecs, Incas, and Mayans.

Officer Tammy from the East Fishkill Police Department is coming weekly to work with our students on the Too Good for Drugs program. Students are rehearsing in band, chorus, and orchestra to prepare for the winter concerts. The holiday season is upon us and we are grateful for the amazing children with whom we get to share our days.

Sixth Grade

Here is what happened quarter 1...

Math:

We began the quarter working with number lines, prime factorization, the greatest common factor, and the least common multiple. Graphing, comparing, and ordering negative numbers followed, with a focus on opposites and absolute value. Rounding out the quarter, we worked on multiplying and dividing decimal numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers. All concepts were integrated in real-world context word problems. Next up, we will be working with ratios, proportions, and percents.

ELA:

In reading, we have been working on building reading stamina and writing about our reading. There is a strong focus on analyzing and interpreting what we are reading. Students have begun working in book clubs and will be continuing this work. Next up, we will be working with information reading.

In writer's workshop, we have been working hard on becoming excellent storytellers through narrative writing. We worked on mastering narrative leads and endings, and how to add sensory description, dialogue, and voice to our writing. Next up, we will begin writing literary essays, learning how to write about characters and use evidence to support our ideas.

Social Studies:

We started our year by studying the lives of early man, and the impact of early civilization on our lives today. We specifically focused on the development of the hunter-gatherer, and the Ancient Mesopotamian world. Next up, we will continue our investigation of river valley civilizations and start to unwrap the history of Ancient Egypt.



Stay in the Loop with SchoolMessenger

The Wappingers Central School District uses the SchoolMessenger Notification System to provide timely communication to parents and staff members on matters such as attendance, general interest activities and campus and district emergencies. In order to enhance our ability to accurately deliver that information we request that you create your own contact preference profile using SchoolMessenger's contact manager website. Contact manager allows you to control the ways in which you prefer to be contacted. It also works like a mailbox, giving you a place to review messages you may have missed.

In order to utilize this feature simply follow the steps to create an account through the secure Contact Manager web site provided by SchoolMessenger.

Steps for setting up your account: Enter the following URL into your web browser:

<https://contactme.schoolmessenger.com/newportaluser.php?u=wappingers>

1. Click the *Sign Up Now* link near the bottom of the page.
2. You will be taken to the Sign Up page where you will need to enter a valid email address, a password, your name, and zip code.

You'll use your email address and the password you enter here to sign in later. Check *Email me when I have a new phone message* if you would like to receive an email message each time there is a new message in your mailbox. . Read/Accept the "Terms of Service". Click *Create Account* when you are done. [Note: SchoolMessenger has a strict privacy policy and does not sell or distribute your contact information to any 3rd party.]

1. Check your email. There will be an Account Activation email from contactme@schoolmessenger.com which contains a link to activate your account. This link will take you to a confirmation page where you must enter your password in order to activate your account.
2. Once you've activated your account, you're ready to add your child to your account. Click the link on the main page and add your child's student ID #. **If you do not know your child's student ID# please contact the main office of the school where your child is enrolled.**
3. Simply follow the instructions on the page to call in and activate your account. You will need to be able to call into the system from one of the phone numbers associated with your child's student record.

When you have finished adding your child to your account, you will be brought to the Welcome Screen. Click on the *Contacts* tab at the top of the screen, and then click *Edit* to the right of your student's name. You will then be brought to the *Contact Details* page where you can simply check which types of messages you would like to receive and at which phone number or email address. Make sure that you click *Save* when you are done making changes.

If you have other children attending school in this district, you will be able to add them all to the same Contact Manager account.

Thank you for signing up, and we hope you enjoy the SchoolMessenger Contact Manager!



November 2016

- 11/15 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Library
- 11/16 Preliminary Spelling Bee - 7:45 a.m.
- 11/17 Picture Retakes
- 11/17, 18/ 21 Parent/Teacher Conferences - $\frac{1}{2}$ day for students
- 11/23, 24, 25 Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/28 BOE Meeting - WJH - 7:30 p.m.

December 2016

- 12/2 Holiday Shop Extravaganza - 5:50 - 8:30
- 12/6 Ryan Dutcher Assembly
- 12/8 Fifth Grade Opera Trip
Spelling Bee - 7:00 p.m.
- 12/9 2nd Grade Nutcracker Trip
- 12/12 BOE Meeting - WJH - 7:30 p.m.
- 12/13 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Library
- 12/14 6th Grade Winter Concert - 7:00 at John Jay
- 12/15 4th and 5th Grade Winter Concert - 7:00 at John Jay
- 12/23 - 1 / 2 Winter Recess

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wappingersschools.org

Enjoy the beautiful fall season!