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# "Pioneers for the Future"

JANUARY 2019

## A note from Mrs. Buckles.....

Dear Pioneer Families,

Happy New Year and welcome to the second semester of school at Garrison-Jones Elementary! Each holiday break from school, we challenge our students to read, read, read! Students can log onto MyOn, iStation, read from their personal collections of books, or go to the public library. Teachers too spend time reading some favorite books over the holiday break.

It is no secret that children who read frequently develop stronger reading skills. So, to encourage reading at Garrison-Jones Elementary we have a challenge each month, announcing the students and classes that read the most Reading Counts books. I thought it would be wonderful to know just how many books are being read in our classrooms whether, joke books, series, picture books, or teacher read aloud. ALL BOOKS! Every single book that each child is reading. How many do you think that might be? I have asked our classroom teachers to begin tallying the number of books read in class each week and record it outside their door. Some classrooms already do this as a practice. This would include every time a student finishes a book during independent reading or a teacher finishes a book during a class read aloud. Then I thought as a partnership, we need to extend the challenge to our families. So here is your challenge. I am asking all families to please tally how many books are read to your child or with your child. This could include comic books, picture books, chapter books too. Send in a tally mark for every book read to your child's teacher each Monday until spring break.

One of the few cornerstones of reading time is the students' self-selection of books they want to read. I am curious at the number of books we may be reading as a school and asked the students and staff to keep a tally of books read until the first week of March. I hope you can help us keep wonderful books in our children's hands by taking frequent trips to the public library or setting up a used book exchange with your child's friends. I look forward to seeing how many books we can read together.

I wonder what book you may be reading with your children at home – right now?  
Happy Reading,

# Family and Community

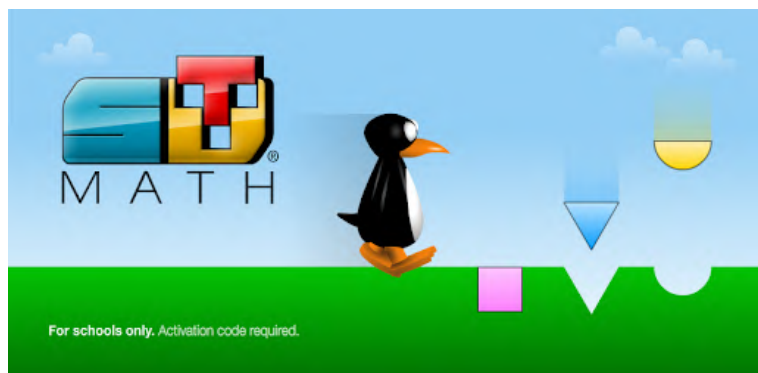


Happy New Year! I hope you and yours made many happy memories during the holiday break. As we begin another year please plan to join us for some of the fun activities that will be coming up. Without your help these events would not be possible.

**URGENT REQUEST** it is extremely important that all of our volunteer hours are logged into the portal system. If you have not been logging in your hours and need help to accomplish this, please call me as soon as possible. The county will be running reports of all school volunteer hours at the end of January, and we would like to have a true accounting of what our wonderful volunteers do.

Thanks for all your help.

*Lena Karamanli, Family & Community Liaison*



There is a lot of exciting learning happening at GJES! We are continuing to utilize our new program for 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students called the Personalized Learning Pathway (PLP) in Clever. PLP imports individual student scores from the MAP Assessment and students have individualized online work in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math based on their MAP RIT score. Students will work through several activities including videos and text and complete one or more tasks to practice using the standard. Students are directed to complete work on their own paper and turn the work into their classroom teacher after break.

Please continue to encourage your child to use Istation, MyOn, ST Math and Dual Language RAZ Kids at home to strengthen their math and reading skills. We appreciate your support each and every day. Thank you for all you do to bridge the home and school connection!

*Erica Pollick*

Assistant Principal



# Counselor's Corner

Rachel Poole, M.A.  
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**Character Trait  
of the Month:  
Self-Motivation**

Working in a careful and consistent manner without giving up.

*"Patience and perseverance have a magical effect before which difficulties disappear and obstacles vanish."*

*~John Quincy Adams*



## SELF-AWARENESS

AVID students perform goal-setting exercises, as well as self-inventories on their learning styles, and self-identify their personal priorities.

## SELF-MANAGEMENT

Organization—including focused note-taking, information management, time management, and goal setting—is one of the main cornerstones of every AVID classroom.

## SOCIAL AWARENESS

AVID classes are structured to empower students to advocate on behalf of themselves to navigate and influence their environment.

## RELATIONSHIP SKILLS

Students are provided opportunities to develop their skills in order to effectively communicate and collaborate in an array of diverse settings.

## RESPONSIBLE DECISION-MAKING

Through AVID's emphasis on inquiry, students can explore issues more deeply in order to take a more thoughtful approach to challenges presented to them.

## 7 Ways to Motivate Children

*Adapted from 7 Proven Ways to Motivate Children to Do Better in School.*  
[www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerms/parents/motivate.pdf](http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/greerms/parents/motivate.pdf)

Set proper expectations - have high expectations and communicate them to your child. Base your expectations on your child as an individual who has strengths and weaknesses.

Help your child set goals – make them specific and measureable, and write them down.

Show your child that you think school is important.

Support your child's learning style – does your child learn best by hearing, seeing, or doing?

Speak the language of encouragement – notice effort and progress, not perfection.

Reinforce learning at home and in the community - activities that can increase their knowledge and understanding are also lots of fun.

Encourage your child to be resilient by empathizing with them, providing reasonable choices, changing your approach when it isn't working, and supporting their interests and talents.





# Art News



We will be working on a Mosaic project with a local artist. For the project we need colorful tiles. If you have colorful tiles that you could donate please contact me at [strawne@pcsb.org](mailto:strawne@pcsb.org). Thank you in advance!

Congratulations to Logan M. in Mrs. DeRee's class and Laila B. in Mrs. Bagu's class! Their art work was selected for the Word and Image show. Their art will be on display at the Morean Art Center in St. Petersburg.

Congratulations to Isabella R., Grace H. and Ursula S. they all received an Award of Excellence for their Art from the Kids Tag Art program. If you would like to see the art created by our 5th grade students go to

<https://kids-tag-art.myshopify.com/collections/all/garrison-jones-elementary>

Tags may be purchase through March. Proceeds from the tags support our art program.

Thank you for supporting the arts!



## News From the Media Center:

### Hour of Code at Garrison-Jones Elementary

Code.org is a non-profit organization dedicated to expanding access to computer science in schools. They have created a variety of fantastic tutorials to teach programming to students of all levels. Many classes from grades 1 through 5 at Garrison-Jones Elementary participated in these activities in the library media center with lessons taught by Mrs. Williams during Computer Science in Education Week before and after the winter break. We will continue to do so throughout the spring. This is further enhanced through our several after school coding and STEM programs, Parents, the students were so excited about the lessons that they learned. Mrs. Williams would like to encourage everyone to visit [code.org](http://code.org), available through Clever to continue their student's learning adventures.

