

Gayhead Elementary



Fall 2017

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



Dear Gayhead Families,

The end of the first quarter of the school year is such an exciting time here at Gayhead. Our students are fully engaged in the challenges and responsibilities of their new grade level. Kindergarten students who started the year with wide-eyed wonder now hop off the bus excited and ready for the learning experiences of the day.

I would like to thank everyone for cooperating closely with Gayhead staff during morning and afternoon drop off and pick up. Our staff works very hard to make sure everything is safe, orderly, and as efficient as possible and that would not be possible without your cooperation.

15 Entry Road
Hopewell Junction, NY
12533

Phone:
845-227-1756

*Our children...Our
future*

Gayhead like all other elementary schools in the WCSD is a workshop model school for reading and writing. The workshop model was developed by Lucy Calkins from research conducted at Columbia University's Teachers College. The goal of the workshop model is to explicitly teach students strategies to become more skillful at comprehending and writing text. It involves authentic reading and writing experiences that focus on the strengths and needs of each individual student. It emphasizes the importance of student engagement and the interaction between readers and text. It emphasizes that our lives are worth writing about and that students need to care about what they write. Students read and write across the genres every day in every grade level. If you have questions about what your student is doing every day as a reader and writer please reach out to their teacher.

Creating more ways to flatten the walls of our school so parents and families have more opportunities to see into what happens everyday here at Gayhead is always one of my goals. One new way we have done that this year that I am very proud of is to include parents in our Citizen of the Month celebrations. Whenever we recognize a student for their character we know that is not merely the result of work done in the classroom but equally a result of the care and teaching that occurs at home. I hope those of you who have already joined us enjoyed the experience and I am looking forward to seeing more families over the course of the year as we recognize our students for contributing positively to our school's culture.

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/](mailto:adam.gerson@wcsdny.org)

Sincerely,

Adam Gerson
Adam Gerson



*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 lobby.

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

Music Department

Mrs. Barrett and Mrs. Banda are very excited to share another year of musical experiences with your children! Students in kindergarten through second grade are building a strong foundation of rhythm, beat, and melody. The third through sixth grade classes are working hard to build upon their musical foundation through music literacy, composition, harmony, and performance in ensembles. The bands, orchestras, and choruses are putting the final touches on their songs for the Gayhead Winter Concerts, and the fourth graders are preparing to play their first wind instrument...the recorder! Here's to a great start and an even greater year!

Speech & Language Department

Hi from the Speech & Language Department. We have had a busy fall getting to know our speech friends and working on their goals. We have targeted lots of multiple meaning words such as fall, roll, spell, sound, pet and cast through fall themes such as autumn, Halloween, and Election Day.

Additionally, we have incorporated content area vocabulary for science, social studies, and ELA. We have also worked on following directions using prepositions, inferencing, production of speech sounds, and story comprehension. We look forward to exploring our goals through winter themes.

Physical Education Department

The fall has been a busy time in Physical Education. Third through sixth graders were working on the Muscular and Skeletal systems, soccer, speed stacking, and tagging games. Kindergartners through 2nd graders have been practicing their Locomotor movements, learning new games, speed stacking, and traveling safely around the gymnasium.

553 students participated in *World Stack Up day* on November 9th. We are waiting for all results to be tallied to see if the Guinness Book of World records of “the most people stacking around the world in multiple locations on one day” was broken. We’ll keep you posted.

Check out our Gayhead PE website for PE happenings and Intramurals information. The current Intramural session is Tagging, Speed Stacking, and Football. <https://www.wappingersschools.org/Page/2498>

If you loved Speed Stacking sign up for the Wappinger’s 1st Annual District sport stacking tournament!

Who: Grades 1–6 students

When: Saturday, December 16, 2017 from 9:00–11:30am (doors open at 8am)

Where: Van Wyck Junior High – GYMNASIUM

Cost: FREE Registration (through Dec. 3).

\$3 Late Registration (Dec. 4 – Dec. 9).

LAST DAY TO REGISTER: December 9th

How to Register: Register online at:

<https://www.thewssa.com/tournaments/wappingers-csd-sport-stacking-tournament/2007/>

Kindergarten

In kindergarten we have been very busy learning our letters, formation of letters and their sounds. In reader’s workshop, the children have been reading books that teach them about the world (non-fiction books). Through modeling and practice, the children have learned various reading behaviors and strategies to prepare them for guided reading in the upcoming months.

For writer’s workshop, we have been working on drawing pictures with labels across pages, to tell about a topic they know a lot about. Recently, we have begun writing personal narratives, applying all of our knowledge of letters and sounds to tell who, what and where in our stories.

During our math workshop, we have been working hard at writing, recognizing and counting numbers to ten!

Science has been super exciting being scientists and learning all about the weather! In social studies, the children have been learning how to follow rules and be a good citizen.

We’d like to thank the PTA for bringing us a wonderful assembly in October called “The Golden Rule.” We also had a visits from the fire department and Farmer Dan from Meadowbrook Farms!

First Grade

First graders have been busy! This quarter we have been learning the skills and strategies that will help us become lifelong learners.

In reading we spent time building our reading stamina, learning word solving strategies, and thinking about the story elements: characters, setting, problem, and solution.

In writing we have been busy creating personal narratives - telling about small moments in our lives step by step.

In math we focused on creating and representing numbers to 10, number bonds, addition number sentences, word problems, and building our math fluency.

In social studies we learned about rules and laws, citizenship, and American symbols.

Lastly, as scientists we have been learning about shadows and patterns in nature involving the sun and the moon.

Second Grade

Our second graders have had a busy first quarter. Here are some of the things we have been working on:

Readers and Writers Workshop:

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

MATH WORKSHOP

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

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.

Looking ahead...

We are excited to be reading and writing non-fiction text!

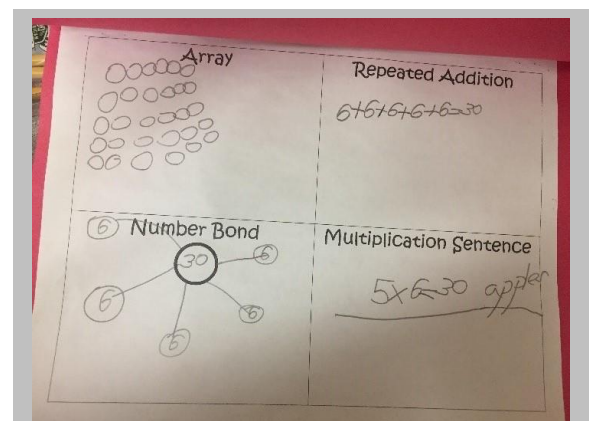
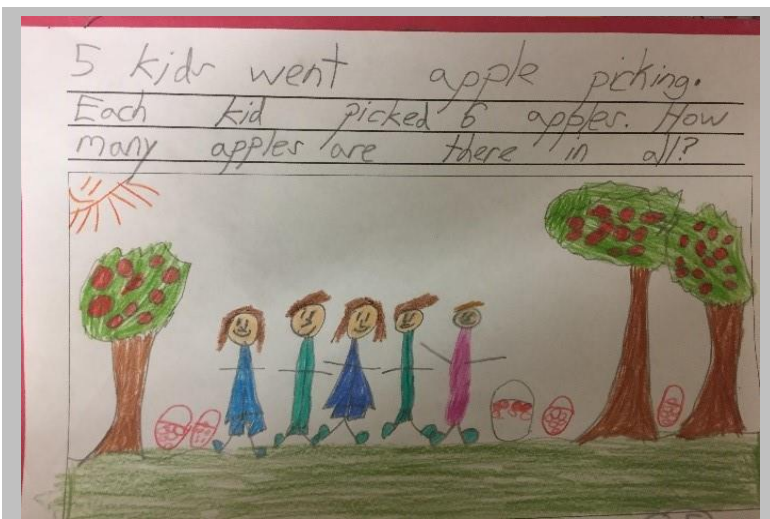
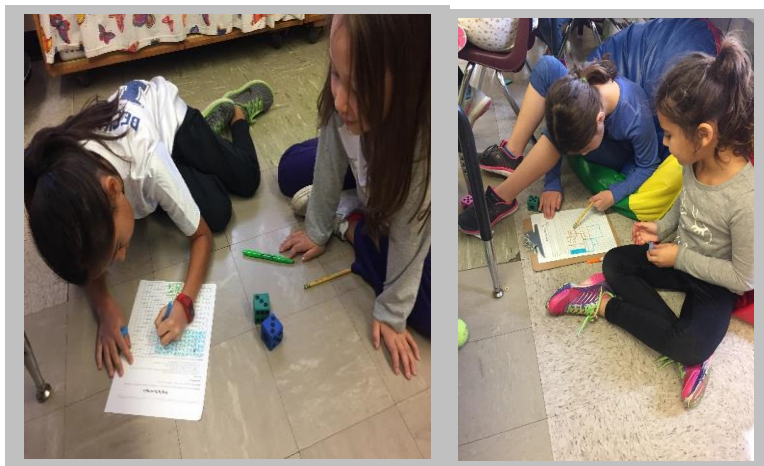
Check out your local library for non-fiction texts on your child's interests.

*****Thanks to the PTA and Dutchess County Community Foundations, we are excited to go to The Bardavon to see The Nutcracker on Thursday, December 7th*****

Hard at Work in Third Grade

The 3rd Grade Mathematicians have jumped right into the biggest units in third grade- Multiplication and Division!

The third graders have been working on strategies to help them model and problem solve with multiplication and division. The students have been skip-counting and creating arrays, number bonds and tape diagrams to model their thinking. They are really grasping the concept of what multiplication and division means and having fun in the process! There are some great sites to check out to increase math fluency on Gayhead's website for *Links for Learning*.



Fourth Grade

We kicked off this year's Reader's Workshop by learning how to build our reading lives by becoming a classroom community of readers. We set reading goals and worked on stopping and jotting while reading both in school and at home on our weekly reading logs.

We read the realistic fiction novel, The Tiger Rising, aloud together and used this story to grow as readers. We studied the complexity of characters and explored themes (messages about life that the author is sharing with us) while developing skills such as inference and interpretation.

We are looking forward to our second unit, Reading the World, Reading the Weather, in which we will learn how to purposefully read non-fiction as we compare and contrast, participate in close reads and evaluate sources to determine credibility.

In math this quarter we have been studying place value to the millions place, addition and subtraction with regrouping, strategies for solving multi-step word problems, and working on fact fluency. As you continue to support your child with nightly homework, please continue to practice facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division). A solid foundation is important as we move into the next quarter.

In Social Studies we are enjoying learning about all things New York and looking forward to learning more about the first New Yorkers.

As scientists we've been busy learning about the scientific method and conducting experiments.

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 short stories in reading and the literary essay in writing.

In math, we focused on place value, working with multi-digit 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. We are also exploring states of matter.

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. We are finishing up our Number Sense units working on multiplying and dividing decimal numbers, fractions, and mixed numbers. All concepts were integrated in real-world context word problems. Coming soon, 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 through the lens of character. We analyzed how characters are complicated through their various traits, motivation, and how they are affected by various story elements, supporting our ideas and claims with evidence that most strongly supports these claims.

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.

Science:

We began the year applying the scientific method to our first unit, *Investigating the Nature of Science and Technology*. Our students are using inquiry skills to complete controlled studies such as "Mystery Tube" and "Ramp and Ball". We will continue using these skills as we begin unit 2: *Investigating Energy*.



November 2017

- 11/15 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Library
- 11/30 Preliminary Spelling Bee - 6:30 p.m.
- 11/16, 17, 27 Parent/Teacher Conferences - $\frac{1}{2}$ day for students
- 11/22, 23, 24 Thanksgiving Recess
- 11/27 BOE Meeting - WJH - 7:30 p.m.

December 2017

- 12/7 2nd Grade Nutcracker Trip
- 12/11 Spelling Bee - 7:00 p.m.
BOE Meeting - WJH - 7:30 p.m.
- 12/12 4th and 5th Grade Winter Concert - 7:00 at John Jay
- 12/13 PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Library
6th Grade Winter Concert - 7:00 at John Jay
- 12/25- 1 /1 Winter Recess
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We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wappingersschools.org

Enjoy the beautiful fall season!