

The Gill Elementary News



Happy June from Gill Elementary School. It's hard to believe that another year is almost over, but the 120 kids who all seem about six inches taller than they did in September is a testament to that. In true end-of-year spirit, we will be welcoming the graduating seniors from Turners Falls High School here tomorrow, June 1st, to walk through our cheering hallways in their caps and gowns.

Please take a look at the dates to the side of this message for important upcoming announcements and festivities for the end of the year.

An enormous THANK YOU is owed to a number of folks who have made the last few weeks both exciting and very meaningful for our students. First, a debt of gratitude is owed to our PTO who, once again, outdid themselves with this year's Gill Carnival. What a fun evening we had! Second, I'd like to recognize Amy Gordon and all of the members of our ACT play who worked so hard and put together an amazing play for our students and community. Lastly, I'd like to thank Susan Hoffman, the members of the Northfield VFW and the members of the Gill Veterans Association who made last week's Memorial Day tribute so special.

I would also like to make a pitch for volunteers. Next week, on June 8th, two things are happening. The first is that we will be having our field day. We will be leaving for Camp Kee-Wanee at 9:00 and returning for 2:00. On that day, Ms. Castro-Santos will also be getting set up for our Arts and Eats celebration, and could use volunteers to help decorate our school with art. If you would like to volunteer for either of these things, please contact Ms. Hutchison at 863-3255.

Lastly, please remember that the last three days of school, June 21st, 22nd and 23rd are half days.

Have a wonderful June.
-Conor Driscoll-



June Events

June 2 - All-school meeting 2:30

June 2 - TFHS Graduation

June 6 - Spring Concert @ TFHS 7pm

June 8 - Field Day Camp Kee-Wanee

June 15 - 5th Grade Step Up 2:30

June 20 - 6th Grade Graduation 12:00

June 21-23 HALF DAYS

June 22 - Step up day

*June 23 last day of school
NO LUNCH*

*The Gill School Community is
always welcome to join in*

News from Kindergarten



May has been a busy month in kindergarten! We started units in math on measuring using non-standard units of measurement and identify 3D shapes-sphere, cylinder, cube and cone. We also had a video conference with Holly Bourbon from the National Aquarium in Maryland. During her conversation with the kindergarten class she was able to answer many of their questions about coral reefs and sea creatures including, why don't the black Tip Reef Sharks eat the other animals in the exhibit? During May we also continued meeting with our 3rd grade reading buddies. This time of year it is especially exciting to meet as the kindergarteners have begun reading books back to their buddies. Finally, we have been preparing for the kindergarten Author's Tea on Wednesday, June 21st. Students have finished writing and illustrating our class book, *Lost at Sea*, and are now writing their own individual stories.

1st Grade News

Peep, peep, peep. Our chicks have hatched! First grade welcomed 16 healthy baby chickens into the world this year. They are adorable and growing very quickly. As one First grader noted "hard to believe one whole animal can fit inside that little egg". The chicks will be going to join last year's brood at the Zilinski's farm.

In writing we are producing some enthralling realistic fiction pieces. The students have been adding chapters, settings and emotion to their stories. How far they have come since the beginning of the year!

In math we have been working on coin identification and value. We will finish up the year focusing on adding and subtracting tens and ones as a review for next year.



What's New in 2nd Grade

I cannot believe how quickly this year has flown by, however that has not stopped us from learning! We have been working on adding and subtracting with regrouping by completing a bridge building assignment to see who could build a bridge to hold the most weight. We are now moving into fractions that include $\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}$, and $\frac{1}{4}$. We have also been working on writing realistic fiction pieces. Many students have really great stories that they have come up with and will be excited to share during our Author's Tea event at the end of June. We will also start working on poetry. Finally, we are working on reading and producing biography plays based on Mathew Henson and the Wright Brothers. We will be spending a lot of time reading, acting, and producing plays as a class. We have been looking forward to doing this for quite some time now. Here's to finishing the year strong and getting our last few projects accomplished!



Third Grade News for May

Thank you all for your generous comments and gifts for teacher appreciation week!

I hope to see as many of you as are able to join us on June 14th for our final author share. The students have been writing adapted fairy tales. They are coming up with some very fun versions of some of the classic tales! Some stories that are being adapted include a recipe. The kids loved our last recipe share so much that they are requesting another feast! I will send home the recipes we've come across. Please do not feel obligated to send in these fairy tale treats, but if you have time and would like to send in one of the recipes or have one of your own you'd like to make, please bring it or send it with your student on the 14th.

Most permission slips for our final field trip to The Northfield Mountain Recreation Center Pond Probe Program on June 7th are in. If you have not sent it in yet, please sign for permission and return the slip as soon as possible.

Students should wear or bring muck boots, and extra socks or clothing as there is a chance they may end up wet or muddy!

Also, we will be eating a picnic lunch in Northfield. Please send your child to school with a bag lunch or have them order a school bag lunch that day. All parents are welcome to join us on this trip! Please send a note or an e-mail if you would like to come along. Our bus will leave about 11:15 and return by 2:45 ish. It is a fun trip 😊



Hello Fourth Grade Families,



We have wrapped up our units on informational writing, immigration, and fractions & decimals. If you visit the school, you can see the beautiful "Immigration Journals" that our students created on a bulletin board. We have started our social studies unit on the Negro Baseball League where students are learning about the history of the sport, civil rights and social justice. In math we have started our unit on geometry where students are learning to use a protractor to measure degrees. We are almost done with our class novel unit on Tuck Everlasting and the students are excited to find out how it all ends!

Update your calendars!

Please note that the last day of school for students is now Friday, June 23. Also note that the last three days of school (June 21, 22, and 23) are half days with dismissal at noon.



5th Grade Update

May is just perhaps the best month to be a fifth grader, especially when it comes to science. Our study of animal adaptations has led us to the "cud et gras" of fifth grade events, which is our annual trip to the New England Aquarium. Students each selected a marine animal to research and write a report about and create a project explaining essential information. They then figure out what they couldn't find in their research and set a goal to get the answers when they visit the aquarium and meet with the experts. Each of their animals are present at the aquarium, making it possible for every student to "meet" their animal in person! This is a trip with lots of laughs, good movies on a coach bus, and an IMAX movie that is so engaging that it makes your head feel like it's going to burst in the best way! The film was about great white sharks and certainly made these sixteen scientists have increased respect for that beast of the sea! You'd think these fifth graders can eat like sharks with their huge appetites! They gobbled down cooked asparagus that we picked at the farm, after we cooked it in the butter we churned. Can't wait to see what June brings for us. I'll give you a hint...it involves strawberries!



6th Grade Reports



The 6th graders are getting ready to say farewell to Gill. They have had a remarkable year. Through our trips to Morse Hill and Sargent Center, to programs like Destination Imagination, these students have learned the importance of collaborative problem solving. To finish out the year, 6th graders are preparing for a Science Fair the morning of the June 14th and getting ready for graduation on June 20th. These 6th graders will be missed by the community!

Dave Grout

Art Room News

The art room is getting ready for the annual art show in conjunction with Arts & Eats but I need volunteers!! Please consider donating an hour or two of your time (or maybe another family member who is available during the day) to help hang art down the hallways of Gill Elementary!

The art exhibit is on Thursday, June 8 and you can come volunteer a helping hand beginning at 8:30 AM. I am looking forward to another beautiful show of Gill student work! You can contact me and sign up at jocelyn.castro@gmrtd.org



From the Library



As the school year winds down, it's time to begin thinking about summer reading. Daily reading is an important habit to continue during the summer because it ensures that your child avoids a summer learning slump. The Carnegie Public Library is open Monday-Saturday and will be offering some great summer reading programs! Carnegie's Children's Librarian will be visiting Gill students in June to share more information about these exciting programs. The last day for student book check-out will be Friday, June 2nd. Please return all books to the library by Friday, June 9th.

Physical Ed News

Hi parents it is time again for field day. Again this year Gill will be traveling to Camp Kee-Wanee for a field day that will include swimming, field games, water sports, and nature. We are looking forward to a great day. Please have your kiddos prepared with sun screen, bug spray and appropriate footwear.



Thanks
Mr. Wood



Technology at Gill Elementary School



Summer will be here soon and I hope you take time to turn off the screens and enjoy the outside. Below are recommendations about screen time from the American Academy of Pediatrics website (www.aap.org).

"Problems begin when media use displaces physical activity, hands-on exploration and face-to-face social interaction in the real world, which is critical to learning. Too much screen time can also harm the amount and quality of sleep."

- For children ages 2 to 5 years, limit screen use to 1 hour per day of high-quality programs. Parents should co-view media with children to help them understand what they are seeing and apply it to the world around them.
- For children ages 6 and older, place consistent limits on the time spent using media, and the types of media, and make sure media does not take the place of adequate sleep, physical activity and other behaviors essential to health.
- Designate media-free times together, such as dinner or driving, as well as media-free locations at home, such as bedrooms."

If you do use your computer this summer, try some of the websites below:

- PBSKids www.pbskids.org.
- Math games at CoolMath4kids! www.coolmath4kids.com
- Reading and phonics with Lexia Core 5 www.lexiacore5.com. If you forgot your username and password, just send me an email.
- If you are looking for other great websites, movies, apps and more, visit Common Sense Media for reviews and ratings. www.common sense.org

-Sarah Adolph, Instructional Technology
sarah.adolph@gmrsd.org

Notes from the nurse

*The American Cancer Society promotes Sun Safety Awareness by designating the Friday before Memorial Day as ... **DON'T FRY DAY!** As we head into full summer, this serves as a great reminder to protect our skin year round, especially for children. Families are encouraged to apply sunscreen before school in the morning. If your child will need sunscreen later on during the school day, please contact the school nurse to work out a plan for use at school.*



A significant amount of lifetime sun exposure occurs before age 18. Protecting the skin and eyes during the early years can reduce the risk of skin cancer and other significant health problems that too much sun exposure causes.



Don't Feel the Burn: The sun radiates light, consisting of invisible ultraviolet (UV) rays, to every living thing on earth. When these rays reach our skin, they cause tanning, burning, and other skin damage. Sunburns during childhood are painful, but that's not the only reason they are harmful:

1. **UVA** rays cause skin aging and wrinkling and contribute to skin cancer, such as melanoma. Since UVA rays pass effortlessly through the ozone layer (the protective layer of atmosphere, surrounding the earth), they make up the majority of our sun exposure.
2. **UVB** rays cause sunburns, cataracts (clouding of the eye lens), effects on the immune system, and contribute to skin cancer. Melanoma, the most dangerous form of skin cancer, is associated with severe UVB sunburns that occur before the age of 20.

Now is a great time to help your child learn to use sun protection behaviors such as: using **sunscreen** with an SPF of 30 or higher, **wearing hats** with a wide brim, **sunglasses**, and **cover-up clothing** whenever possible. Encourage staying **in the shade** out of the sun during the hours when the sun is highest and strongest (10am until 4pm), and re-applying sunscreen every 2 hours during outdoor activity.

Additional information - <https://www.cancer.org/latest-news/stay-sun-safe-this-summer.html>

Gill school's **100 Mile Club** is on its way to a strong finish this June, and continues to inspire runners & walkers to reach milestones each week of 25-50-75 & even 100 miles. The course behind the school took on extra fun at the Gill School Carnival when it became somewhat of an obstacle course, and runners at recess have continued to enjoy the challenge. We look forward to an end of year event to award medals and certificates – date to be announced soon!