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What’s Happening to The School Next Year?

Schools don’t always stay the same every year. At our school, Green Mountain Elementary there will be many similarities and changes happening next year.

One thing that will stay the same next year is field day. In case you don’t know, field day is where the school goes out to our field and we do different games. This is a fun activity that everyone loves to do. This is usually separated by grade.

SOAR assemblies are where the school comes together in the gym and we get awards. Each grade will vote for one SOARing falcon who has been very kind to everyone.

Popcorn with the principal is where if you get a SOAR award you go to the principal’s office and you have popcorn.

House games are where the school goes outside and we play games. I would say everyone loves camps! These are where the students goes around the school to different classrooms. In these classrooms we do different activities.

Like I said the school will do different things as well. We are excited for new carpet! Also, our school will have a looping model with multi-grades featuring small classes in every classroom!! This is a different way to group kids to continue fun learning.

See Ms. O’Sullivan’s article on page 2 for more information. Mr. Gardner, Ms. O’Sullivan, and a parent from our PIE committee will be available on Tuesday morning May 21, 7:30-8:00am to help answer questions you might have.

New Teams for 2019-2020 School Year!

See page 2 for more information!

**Kindergarten – 1st Grade Team**
- Michelle Patterson
- Kate Wilson
- Brittany Whitaker

**2nd and 3rd Grade Team**
- Rachel Astemborski
- Elaine Doyle
- Rachel Thompson

**4th and 5th Grade Team**
- Shelby Albertson
- Dani Jenkins
- Suzanna Stanton
- Gayle Cooper
Multi-Grade Classroom? The OPPORTUNITIES for our Students are endless!
By: Kerry O'Sullivan, Instructional Coach

As you know, we will be moving to all multi-grade classrooms next year! This is a change we are excited to see for many reasons. If many of you grew up in my era, we didn’t have this structure and it may seem scary but please listen to some of the opportunities this structure allows for our students.

To start, we have always shared students across grade levels in order to best meet their needs. This new structure allows us to use data and differentiate even more. Many students are lagging in skills or have solidified skills and are ready for the next layer of complexity for that concept. With these multiage classes, we will be able to better intervene and differentiate to either intervene or enrich for all students using data. Our new teams have an average span of 3 years experience between the teachers. This means there is an expert from grade levels above and grade levels below to add input on how to intervene and accelerate learning for all students. This is easy to do in reading and writing because the skills spiral and each year there is an added layer of complexity for each skill. All classes will be in grade level classes for math. Teachers will still use data to give additional support or to accelerate learning in math, because it’s best practice that helps all students be successful. So as you can see, this structure will allow us to best meet the needs for ALL students because differentiation will be the key!

The grade level expectations will remain the same but we cannot stay in that box if we want our students to be ready for the future. If students are ready for the next step, we will be ready to take them there. With teachers who have a wide variety of grade level expertise on each team, the teachers will use differentiation to ensure all students make high growth! There is a lot of recent research that elevates many benefits to multi-grade classrooms. I have linked just a few articles for you to see for yourself. We take students success very seriously and look forward to seeing all students SOAR with our new structure. Please contact me if you ever have any questions about instruction, data or how we are supporting your student. I am happy to email or have a face to face conversation with families at any time.

Sincerely,
Kerry O'Sullivan
Kerry.osullivan@jeffco.k12.co.us
303-982-9380

Links to Research on Multi-Grade Classrooms:
- Chalk beat
- Psychology Today
- The Educator’s Room

Sara’s Garden
By Luna Garcia 3rd Grade

Do you want to know about Green Mountain Elementary School garden? Miss Jones is the head of the garden so we went to the source for more information.

Reporter: Does the garden have name?
Miss Jones: The garden name is Sara’s Garden.
Reporter: Who is it named after?
Miss Jones: It was named after a student.
Reporter: How long has it been there?
Miss Jones: About 20 years.

Miss Jones: We have a rose garden/bee garden/sunflower garden/butterfly garden/and the crops.

Science Fair
By Tabitha 1st Grade

Science Fair will be this Thursday, May 16th!
Family viewing will be from 1:30-3:00 in the gym

Who came up with the science fair?
Science fairs have been in schools since 1942. That was a long time ago!

Are you going to do a project for the science fair?
No I am not doing a project for the science fair, but I have done lots and lots of science experiments with all of the students at Green Mountain Elementary.

What was one of the best science fair projects that you have seen?
I have seen so many science projects, it is hard to choose just one. My favorite part of the science fair is the presentations. I love watching the students as they speak with confidence and show their knowledge to the judges.

Why did you want to work at Green Mountain Elementary?
I just love the positive environment of our school. We are very accepting of all students and we love to celebrate students’ learning with different opportunities such as the science fair. Also, I grew up in the Green Mountain Area.

When is the science fair? The science fair is on Thursday, May 16. Students will bring their projects into the gym between 7:45-8:30. We will have judging during the day and friends and family can visit the Science Fair from 2:30-3:00. Can’t wait to see you all!!
Makerspace Update!
By Ali Waites 5th Grade

Hello parents! I’m Ali Waites updating you on the makerspace, you might or might not know, but the makerspace is going to be moved. I will give you the new location, the history behind the makerspace, why they decided to move it, and more!

First of all, let’s start off with where the makerspace is moving to. The makerspace will be two rooms behind the library, where Mr. Jacobson’s office is. If you need more details, the makerspace will be in the library to the left of the reading nook.

Hmmm, I wonder what the history of the makerspace is? If you are wondering about the history, I’ve got you covered. Mrs. Gilbert first had the idea to have a space where kids can have a chance for some hands on learning. When I interviewed her, she said "I really wanted the makerspace, so I brought it up to Mr. Gardener, and he thought it was a good idea, so we put it into action!" Mrs. Gilbert said the move and the setup would take about 2 weeks, or approximately 7-10 days.

Why is the makerspace moving you might ask, well I asked Mrs. Gilbert that same question. Her response was "the makerspace is moving because we will be able to fit whole classes in there, we will have access to water, they will be able to teach different areas of academies such as Business and Global Studies, Health and Human services, Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM), and Arts, Humanities and Performing Arts."

I asked Mrs. Gilbert if she thought that kids being exposed to the makerspace will positively affect their learning, she gave us a great answer, she said "I think it will positively affect students learning because it ties into an authentic learning experiences and that kids are curious by nature, and by hands on exploration they will gain valuable learning experiences that are authentic students are very enthusiastic to use the makerspace and I think that it will enhance their learning.”

Mrs. Gilbert also said “I also created the makerspace so kids can create, be, be explorers, thinkers, makers, tinkerers, and engineers.” Mrs. Gilbert love when students are able to learn, but also have fun at the same time. I hope that your students have fun in the new and improved makerspace next year, I’m Ali Waites and that was your Makerspace Update!

Meet Rocky
By Thomas Misiak 3rd Grade

Our school pet Rocky was bought from Petsmart but bearded dragons originate from the deserts of Australia. To keep warm Rocky uses heat lamps the heat has to be from 95 to 110 degrees. Rocky will go to Mrs. O’Sullivan’s house in the summer. We don’t know Rocky’s gender we will know when Rocky is older. Rocky will live 10 years. Rocky is herbivore which eats plants and meat. We got Rocky because there are strict rules about the pets at school. When Rocky is bigger you can walk Rocky on a leash.

Rocky is an interesting animal if you want to learn more ask Mrs. Bertram.

Bryn Slater wins the I Love to Read Contest!
By Bryn Slater 1st Grade

On a Friday afternoon in Golden I went to the American mountaineering center. I went to an award ceremony. It was on may 3 2019. The award ceremony was about the Jeffco writing challenge & I love to read contest. There was An author named Todd Fahnestock and he talked about how important reading is. My award was for the I Love to Read contest. I got ten dollar gift card to Tattered Cover book store.
It's almost the end of the school year, and that means Camp Talon is coming and there are some exciting things. At the end of winter break we got our minds put together with camps well now they're back, and now they're way better. Camp Talon will be May 20-22. It might not sound like a lot of time but it will be the best three days of your life. We are so excited for Camp Talon to return this year! Some exciting things that are planned are morning meetings with staff, minute to win it games, prizes donated by PTA and all 1-6th graders will be going to the Green Mountain Swim Club with the AMP team. There will be a variety of classes offered like volleyball, lego STEM challenges, art and yoga, just to name a few. Camps will be in the morning this year right after the morning meeting and all 1st-5th students will have the opportunity to go to the pool whereas last year it was a camp session. Fun activities, PRIZES, swimming with friends! All students will participate in Camps! If students need to sit a camp out to reset their behavior, they can, but who wants to miss camps? Teachers will show the movie that advertises camps and then all students will pick their top choices. Some students may not get their first choice but they will get many of their choices! We should be very excited because there prizes and activities and more. The teachers planning these need respect like good listing, helping hands to everyone, and soar behavior. There will also be 5th grade will help kindergarten to find their next camp. There are 10-20 students per class so you will get two of what you want. And remember to be EXCITED!

5th Grade Continuation
By: Delilah Brown 5th Grade

The end of the year is coming up! Fifth grade is going to Middle School, and that can be a pretty nerve racking experience for some of them. Let's see how they're feeling. There are many students who are nervous and worried to go to Middle School. Although, some students are prepared and excited to go to Middle School. The fifth graders just recently took a field trip to Dunstan. Many fifth graders became worried that they would get lost in the school. “I'm sad that I won't be going to school with my sister anymore.” Says Taylor Burt from Mrs. Valdez and Miss Thompson's fifth grade class. I know some people need to pick up younger siblings, so they will be sure to stop by and say hello to the teachers. Some fifth graders are nervous, some are excited, some feel prepared, and some don't. There is no real way to prepare for middle school. They will all do their best that they can in middle school.
Kindergarten Continuation

By Avery Brennen 5th grade

Lots of kindergarteners have said they are excited or nervous to graduate. And of course the teachers are sad and are going to shed a few tears. All of the kindergarteners said that they are wearing something pretty or they are wearing a uniform. Together as a school we will have to help them get over their fear of this graduation.

In 5th grade they call it continuation instead of graduation, I asked Mrs. Patterson why that was, and she said, “they call it graduation for them so they feel like bigger kids. Lots of kids say that they are excited to have AMP this year. They also said that they are sad to move up a grade because they will miss their teachers. All of the kindergarteners are going to read a poem and sing songs that the wonderful music teacher, Mrs. M taught them. All of the parents get sad that their baby is growing up.lol
PTA End of Year Reflection

It has been a wonderful year of learning for our new PTA Board. We successfully ran our own Fun Run and raised around $10,000 which put 3 chromebooks into each classroom and provided ASD with much needed math resources. In addition, we tried to keep some old traditions while bringing in new ones. We are committed to providing fun nights where families are engaged in activities together like our game night and Maker space exploration. We will continue to plan fun activities families can enjoy together.

We want to say a heartfelt thank you to JaDee Thoreson for her years of service on the PTA Board. We wish her and her family the very best in Florida!

We want to welcome Katie Hewitt to the PTA Board and we look forward to her bringing new ideas to make our PTA even better. A huge thank you to all of our families that donated gifts or money to raffle prizes to show our staff how appreciate they are this past week! Well, that’s a wrap for this year!

Where did PTA money go for the 2018-2019 school year?

**Funds Requested and Donated:**

- **$160** Kinder books for the 1st day of school
- **$325** School wide Monday Folders
- **$160** Headphones for Library Chromebooks
- **$350** Fall Fest Donations (Food and Dunk Tank)
- **$200** Track Meet
- **$64** Field Day
- **$7242.3** Chrome books per class from Falcon Fun Run
- **$660** per ASD class - from Falcon Fun Run
- **$10,000.00** donation to the school
- **$250** Race to Read
- **$125** Youth Vocal
- **$100** Watch Dog program

**Sponsored events:**

- **$250** Camp Talon Prizes and Snacks
- 130 Arts & Crafts Night
- Fall Conference Dinner for Staff
- Ballot Initiatives Meeting
- Book Swap
- Elf Shop
- **$160** Goodies with Grandparents
- **$200** Continuation Cakes and Supplies for Kindergarten and 5th grade

Be sure to sign up to be a member next year so we can continue to support the students, staff and community of GMES! Members do not have to attend every meeting or help at every event, it just means that you support all the great things happening at GMES!