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# GAA GANEWS IS GOOD GANEWS

ARTHUR ACADEMY  
*Public School*



March

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1890 NE Cleveland Ave., Gresham, OR 97030  
(503)667-4900 Gresham-Barlow School District

## Teacher Contact Information:

### School Manager/Kindergarten

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### 1<sup>st</sup> Grade

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

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### Teaching Assistant

Ms Montgomery  
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### Teaching Assistant

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### Teaching Assistant/K.E.

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## SCHOOL NEWS

If your student has a sibling that will be entering kindergarten next year please send a note with his/her full name and birth date.

We all appreciate the volunteers at our school! If you are interested in volunteering please come to the office to get more information. It seems like we always have plenty to do here but on the off chance that everything is caught up we do ask that you check back another day.

We are working diligently on correcting any lunch account mistakes that have been made. You are always welcome to call or send a note if you have a question. Please note that lunch money will be taken to the Arthur Academy Business office to be deposited at the end of every week. When money is brought in please be sure to only give it to Ms Thomas, Ms Brown, or Mrs. McCool. You will also receive a receipt for every transaction.

At a recent staff meeting the lunch schedule was discussed and improved upon! Kindergarten and First grade will begin lunch at 11:45 and will return to class at 12:15. Second grade and Third grade will begin lunch at 12:00 and will return to class at 12:30. Because students eat at different paces there will be two shifts of students to go to recess. When half of the group is done they will be walked out to recess and will be followed by the second half when they finish. This new schedule gives us more time outside and more time for the classroom! Thank you so much for your patients while we iron out the rough spots!

If you have any questions regarding the operation of the school or use of the building please contact Susan McCool.

<b>MARCH BIRTHDAYS!</b>
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All March birthdays will be celebrated the last Friday of the month. Check with your teacher if you would like to bring something to celebrate.



## KINDERGARTEN – MRS. MCCOOL

These kindergarteners are up for anything! We have been racing the clock every morning to finish our spelling lesson. For some reason setting a timer makes the lesson even more fun. We start spelling at 8:30 a.m. sharp and have ten minutes to finish the lesson. They always finish with at least two minutes to spare. The minutes left turn into points to earn something at the end of the week.

I have an art activity planned but we need 24 empty tissue boxes, several magazines and one bottle of Elmer's glue. As soon as we have all of the needed items let the project begin!

**Blue Reading Group** taught by Ms Thomas and including Brian, Shelby, Libby, Isaiha, Lorenzo and Grace are fast cycling. This means that they are skipping specific practice lessons and are really cruisin' through the book!

**Orange Reading Group** taught by Ms Montgomery and including Lilah, Dyllan, A.J, Lorenzo, Malachi, Luaren, Jesse and Makayla are working on keeping their place in the story while others read or when Ms Montgomery asks a question. This is always very challenging but a very important skill. You can help at home by having your student always track while s/he reads.

**Green Reading Group** taught by Mrs. McCool and including Evan, Gwen, Olivia, Deaven, Anthony, Tyler and Emmalee has reviewed the sound "I". We have set a 30-minute time limit for reading and then work in the group to finish our worksheets. This has made a tremendous difference in the accuracy and neatness of their work.

**Fun math Rabbits** taught by Mrs. McCool and including Deaven, Makayla, Evan, Emmalee, Tyler, and Gwen are practicing number recognition from 1 to 22 by playing some fun number hunt games. They have also been working hard with writing and recognizing equations that equal that same number.

**Fun Math Turtles** taught by Ms Thomas has been working on some really tough addition like  $29+2$ ! They are continuing to practice counting from one number to another. This may start with the directions, "start at 87 and count to 100." This is a difficult task. You can make a game of this at home by taking turns choosing the number range to count from. Give your student a chance to choose the number ranges for you to count.

**Core** taught by Mrs. McCool and including the whole group is studying Native Americans and specifically discussing the Anasazi tribe. Going along these lines we will be having a guest coming into the class to teach us how to make clay bowls and to decorate them using Indian symbols.

## FABULOUS FIRST GRADERS – MRS. SCHMAUTZ

These first graders are really working hard! It is great to see students come in first thing and get right to work on any fix ups they may have. We are always talking about how we can get ready for second grade, and these kids are taking the right steps. They are working so well in reading that we decided to create a fourth reading group so that each group is smaller, and thus can move at a quicker pace. It will allow each teacher to work more individually with your child. In addition to Red, Blue and Green group we now have Yellow group!

**Red Group** taught by Mrs. Schmartz: Summer, Luke, Taylor, Jordan. This group has been passing all checkout assessments, and just moved into Storybook 2! They are so excited and reading up a storm!

**Blue Group** taught by Mrs. Burbidge: Cody, Kelsey, Kaleb, Reily, Lizeth, Gage, and Yesenia. This group is moving right along in Reading Mastery II. They are enjoying their stories, and are consistently bringing in their homework. Great job Blue Group!

**Green Group** taught by Mrs. Schmartz: Travis, Lindsey, Mario, Mariah, Ruben P., Emily, and Dillon. This group is fast cycling through Reading Mastery II, which means we will be moving through it at a quicker pace. This group is reading stories about a character named Walter, and really are learning to empathize with him as we read about his struggles with football. Ask your child about Walter!

**Yellow Group** taught by Miss Thomas: Gabe, Isabella, Emma, Tyrone, Kanyan. This group is outstanding to listen to! This group is also fast cycling through Reading Mastery II, and is already passing lesson 50! Keep it up Yellow!

**CMC A Red Math Group:** We are beginning to use the greater than and less than signs in comparing numbers. We are also working more with counting money. The students are doing a great job. If you have extra change at home, please take a moment to sit with your child and explain the value of each coin and how to count it. Every little bit helps!

**CMC B Orange Math Group:** We are working with addition using carrying and subtraction using borrowing. This is always a tough concept to grasp, so please take the time to sit and review the homework with your child to make sure they are working on it.

**Core:** We are currently studying the solar system. The students are fascinated and always wanting to know more, so we will be diving a bit deeper the next few weeks. We will also move into Geographical features of the Earth and Early Exploration.

## SECOND GRADE NEWS – MS STANDLEY

Second graders are so flexible! We've just changed the class seating arrangement to allow everyone a little more elbowroom, and they're taking it in stride! We've started a new book in the Reasoning & Writing Work, which will eventually build up to paragraph writing. You may have noticed that your children are bringing home some writing. Every day they are writing a few sentences about different topics. These have been so much fun to read! Make sure your child shares these with you! You may have also noticed that your child's spelling on these may not be perfect. This exercise is really to get them used to the process of writing, so I'm not being picky about spelling. On a related note, if anyone has some lined notebook paper they could donate for use in the classroom, it would be much appreciated!

**Red Reading Group** taught by Mrs. Burbidge and including Nathan, Taylor, Austin, Sariah, Javin & Josh has been working hard! As I'm sure you've heard from their

homework, they've just finished reading stories about a character named Sid. They are also excited that the text in their book has changed to regular print.

**Green Reading Group** taught by Ms Standley and including Maggie, Keith, Morgan, Chad, Zach, Nicole, McKayla and Reuben A. has just started Reading Mastery III! This program has more vocabulary words, and longer stories. We have just begun reading a story about Joe Williams, who is a Felt Tipped Pen!

**Yellow Reading Group** taught by Ms Montgomery and including Madison, Hunter, Kassie, Idda, Riley, Brandon, Isaac, Christopher, Maria, and Maddie is getting in the groove now. They've had 2 tests in the new program and are doing great! They have just started reading a story about Nancy, a girl who shrinks!

**Purple Reading Group** taught by Ms Standley and including Matei, Gabe, Nicole H., Nicole B., Emily, and Naomi have been working on learning some tough vocabulary words (can you say Eohippus?) and reading some long and complicated stories. At the moment they are reading about Andrew Dexter, the Strongest Man in the World.

**Green Math Group** taught by Ms Montgomery and including Hunter, Gabe, Matei, Keith, Britton, Maria, and Christopher has just begun CMC C. This program involves a more complicated process, using both a textbook and a workbook. They are learning the difficult concept of area.

**Big Math Group** taught by Ms Standley has mastered carrying, and is now learning to borrow! They have also been working on writing story problem equations involving money, which is not always an easy feat! This is a good time for your kiddo to help count the change while you're at the store.

## THIRD GRADE NEWS – MS TRUAX

HAPPY MARCH!

My third graders have been hard at work, as always! We have been doing some preparation for state testing in addition to our everyday curriculum. Here are some concepts that you can help them with at home that will be useful not only for the test but also in math class and daily life:

- Telling time - an analog clock would be very useful so that you can have them tell you what time it is. One thing that has been tricky for them is figuring out how much time will pass between 2 given times (example: how much time will pass between 3:15 and 5:30).
- Flash cards for multiplication, addition, subtraction and division-only a few kids have told me that they have them but even fewer admit to using them. These cards can be made, or bought, which would benefit them greatly. Check his/her work that comes home to see what problems they are working on.
- Ask your child to estimate with you. Show them grocery store receipts or anything else that will get them thinking of numbers to the closest tens or hundreds.

**Tigers Reading Group** taught by Ms Montgomery and including Seth, Mario, Chris, Hayden and Jose have just passed their benchmark test! Way to go, tigers☺. One rule they have been working hard on is the end of the word “e”.

**Dogs Reading Group** taught by Ms Truax and including Britton, Thomas, Carly, Izaiah, Nekole and William have just moved into book 3 of Reading Mastery III! They are very excited and have been doing a great job. Their fluency is clearly improving and they have been taking more care in their reading comprehension questions. We’re recognizing more compound words and focusing on predictions.

**Wolves Reading Group** taught by Ms Truax and including Hannah, Katelyn, Mariah and Jessica has just successfully passed another chapter test. The girls are doing a wonderful job of reading together during my other reading group and have been doing more reading and writing extensions. They will be saving the extra stories and poetry in a reading packet.

**Yellow Math Group** taught by Ms Montgomery and including Hayden, Jose, Nicole, Chris, Zach and Josh are practicing quick mental math, counting by 9’s, and counting money among other things. Again, any additional practice that you can go through with them at home is very useful and important. Even a few minutes in the car each day can make a difference.

**Red Math Group** taught by Ms Truax and including Javin, Carly, Mariah, Thomas, Izaiah, Nekole, William, Jessica, Hannah and Katelyn have been working on word problems that compare two things and figuring out based on the words if we need to add or subtract to solve. We’ve also been working on fractions, trying to figure out if a fraction is more, less or equal to one. Telling time and estimating money are also concepts we’re currently working with and I know that they will improve even more with parental assistance.

**Core** taught by Ms Truax and including the whole group is studying sound and have been learning how fast sound travels and doing an experiment with string, cups and paper clips to see if we can make our own telephones. We will be doing extra math during some of our core time in order to work as a whole group on some core math concepts- measurement, time, fractions and more.