

A message from GORMAN/FORT BANKS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Hello GFB Families,

The final week of this school year is here which means students are just days away from moving into their next grade level. These final days of school will include a few fun activities in celebration of the year. In addition to spirit week, our final SMART assembly will happen on Tuesday. On Wednesday, our last full day of school, students will help teachers “deconstruct” their classrooms by gathering their materials to take home. These will include items that will be helpful to reinforce learning over the summer so please be sure to go through them carefully. Thursday, our final day of school, is an early release day. Please be reminded of the early release times below:

- AM preschool students do not attend. PM preschool students will be dismissed at 10:30 a.m. from the **front door** of the school. Preschool parents and/or guardians should park by the cemetery and walk to get their students.
- Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 10:40 a.m.
- 1st/2nd grade students will be dismissed at 11:00 a.m.
- To keep traffic flowing, 1st and 2nd grade families are reminded NOT to arrive early. Only families picking up kindergarten students will be allowed to remain in the right turn only lane. All other traffic will be directed to the cemetery.

With students moving into the next grade level, they will have a greater responsibility for both themselves and their learning. For our part, we have worked hard to prepare your child for their next learning experience. All students have had an opportunity to visit the school and/or grade level where they will be learning next year. Please be sure to support your student’s growth emotionally, socially, and academically in preparation for a new year that is sure to include bigger expectations for your child’s performance.

Summer typically reveals significant growth in students and that likely has a lot to do with more opportunities for social engagement and self-directed exploration. Please take advantage of our proximity to great museums, parks, and shorelines as you create your child’s fun this summer. And it goes without saying that a focus on academics is extremely important at all grade levels. Report cards will be sent home with students on Thursday. Please make good use of them as you encourage your child to practice skills over the summer. Parents/guardians are reminded that curriculum summaries have been provided within our weekly GFB newsletters. Please be sure to revisit those throughout the summer along with our final curriculum summaries which can be accessed as follows:

kindergarten [here](#), 1st grade [here](#), and 2nd grade [here](#). Whether as a read aloud or independently, to keep fluency and comprehension skills up to par it is important that reading be seen as a daily “must-do”. The easiest way to accomplish this is to make reading part of your child’s daily routine. As a famous Chinese proverb notes, “Teachers open the door, but you must enter by yourself.” Please support your child’s entry!

Our school website has a variety of educational sites that are familiar to students. Ms. DeSantis has shown students how to independently navigate the following sites:

Kindergarten:

Numbers, Letters, Shapes & Patterns:

[Grade K ABCYA](#)

Math & ELA Activities:

[Grade K Starfall](#)

First Grade:

Puzzles & Critical Thinking:

[Hero Elementary Skill Games](#)

ELA & Math Learning Games:

[Grade 1- ABCYA](#)

Story Read Alouds:

[Storyline Online](#)

Second Grade:

ELA & Math review games:

[Grade 2 ABCYA](#)

Place Value and Add & Subtract w/ regrouping:

[Greg Tang Math](#)

Websites for all ages:

[Kids Corner- School Website](#)

[Lexia Core 5- School Website](#)

[Storyline Online](#)

[Arthur PBS Kids](#)

[Kids National Geographic](#)

With that, there really is NO reason for students not to keep their brains engaged in learning. And just as easy, the Winthrop Public Library will be offering a summer reading program for students. This is an easy and affordable way to encourage students to explore their interests while practicing reading fluency and comprehension strategies. For more information, please contact Ms. Donovan in the Children's Department at 617-846-1703.

A few year-end reminders: All unclaimed items in the lost and found will be donated on Wednesday, June 14th. If your child has any medications being held with the school nurse, please plan to pick them up June 14th or 15th. Any unclaimed medications will be disposed of.

As most know, I will be retiring at the end of this school year. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work as the GFB principal for 16 years. I have so much for which to be thankful. The support I have received from Town officials, administrative colleagues, school committee(s) and amazing PTO(s) has helped me support students, their families and our staff. I will always be grateful to the incredibly talented teachers and professionals for how much they taught me. I am grateful to the hundreds of families who shared

their students with me and afforded me memories and experiences that will always be special. But it's the students, current and former, that kept my drive going and my vision in focus. My dreams for them know no boundaries.

The incoming principal, Mark McAneny, has made several visits to the school and is preparing for a seamless and smooth transition. Should you need it, Mr. McAneny's email is mmcaneny@winthrop.k12.ma.us.

Wishing all a safe and wonderful summer! As I send my last newsletter, you can be sure I will remember YOU as MY partner in education.

With a full heart and big dreams for my students,

Ms. Pearson, Principal