

3rd graders at Helmer Nature Center learning about food webs and habitats

A Note from the Leadership Crew

Each month, you will receive a digital and hard copy of this school newsletter. In each issue, you will find information that will answer many questions you may have wondered and provide updates on different school happenings. Please read and keep it as reference for event dates, times, and contact information.

The front page will always have a small "table of contents" to let you know where to find this information.

Please reach out if you have any questions.

- Elizabeth Mascitti-Miller, Interim Executive Director
- Kemouy Bhalai, School Director - RMSC Campus
- Christine Farrell, School Director - FC Campus
- Chris Dolgos, Director of Curriculum & Instruction
- Maureen Milke, Director of Operations

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GCCS Board of Trustees Family

Representatives

- Kiersten Blankley (kshinrock@gmail.com)
- Benjamin Clarke (benjaminhclarke@yahoo.com)

Family Association Officers

Email us at: GCCS_FA@GCCSchool.org

- **Co-Chairs:** Blake Crowley (blake.crowley@gmail.com) & Carolyn Anderson (carolynhdanderson@gmail.com)
- **Secretary:** Karla Carey (karlarae5@gmail.com)
- **Treasurer:** Isha Torres (iyt6977@gmail.com)



A Note from the School Director

Dear GCCS Families,

Happy April! Spring has officially

sprung, and with it comes a renewed sense of energy and excitement throughout our school. This season reminds us of growth and new beginnings, and it's a joy to watch our students blossom both academically and personally as we head into the final stretch of the school year.

This month, our classrooms buzzed with field studies, birds, frogs, academic preparation, and meaningful discussions. We're so proud of the progress our students have made, and we thank you for your continued partnership in their educational journey.

We experienced and navigated loss and some challenging situations in our community this month. We are appreciative of all our stakeholders and how you all show up for each other and your child(ren). Thank you for exemplifying our Habits of Character of COLLABORATION and COMPASSION.

As we move into the month of May, some things to know:

- NYS Exams continue for tested grades; *see the schedule on page 4*
- Lastly, our Habits of Character focus for May is **COMPASSION!!** Discuss with your child how this is being demonstrated.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership in fostering our students' growth. I can be reached at kbhalai@gccschool.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Kind Regards,

Ms. Kemouy Bhalai
kbhalai@gccschool.org
(585) 697.1960



MARK THE DATES

May 2025:

- May 2:** Better World Day
- May 23:** NO SCHOOL - Staff PD
- May 25:** NO SCHOOL - Memorial Day

June 2025:

- June 5:** Family Conferences @ 11:45 am - Early Dismissal
- June 11-:** Exhibition Nights (*additional information will be shared*)
- June 18**
- June 19:** NO SCHOOL - Juneteenth
- June 23:** 6th Grade Passage Reception
- June 25:** Last Day and Passage Ceremony

Community Circle Highlights:

- **Wednesday, May 7th:** GCCS Fashion Show!!
- **Wednesday, May 14th:** ROC Music Showcase
- **Wednesday, May 21st:** Senior Reunion - *Class of 2019*
- **Wednesday, May 28th:** ROC Crews (*students only*)

Review page 4 for the state exam schedule for students in 3rd - 6th grade.

OUR MISSION

The Genesee Community Charter School provides a rich educational experience that values intellectual rigor, respect for diversity, and community responsibility. Our local history-based and globally-connected program immerses our diverse population of children in investigation and discovery, extensively using the cultural and natural resources of our community. We nurture children's natural abilities to be reflective questioners, articulate communicators, critical thinkers, and skilled problem solvers, enabling them to reach exemplary standards.



Character Reflection

We asked our students how they **collaborated** this month, and these were the responses.

Maliya (Kindergarten) collaborated with her classmates this month when she engaged in her Expedition reading about birds.

Rory (2nd Grade) collaborated with his classmates by doing a Venn Diagram about frogs and toads in their Expedition. They learned how frogs and toads were similar and different.

Mariyah (3rd Grade) collaborated with her classmates when doing Crew work. They took turns reading different parts, helped each other, and didn't leave anyone out.

Agyenim (5th Grade) collaborated with his classmates by working on a project for math. They created a math camp and did a scavenger hunt, where they worked together to solve the problems. And they pushed through the challenging problems by helping each other.

Congratulations to our wonderful 6th grade students who applied and were accepted into School of the Arts!! We are proud of you and the hard work you put into your portfolios. We look forward to hearing more about the next stage of your journey!!



CONGRATS 6th Grade!!

A Math Task

Bargain Bin

\$13.50



Deal City

\$15.00



Which store is offering a better deal on jelly beans?

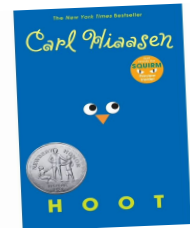
Model & explain your answer

You can visit this link to learn more:

<https://learn.makemathmoments.com/task/better-buy/>

What's Happening - BIRDS!!

Fourth graders are reading **Hoot** by Carl Hiaassen, where they are using their inference skills and also reviewing the elements of a story.



Kindergarteners and 1st Grader: are learning about the world of birds in their current Expedition. They also visited Helmer Nature Center where they deepened their learning around the topic. When they returned to class, students read **About Birds: A Guide for Children**.



Did You Know That Some Of Our Very Own GCCS Staff Members Are AVID Birders?!

Mrs Moriconi, our K/1 teacher loves birds. She states that her favorite things about birds are how weird, wonderful, and funny they can be. She loves to learn about what makes each bird species unique and what is inspiring or intriguing about each bird species. She hopes that students learn their favorite bird 10 years from now and are more curious about the natural world because they learned so much about birds.

Mr. Dolgos, our Director of Curriculum and Instruction, enjoys watching birds in his spare time. He states that his love for birds began when he saw an osprey during a family trip to the beach when he was ten years-old. He had never seen a bird "fish" for its food before and was amazed that it dove into the water. His favorite bird is a kestrel, a feisty, little falcon that can hover over fields in search of prey.

Fun Facts about Birds:

- There are approximately 11,000 species of birds in the world
- Approximately 5% of plants use for food and medicine are pollinated by birds





Currents



Genesee Community
Charter School
at the Rochester Museum & Science Center

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April 2025

SAVE THE DATE

Passage Ceremony is quickly approaching, so save the dates below. Additional information will be shared in May and June.

- **Monday, June 23rd:** 6th Grade Passage Reception (*only for 6th grade students and families*)
- **Wednesday, June 25th:** Passage Ceremony (whole school) at East High at 10:00am.



There is a limit in tickets provided per student.

State Exams

Please review the schedule below:

	3rd	4th	5th	6th
ELA Dates	4/24th - 4/25th	4/24th - 4/25th	4/10th - 4/11th	4/28th - 4/29th
Math Dates	5/5th - 5/6th	5/12th - 5/13th	5/5th - 5/6th	5/8th - 5/9th
Science Date			5/13th	

To review some practice questions with your child, please visit the website:
<https://tinyurl.com/PastExamsNYS>

WE ARE HIRING!!

Do you know anyone looking for a job?! We are beginning the hiring process for the Flour City and RMSC Campuses. Available positions include teaching staff (K-6) and TA positions. Please go to the school website, <https://www.gccschool.org/employment-2/>, for additional information.

Summer Slide

As we approach the last two months of school, we want you to think about how to support your child's learning over the summer and combat the summer slide. The "summer slide" is learning loss that can happen when children take a long break from school, especially over the summer months. For elementary school students, this can mean forgetting important reading, math, and writing skills they worked hard to build during the school year. The good news is, keeping them active during summer doesn't

have to feel like homework! You can help prevent the slide with fun, simple activities like reading together every day, visiting the library, playing math games, learning simple math facts, writing stories, and exploring nature with science-themed walks or scavenger hunts. Family game nights, cooking together (measuring is great math!), or even keeping a summer journal can keep learning fresh. We will share some resources before school ends.



ATTENDANCE REMINDER

There are many illnesses still going around, which we know will negatively impact attendance. A reminder to inform teachers or the main office when your child is absent. Missed days accrue and results in learning loss. Please ensure that your child(ren) is at school every day. We want the best possible outcomes for all our students.

ATTENDANCE Why is it important?

Attendance	Days absent	Weeks absent	Lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	50 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	100 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	150 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	200 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	250 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	290 lessons

89% or below
Drastic effect on academic achievement

96% - 90%
Cause for Concern

100% - 97%
Excellent!



Fundraising for Field Studies

We are continuing to fundraise for field studies to offset the increased costs of buses and event costs. We are grateful for any and all contributions to support this program. If interested in making a donation, please contact Chris Dolgos, cdolgos@gccschool.org OR visit the website: <https://gccschool.org/donate/>.