



GODWIN GAZETTE

The official newsletter of Godwin School



LLD Class Bulletin Board

March Madness

March was a busy month for the students and staff at Godwin School. There were so many school events that we packed into 31 days. From One School, One Book to Cultural Awareness Day, the students were reading, writing, dancing and learning through all of the different modalities. Our 12th One School, One Book, Gooney Bird Greene was a huge hit with our students and staff. Ms. Carr has successfully run this program for the past 12 years in conjunction with Hubbard School in Ramsey. Our students not only benefit from the school-wide reading program but also get to connect with students from another school to discuss the same book. Miss Christine Soderman spent weeks discussing the prominent themes in this story in relation to Social-Emotional Learning. Read Across America Week also took place and it coincided nicely with our school-wide reading program. Throughout the week, students were treated to read alouds from the Midland Park Librarian, upper elementary students from Highland School, and Ms. Bache. Students and staff participated wholeheartedly in the dress-up days, art projects, and poetry. The week sparked many new read alouds as well as reviving some true classics.

As a principal, I love the month of March because it provides twenty-three days of classroom instruction, due to no monthly holidays. There is nothing better than continuity to build on academic skills and set the platform for future learning.



Within this month, students embarked on realistic fiction in reading and writing, studied famous women in history, learned how to tell time to the hour and half-hour, and much much more. Direct teaching in phonics through the Foundations Program continues to strengthen our students' phonemic awareness and improve reading and writing ability. This is the time of year, students truly flourish because they are making connections and transferring learning from lesson to lesson. It is an exciting time to be in an elementary school.

For many years, Mr. Brown would visit our schools, walk through the halls and play his bagpipes on Saint Patrick's Day. Due to Covid, we had to suspend this tradition and forgo this culturally stimulating performance. I am happy to share that this year we were able to bring him back and treat our students to his beautiful playing. Mr. Brown, husband to Mrs. Brown, 3rd-grade teacher paraded through the entire building to share his love of Irish music and showcase his talent. Thank you Mr. Brown, it was nice to have you back.



Were you fortunate enough to get tickets to the hottest show in town? Midland Park High School presented The Spongebob Musical to four packed houses. My son and I truly enjoyed the show with its vibrant colors, lively songs, and top notch acting. It was a thrill to see former students embracing this craft and doing it so well. The singing voices of all the students, especially the soloists amazed me and reminded me why it's so important to expose students to the arts at an early age. I highly recommend bringing your youngsters to next year's show, it is a great way to introduce them to live theater.



Pre-K Class Bulletin Board

To round out the month, we were fortunate to bring LIVE assembly programs back into school. The Clean Communities of Midland Park sponsored the Grand Falloons Assembly focused on the conservation of our natural resources and the three R's - Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The two presenters entertained our young ones with their slapstick comedy intertwined with important lessons about our environment. The Elementary PTA sponsored our Cultural Awareness Assembly and brought Darius - music from Earth right to the Highland stage. Darius demonstrated a variety of instruments and their origin exposing our students to a plethora of cultures around the world. The students clapped along, stomped their feet, and displayed their love of music during this performance. After school, surprise your child with your knowledge of our school events and let them share their experiences. Have fun!



Important Notice to 2nd Grade Families

In April, the Highland School principal will be requesting residency documents for all students entering 3rd grade in September of 2022. This process is conducted every time a student leaves one building and transfers to another building, i.e. 2nd to 3rd grade and 6th grade to 7th grade. Please be certain to comply with this request by the due date. Thank you.

What's on the horizon...

April continues to keep things exciting with the following events:

- Career Day - April 19 - presentations in each classroom on a variety of careers
- Open House - April 21, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm - families are invited to visit Godwin and Highland School to see your child's classroom and school work
- Kids Heart Challenge Event - April 26 - Thank you for fundraising for the American Heart Association. The Godwin School raised approximately \$6500. The events will take place during the school day.
- Take Your Child to Work Day - April 28 - if your job permits it, this is a wonderful way to spend the day with your child while they learn a little about your job. It is considered an excused absence if they go to work with you. A form will be sent home as it gets closer for you to complete.

A few other pics from our school events...

