



April 2017

GMRSD Board Of Education

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SUPERINTENDENT NEWS

Dear Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional School community members,

As much of the weather is changing, and the earth is defrosting, many of you, as am I, are eagerly awaiting the upcoming warmer seasons. "Spring is a time of plans and projects (*Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy)". As I am sure you have heard, there's a buzz in the air with regard to student enrollment, facility infrastructure, building projects and possible future realignment, all of which are true and have been happening simultaneously between the districts and within our communities. Spring is a time of renewal and rebirth, and we are effortlessly working toward all of these endeavors for a prosperous future.

With our communities' commitment in developing the safest and most secure environment for students and staff, our construction for vestibule installation will begin this June, which follows both districts' Strategic Plans. Vestibule installation will be taking place throughout the summer at Central School, Liberty School, Great Meadows and Hackettstown Middle Schools, and Hackettstown High School. As this project nears completion, all 7 of our schools in both districts will have safety and security enhancements, which the Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional Boards of Education were dedicated in providing for the safety of our students.

In addition to vestibule installation, Hackettstown High School will also conduct three construction projects simultaneously in the form of bathroom upgrades, Hall of Fame lobby, and last but certainly not least, a complete renovation and modernization of our media center. The media center has been three years in the making and will provide our students, staff, and community members a 21st century state-of-the-art active learning environment.

The aforementioned construction projects, albeit all projects, as it pertains to improving our students' school community are only possible with committed board of education members, supportive community members, and secure funds and finances. That said, both boards of education are in the final stages of the budget development process. On Tuesday, April 25, 2017, the Great Meadows Regional School District will present its 2017-2018 proposed budget for approval and following that presentation, my office will present to the board of education and public an optimization of facility study. The following evening, Wednesday, April 26, 2017, the Hackettstown Public School District will present its 2017-2018 proposed budget to the board of education and public for approval. However, we will kick off our meeting on April 26, 2017 by publicly honoring the inaugural class of the Hackettstown High School Hall of Fame. I encourage all community members

to attend both meetings to support our districts' initiatives, honorees, and future vision.

As our districts did last year, we will "give back" the two emergency days which have not been utilized during snow days/other emergencies. Unfortunately, these two days will not coincide between the districts due to the High School Graduation and Project Graduation schedule. Therefore, the Hackettstown School District will be closed on Thursday, May 25, 2017 and Friday, May 26, 2017. The Great Meadows Regional School District will shorten their school calendar by closing school on Monday, June 19, 2017 and Tuesday, June 20, 2017, which will allow the Great Meadows Middle School graduation ceremonies to be conducted on Friday, June 16, 2017. This will also be the last day of school for the entire district of Great Meadows.

Because the next couple of months will be very eventful and busy, below are a list of reminder dates that will keep you up-to-date with our board of education meetings and other school-related events:

- May 10th-Teacher of the Year award-Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting(7pm)
- May23rd- Teacher of the Year award-Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting (7pm)
- June 13th- *Facilities and Projects Update by Mr. DeMatteo, Director of Building and Grounds-Great Meadows Regional Public Board of Education Meeting (7pm)
- June14th- *Facilities and Projects Update by Mr. DeMatteo, Director of Building and Grounds-Hackettstown Public Board of Education Meeting(7pm)

In addition to Mr. DeMatteo's update on facilities and projects, our building principals will also discuss each of their building's progression as it relates to their district goals.

On behalf of the Hackettstown and Great Meadows Regional Boards of Education, staff and students, I would like to wish Mrs. Nadia Romano, our Shared service Director of Curriculum and Instruction good luck on her new future, as she is leaving our districts. We would like to thank her for her 5 years of outstanding service throughout both of our school districts.

Lastly, I would like to wish all members of our communities a joyous spring season and healthy and relaxing summer.

Sincerely,
David C. Mango
Superintendent of Schools



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BUSINESS OFFICE

From the Great Meadows Regional Business Office...

This is an extremely busy and important time for the staff of the Business Office as we prepare the budget for the 2017-18 school year. The budget year begins July 1, 2017 and ends June 30, 2018. At the same time we are also beginning the process of closing the books in preparation for the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) The CAFR is performed by our auditing firm in order to analyze and report on the financial status of the Great Meadows Regional School District. The financial closing date for the 2016-17 budget year ends on June 30, 2017.

Getting back to the 2017-18 Budget and its pending approval from the Warren County Department of Education, The Great Meadows Regional Board of Education, as part of its regular meeting scheduled for April 25, 2017 will be holding a Public Hearing on the 2017-18 Budget as required by Code and Statute. This meeting is scheduled to be called to order at 7:00 PM in the GMMS Cafeteria and the public is welcomed and encouraged to attend.

Prior to the Public Hearing, the GMRBOE is required by code and statute, to post and advertise in a local newspaper the "Advertised Budget for 2017-18" as a way to make the information available to the public in advance of the Public Hearing. As of now this advertisement is planned to publish in the Warren Gazette on Friday April 21, 2017.

At the Public Hearing a presentation will be made on the proposed budget for the upcoming year. At the conclusion of the public hearing the GMRBOE will then have before it a resolution for adoption of the Final Budget for 2017-2018. This resolution will re-affirm and reflect any changes from the Tentative Budget that was adopted back in March. Hope to see you on the 25th.

Timothy Havlusch
School Business Administrator/Board Secretary
Great Meadows Regional School District

CURRICULUM CORNER

Curriculum Corner

Nadia Romano

Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Hello,

As the school year is coming to a close please keep an eye out for program surveys from your building principals for the Academic Support Programs. I am currently working with the administrative team to bring back the summer program at GMMS and studying the feasibility of implementing programs at Liberty and Central Schools. Your participation is vital in this process as we strive to expand our Academic Support Programs to ensure student success.

This year the staff has worked very hard to revise the Language Arts Curriculum to Align with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards. We have developed a solid foundation for our program of studies and look to complete work on math and science in the coming months.

Currently we are revising the programmatic structure of the Gifted and Talented structure in the district. The components of this program will have a revised structure for the fall of 2017.

Lastly, I have accepted a position at the Educational Services Commission of New Jersey beginning July 1. I have no doubt that the outstanding administrative staff will continue to support and develop the programs that we have implemented in these last few years. I would like to thank Mr. Mango and the Members of the Board of Education, the Administrative Team, Faculty and Staff for all of their support. It has been my sincere pleasure to serve as the Shared Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the Great Meadows Regional School District.

Thank you,
Nadia Romano

CENTRAL SCHOOL NEWS

GOVERNOR'S EDUCATORS OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Central School's Governor's Educators of the Year—Ms. Romagnoli and Ms. Hendershot.

Ms. Romagnoli is a model kindergarten teacher whose demeanor creates a positive atmosphere for learning. She teaches our youngest children how to be students by teaching skills that will last them a lifetime.

Ms. Hendershot takes school nursing to a higher level. She treats the



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whole child and not just his/her symptoms. Her caring personality is reflected in the way she interacts with her young "patients."

This is a well-deserved honor for both of these fine educators, who will be honored at a County banquet in June.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

While Central does not have the PARCC, we still value the use of data to inform the way we educate our students. One such way is through the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), which is administered three times per year to all students in grades 1-2 (kindergarten tests twice) to test reading fluency and comprehension. I am happy to report that, as of January, 84 percent of all Central students are reading at or above benchmark for this point in the year. Keep on reading and keep up the good work!

SPRING EVENTS

There are too many spring events to name them all. April 5 is our 3rd joint Principals' Forum. The topic will be the CAP Program's Parent Presentation. It starts at 6 p.m. at Liberty School. This precedes the CAP Program for Grades 1, 3, and 5 that will occur in late April.

April 26 is Central's 2nd Grade Spring Concert and K-2 Art Show. Everyone is invited to join in on the 2-for-1 night of creative arts. Start time is 6 p.m. for Art Show and 7 p.m. for Concert. Both will be held at GMMS.

LIBERTY SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Spring! At Liberty Elementary, learning is our superpower!

The 3rd Grade had an outstanding spring concert, entitled "My Fantastic Family". The script was written by our third grade students, and the songs were filled with third grade inspiration. Everyone truly enjoyed hearing our students sing about the families that they love so much. Mrs. Long's next concert will be on Wednesday, June 7 at the Middle School. The 4th and 5th Grade Band and Chorus will be presenting music from the animated hit movie SING. *"We're going to unleash some major piggy power!" - Gunter the pig from Sing.*

The 4th graders enjoyed the "Wildlife Critter and Litter Program", sponsored by Liberty Township Clean Communities in February. Mr. and Mrs. Dove shared interesting facts and stories about New Jersey's wildlife. In March, they closely followed the 2017 Iditarod Race - The Greatest Race on Earth. During their research they learned about its history and the life of a musher. Every student and homeroom teacher randomly chose a musher to follow and cheer for during the Iditarod Race. On April 13th, students will travel to Netcong to watch, "Tales from the Garden." at The Growing Stage. Captain Smith and Mrs. Rafalko also visited the 4th grade and shared their exciting vocational experience in aviation. Students were eager to learn about commercial airlines, how large planes operate, and fun facts about math.

5th grade has been busy! They enjoyed several fun activities and assemblies, especially dressing up and creating headbands of their favorite Dr. Seuss characters during Read Across America Week. Inspired by *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*, they created and decorated their hallway with hot air balloons. Each balloon was labeled with a special place they would love to visit. 5th grade had a special visitor Ms. Kummer, a nurse practitioner with The Orthopedic Institute of New Jersey. Ms. Kummer shared her passion in a mini assembly with our fifth grade students about orthopedics and procedures.

Congratulations to our Liberty students who competed in Hackettstown's PTA Science Fair! Special thanks to Mrs. Arnold our "Teacher of the Year", Mr. Ackerman, and Ms. Smith for volunteering as judges.

MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

GMMS Parents/Guardians,

Hello once again. The year is rapidly coming to an end with only one marking period to go. Please keep watch for your child's final end of year benchmark which is one of the determining factors for Title 1 academic support services for the 2017-18 school year. Both Title 1 programs will be ending the month of May and will begin again in October. In addition, any student who has struggled academically in Mathematics, English Language Arts or Science may be recommended for our Title 1 Summer Academic Support program.

PARCC is here and will be administered April 4th-11th for grade six and April 26-28 and May 2-4 for both grades 7 and 8. We do ask that you ensure your child gets at least 8 hours of sleep each night and is sent to school well-nourished and prepared to test. Any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Marmolejos at the middle school extension 204.

Fitness club will be starting again for April and May and will run every Wednesday from 2:30-3:30.

I am also very pleased to mention the changes and progress being made in our Technology Education Program with Mrs. Doty who replaced Mr. Tshudy. Mrs. Doty has introduced coding and digital citizenship to our Technology Education program. Students are programming drones and Spark+ bots to perform based off of the block coding (programming) they create. You can follow Mrs. Doty and the Tech Ed. Program on Twitter at @GMMSTechEd or on Instagram at gmmsteched. There are more things to come for our Tech Ed. Program so please keep an eye on new modules and programs being introduced into Tech Ed.

I wish you a great final marking period and hope you and your child(ren) have an amazing and academically fruitful end of the year.

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Dates To Remember

04/03/17 – GMMS Start MP 4	04/26/17-04/28/17 – 7 th & 8 th PARCC Testing
04/05/17 – Central/Liberty Principal Forum (at Liberty)	05/02/17-05/04/17 – 7 th & 8 th PARCC Testing
04/03/17-04/06/17 – 4 th Grade PARCC Testing	04/26/17 - Central Grade 2 Spring Concert
04/04/17-04/11/17 – 6 th Grade PARCC Testing	04/28/17 – GMMS PTO Get Together Grades 5-8
04/11/17 – GMMS Battle of the Books Grades 5-6	05/10/17 – PTO Meeting
04/07/17-04/12/17 – 5 th Grade PARCC Testing	05/11/17 – Liberty Art Show
04/12/17 – PTO Meeting	05/19/17 – Early Dismissal (Professional Development)
04/13/17 – Early Dismissal	05/23/17 – BOE Meeting
04/14/17 – School Closed Good Friday	05/24/17 – GMMS Spring Chorus/Band Concert
04/17/17-04/21/17 – School Closed Spring Holiday	05/25/17 – GMMS Principal Forum
04/25/17 – BOE Meeting	05/29/17 – School Closed Memorial Day
	05/31/17 – NJASK Grades 4 and 8