

Bulldog Bulletin

Dates

Thurs. January 17	School Comm. Mtg 7:00 PM @CHS
Mon. January 21	NO SCHOOL
Wed. January 23	CFED Mtg. 7:00 PM @ CHS
Wed. January 30	Grades close

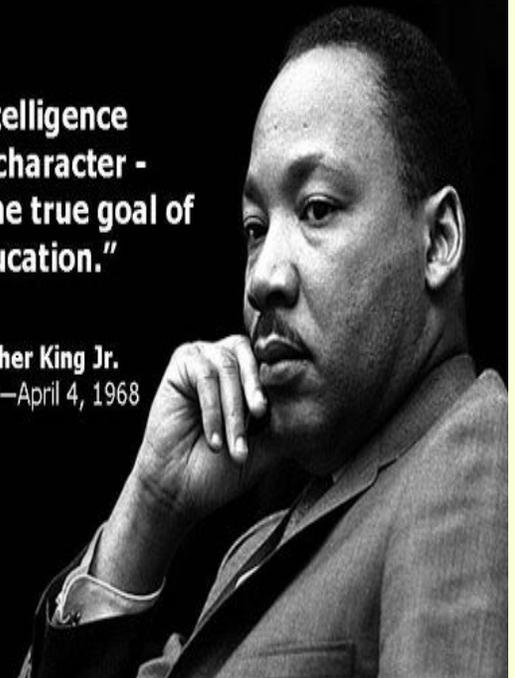
GMS after school club, Solar Cars, will begin on January 28th.

Follow us on Twitter: @Galvinmiddle

On Tuesday, February 12th, there is going to be a police cruiser, ambulance, and fire truck at the school as part of a Social Skills lesson on community safety. We want all parents to be aware of why and when the vehicles will be on school property. The vehicles will be here from 12:30-1:20 PM.

"Intelligence
plus character -
that is the true goal of
education."

Martin Luther King Jr.
Jan. 15, 1929—April 4, 1968



Dear Galvin Community,

Happy New Year and welcome to 2019!

One of our goals this year has been to create opportunities for students to share their voice and have input into their daily school experience. One way we chose to do this was to dedicate an early release day to listening to our students. This past Wednesday (January 9th) was **GMS Student Speak Up Day!** *The day was designed to hear our students' voices. We want to empower our student body to have a positive impact on our school. Student voice is integral to the vision for GMS. This day was a first step in hearing what our students want and need and honoring their input. Over the course of the morning, all students rotated through four stations:*

- **Station 1: Who is the GMS Learner?**

As a staff we have been talking about what skills, qualities and dispositions define the GMS Learner. Our goal is that the final profile of the GMS Learner will drive our GMS Vision and the decisions we make as a school to implement the Canton Public School Strategic Framework.

During this workshop students brainstormed what qualities, skills and dispositions they wanted to have by the time they left GMS. They then considered a career they might like to have one day and what qualities, skills and dispositions they'd need to have to be successful in that career. They added these to their brainstorms. We then shared the work the teachers have done so far toward defining the GMS Learner. Each student then identified one word that wasn't represented by the teachers that he/she/they felt strongly we consider.

- **Station 2: How can I contribute to a GMS culture of kindness, respect and support?**

The second Strategic Objective for the district is "Cultivating School Culture and Climate". At GMS we have a good culture. There are pockets of excellence and other areas that need work. Overall, our students are amazing young people. Middle schoolers, however, are experiencing a period of rapid growth physically, socially and emotionally. As a result, middle school culture must be intentionally created and kept at the forefront as a priority. This workshop challenged our students to think about what it means to be kind, respectful and supportive and to identify both where they see evidence of this at school and where we need to pay more attention. We also challenged our students to identify one way in which each of them can personally contribute to a great GMS culture.

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- **Station 3: *GMS Student Experience Survey***

Students in this rotation completed a Google Survey about the student experience. In the survey we asked questions about the GMS culture, the schedule, academics and technology. We also included one open-ended question so students could address a concern that we didn't ask about. Overall we received 684 responses!

- **Station 4: *An activity block***

During this rotation students had the opportunity to choose a movement/mindful break (walking around the building, engaging in an activity in the gym, coloring motivational posters to be hung around the building, a meditation session, and more).

Overall, the day was very well received. Students were highly engaged and shared so many important insights. Their voices are really helping us understand the GMS student experience. I will be following up with all students via a letter this week to let them know how much I appreciate their input. I will also share with them that change takes time and that many of their ideas may not be able to be implemented this year but will be considered for the 2019 - 2020 school year. Where we can make changes more immediately we will and, in some cases, we may ask for more input and feedback.

As we continue to analyze the data provided by the GMS students, we will find ways to share their thoughts with you. In the meantime, please talk with your child about the day and his/her/their thoughts on the GMS Learner, the culture of the Galvin and their feedback shared in the survey. Thank him/her/them also for speaking up and using his/her/their voice. The Galvin Middle School is here for our students. We are listening to them.

Warmly,
Sarah Shannon
Principal

Books

We are well into our Idita-Read Challenge. At the last checkpoint, our school read 70,353 pages between November 30 and December 18. The seventh grade read far and away the most pages, with a total of 42,386!!

As a school, we have read more than 200,000 pages of pleasure reading (not connected to a classroom lesson) since the beginning of our challenge, November 9th!

Our hope is that this challenge helps all Galvin learners to create the habit of independent reading. We know that there are many benefits to becoming a lifelong reader.

Our next checkpoint is January 14th, and our last checkpoint will be January 31.

Thanks to all the families who are reminding their students to bring a book with them to every class.



The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be held during school hours from **January 28th** through **February 1st**. All students will be given an opportunity to visit the Fair with their Reading or English class. There will be middle school appropriate titles including Massachusetts Awards, Young Adult novels, Graphic Novels, Nonfiction, Popular fiction, and a display celebrating 20 years of Harry Potter!

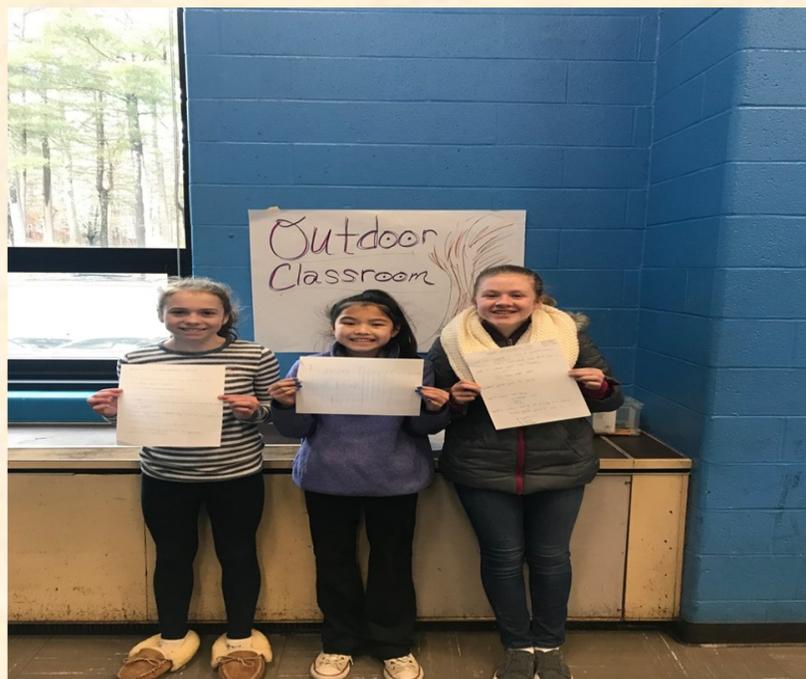
There will also be a **family night from 6:00 to 8:00 on January 30th**. A special collection of picture books, cookbooks and adult literature will be available. All family members are invited to attend.



Student Speak-Up Day



During Student Speak-Up Day, many Galvin students shared thoughts and ideas about using Galvin's Outdoor classroom. Their ideas were creative and varied. Some of these included sketching during art class, reading novels in ELA, witnessing erosion first hand in science, and de-stressing before a test. Several students had suggestions for an after school Environmental club. Because of this interest, an Environmental Club will be held in the spring.



NAEP Testing

The Galvin Middle School will participate in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) on Friday, February 11th, 2019. NAEP is the largest nationally representative and continuing assessment of what students know and can do in various subjects. NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics, within the U.S. Department of Education. NAEP is different from our state assessments because it is a common measure of achievement across the country. The results are released as The Nation's Report Card, which provides information about student achievement to educators, parents, policymakers, and the public. This is for grade 8 students only, and students have been randomly selected by NAEP. Students will take an assessment in mathematics or reading. If your child has been selected to participate in NAEP, a letter will be emailed to parents on Monday, January 14th.

Project PREP

We are Project PREP (Protecting Residents with Emergency Preparedness), a Community Problem Solving team from Dedham and Canton, Massachusetts. Community Problem Solving is a component of the Future Problem Solving Program International in which teams identify and address an issue of concern over the course of a year. Our team is made up of 16 seventh through tenth graders. As residents of neighboring towns, we are working together to improve safety for the people of Norfolk County during weather-related events.

Our project's goal is to help people prepare for emergency weather situations such as floods, hurricanes, extreme temperatures, and blizzards. As severe weather increases in frequency and intensity, our hope is to help residents prepare so they remain safe during these events. For example, Boston, MA, has had twenty-four days that averaged over ninety degrees last year, compared to eight days averaging over ninety degrees just eleven years ago in the same period of time. Events such as extreme heat pose safety risks to residents. Knowing how to prepare will decrease those risks.

To combat these issues, our team has created brochures with our logo, held meetings with town officials in Dedham, and raised awareness at the Holiday Stroll in Dedham. Some of our future plans include meeting with Canton town officials, creating and distributing emergency supply kits, and emergency phone number magnets.

Project PREP survey www.weatherprep.org/surveys.html

Amelia Chien, Riley Harn, Danica Seto

Grade 7 GMS Community Problem Solvers

CAPE

Save the date!

The 13th annual CAPE Spelling Bee will be held on Friday, March 22, 2019. Be sure to mark your calendars. This is a town-wide event and lots of fun for students, teachers, parents, administrators and community members of ALL AGES!

For more information on CAPE (Canton Alliance for Public Education) please check out our new website: <http://www.cantonCAPE.org>.

Like us on Facebook: Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE).
Canton Alliance for Public Education (CAPE)

Follow us on Twitter: @CantonCAPE.

Please contact Ellen Golden at capespellingbee@gmail.com for information on volunteer opportunities or how you or students in grades 3rd-12th, or local businesses and community groups can participate or provide sponsorship to the Spelling Bee.



Each month teachers at the Galvin Middle School nominate students for being excellent citizens. Each student that is nominated receives a PAWS magnet, a certificate is placed on our PAWS board in the main lobby and your student is entered in a monthly drawing.

Here are December's PAW'S Nominations

Arianna Pierre

Elizabeth Beal

Paige Sullivan

Aiden O'Toole

Bianca Chery

Christian Weitz

Huck McCready

Michael Strojny

Tristan Camarra

Ashton Papalcure

