



# PREP SCHOOL WEEKLY REPORT

## SCHOOL YEAR 2019-20

### Week 2 ~ 09 August 2019

**Students: 749**

3 <sup>rd</sup> = 40	6 <sup>th</sup> = 95	9 <sup>th</sup> = 100
4 <sup>th</sup> = 53	7 <sup>th</sup> = 88	10 <sup>th</sup> = 72
5 <sup>th</sup> = 57	8 <sup>th</sup> = 101	11 <sup>th</sup> = 87
		12 <sup>th</sup> = 56

**Faculty/Staff: 67**

Full Time Faculty = 54
Part Time Faculty = 4
Staff = 9

### What A First Week!!!

**GMC Prep – RHS Exchange.** For the second year in a row, we are thrilled to welcome our friends from across the pond!! We are so excited to host four cadets from the Royal Hospital School (RHS) in the United Kingdom for the next month and are looking forward to teaching them all about GMC and life in the US! A special welcome back to Major Jonathan and Annette Pooley who serve at RHS and have been instrumental in our unique and successful cadet exchange program. Jonathan is the Combined Cadet Forces Commander and Annette is the House Mistress for the Senior grades students. Just a reminder that we have sent GMC Prep School Cadets (37 total!) to the United Kingdom over the past three summers for either a 10-day exchange or a longer Summer Term Exchange. During these amazing exchanges, our GMC cadets are exposed to the British culture, history, military cadet training, and sporting events.

**Operation Safe Kids** – On Wednesday, our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders were given the opportunity to participate in the “Operation Safe Kids” program presented by the United States Secret Service. Our elementary students learned about the fingerprinting process and had their pictures taken in order to receive a Livescan Child ID card to take home for their family’s records.

**Making Our Mark** – One of the exciting parts of this school year is the addition of an Art program for our elementary students. Andrea Sammons is leading this program and shares that our young artists are already making their mark! As an introductory activity, each student is creating a Paw Print to showcase who he/she is as an artist and to discover the varied interests of the group. The finished products will be posted to the bulletin board in the 5<sup>th</sup> grade hall and will also be used to help GMC celebrate our 140<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

**Saving Fred** – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students in Sara Gray’s Science classes are having lots of fun learning about the Scientific Method and how we conduct different science experiments. As an application of their knowledge, students worked together to “save” Fred. Who is Fred? He is a gummy worm who cannot swim and is not wearing a life preserver when his boat capsizes. We are proud to report that Fred was rescued by GMC 3<sup>rd</sup> graders as they applied the scientific method to solve his dilemma.

**How to be a BULLDOG!** 4<sup>th</sup> grade students focused this week on transitioning to their new home and learning the BULLDOG way of doing things. Student are learning about a variety of topics – how to wear the uniform properly, how to greet guests who come into their classrooms,

how to use a planner to stay organized, and how to successfully navigate the daily routine of a 4<sup>th</sup> grader! In addition, students and teachers discuss the importance of the GMC Honor Code and how it should guide them in all they do. One of the favorite parts of the week was time to enjoy our brand new Bulldog Café and we have heard nothing but compliments about the awesome food!

**Marshmallow Towers** – 4<sup>th</sup> graders in Anna Avant's Science classes are laying the foundation for the remainder of the year. The students learned how scientists carry out the steps of the scientific method and practiced carrying it out themselves. The task given to each group of students was build a tower out of marshmallows and toothpicks. Students hypothesized about the approach they wanted to take in order to have the tallest tower in the room. They quickly learned that a first strategy does not always work so scientists must always be resilient when carrying out an experiment.

**WORDLESS books** – 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Cheryl Weaver's English/Language Arts classes spent their first week together by reviewing the 6 Traits of Writing. Their favorite trait was exploring organization-- how to reveal ideas in a logical order, including a beginning, middle, and end. The students read *Unspoken* by Henry Cole, a wordless book, and were challenged to write the story based on his illustrations. The activity led to lots of fun as students created exciting, attention grabbing, beginning sentences to tell the story.

**Fun with Legos** – 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Diane Deariso's Science classes learned about the importance of clear written communication through a Lego structure challenge. Students were given 5 Legos and asked to build a structure of their choice and design. Students were tasked with both writing a set of directions that would guide another person to build the same structure and creating an illustration of their final structure. Next, students were given a set of directions written by a classmate and challenged with building the described structure only from the written directions. After following the written directions, students received an illustration of what the structure should look like and were asked to compare both versions. Excellent conversation followed about the importance of clear directions, proofreading, and what was learned during this activity.

**Lights, Camera, Action** – A group of 90 talented Middle School students auditioned for this year's production, *Frozen Junior*, and Jenny Morris (MS Show Director) discovered SO MUCH talent during the process that a decision was made to both double cast the show and to add a fourth performance. The performances are scheduled for January 23 and 24 at 7pm and January 25<sup>th</sup> at both 2pm and 7pm. You will not want to miss this amazing show – get your tickets now at <https://www.gmcprep.com/gmctheatre>

**Patterns in Math** – Students in Suzanne Brooks' 7th grade math classes will spend much of their year looking at patterns in math and learning that math is everywhere! This week, students examined the decimal equivalents of fractions and looked for patterns to determine if the decimal is repeating or terminating. Along the way, students learned a new way to find the prime factorization of numbers - the birthday cake method. Using the birthday cake factor method, students made "layers" with the factors of a number and, at the end of the process, used the factor of 1 as the candle on the top of the cake!

**The American Dream.** Stephanie Roberts' 11<sup>th</sup> grade American Literature classes kicked off the year by defining and redefining what the American Dream means and also reflecting on what it means to be an American. Students created visual representations of what they think it means to be an American and worked in groups to analyze quotes about the American Identity and cartoons about the American Dream.

**Expanding Our World View** – Michael Lerzo's Spanish 1 students began the year by learning about the Spanish-speaking world. They learned the locations, capitals, and interesting information about each country through games, songs, and lots of practice and also discussed different accents among different countries. Beginning their formal study of Spanish in this way provided students with a base on which to better apply the knowledge they will gain throughout the year.

**Back to School Basics** – The High School completed Cadet Orientation during the Drill period each day this week. Topics included - Battalion Commander Welcome & Vision, 2nd Battalion Motto, Cadet Leader Duties, Proper Wear of the Uniform, JROTC Teams (Drill Team, Color Guard, Rifle Team, and Raiders), Platoon Inspection Sheets, Formation, 4:00 Formation, Retraining, Promotions, Merits & Demerits, Safety, Student Handbook, Discipline, Inspections, Drill, Athletics and Eligibility, CFA Leadership Academy, Youth Leadership Baldwin, and Cadet Boards.

**Honor Code** - "A cadet does not lie, cheat, steal, nor tolerate those who do." Our Honor Council gave their annual presentation of the GMC Cadet Honor Code to high school students on Friday. The group also used this opportunity to introduce the newest Honor Council members – Madison Kennedy, Shivani Patel, and Kenyon Shy (all 9<sup>th</sup> graders) – to their peers. The presentation culminated with the Abidance Oaths being taken by our students and faculty.