



# Golden Star Gazette

April 2018

## Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347  
ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



Dear Gardner Road Families-

Spring is officially upon us and that also means we have completed the third marking period of the school year. Report cards will go home on April 6<sup>th</sup> for students in grades one through four. Just a friendly reminder that our report card provides grades on a 1-4 scale and a '3' means that your child is meeting the grade level expectations. If you have a child(ren) in pre-kindergarten or kindergarten, your child's teacher will be in contact with you to set-up a parent conference.

Our students had a lot of fun while also learning throughout the month of March. Thanks to all of the families that marched with us in the St. Patrick's Day parade. Congratulations to two of our students who represented Gardner Road with pride at the regional Scripps Spelling Bee. Ibrahim finished tied for 30<sup>th</sup> out of 64 spellers while Nathan tied for 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Stay up to date with other classroom and building highlights on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.

I also wanted to let families know that there will be construction at our school this summer. There will be a new parking lot put in which will break the parking lot into more distinct areas for: parent drop-off, visitor parking and a separate bus drop-off lane. This summer I will send out a traffic pattern notice. There will also be some work inside the classrooms and hallways. With the construction, the Gardner Road office will likely be moved to another school for the summer. More details will be shared in the next few months as specifics are solidified. I thank everyone in advance for your patience and understanding as we improve our school for our Golden Stars!

We want to display student work in our hallway with some ornate frames that can be painted in kid-friendly colors. We are looking for used frames (please don't go out and buy any) to help us with this project. If you have a donation, please drop them off in the main office. Thank you!

We are looking forward to another great month at Gardner Road Elementary. Please feel free to contact me anytime with questions, thoughts or concerns.

Your Partner in Learning,

Patrick Patterson - Principal



### Inside the Gazette:

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Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu

State Assessments - Parent Handout

April Calendar



### GENERAL INFORMATION:

#### *Gardner Road School Hours*

8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Tardy Bell – 8:15 AM

#### *Gardner Road Office Hours*

7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

#### *Elementary Lunches (K-6)*

Breakfast: \$ 1.25    Lunch \$ 2.10

### Moishe's Quote of the Month:

"Anyone who stops learning is old, whether at twenty or eighty. Anyone who keeps learning stays young." – Henry Ford

## Main Office Updates



### Scholastic Book Fair:

Our spring Book Fair will be in May as part of our revamped spring event which will be on the evening of Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>. Students will also have a chance to visit the book fair during the school day. Be on the lookout for more details and thanks to our PTO volunteers for all they do for our students.

### New York State Assessments:

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders will be taking their New York State English Language Arts assessments next week and their math assessment in May. One of our goals at Gardner Road Elementary School is to limit our students' anxiety for these assessments. Please help us in reminding your child(ren) that they will do fine. We encourage all students and families to maintain their routines prior to these assessments with a good night sleep. The assessments are a snapshot on how your child is doing in school and helps us reflect as educators on how we are meeting the learning standards. Thank you and please let me know if you have any questions.

### Square One Art Orders:

Just a friendly reminder that all Square One Art orders are due April 5<sup>th</sup>. Orders can be made online using a credit or debit card. They may also send in the order form with cash or check.

### From the Library:

Spring is here and (hopefully) warm weather is around the corner! Water bottles and library books together in the book bag can be a soggy situation! Consider sending either the water bottle or the books in a Ziploc baggie or separate compartment. Thank you so much for helping to keep our library books safe.

### Placements for the 2017-2018 School Year:

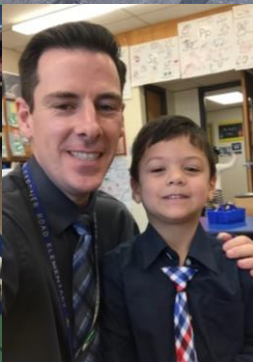
In the near future we will begin to look at classroom placements for the year 2018 – 2019. We use a team approach for class placements and it is a long process. As you might imagine, we must take many things into consideration when making placements. We welcome your input on the learning environment your child learns best in and you are welcome to share this in a letter to me. Please do not include in your letter a request for a certain teacher as we do not honor these requests. Please know that we do value parent input and if you have any information about your child you want us to consider during placement, please put it in writing and drop it off to the main office by Friday, May 4, 2018.

## Aaron Reynolds will be visiting Gardner Road in May

Aaron Reynolds has written many hilarious children's books including Creepy Carrots and Nerdy Birdy! Be on the lookout for an order form to purchase one of his books later this month! In the meantime, check out his books in our library or at his website at <http://www.aaron-reynolds.com/books.html> which also includes activities and games.



# March Snapshots:



# "We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"




## Character Education Corner:

Our students continue to demonstrate great character. Be on the lookout for Golden Tickets coming home. Be sure to ask your child how and why they earned it. One student per day is also earning the Good News Call of the Day. If a student earns this call, they sign the board outside the main office and also get a wristband to help celebrate their accomplishment.

## April's Character Trait is:

Character Education

## Responsibility



- Be reliable and dependable
- Do your part at home, school and in your community
- Think before you act
- Take ownership of your actions

Character Matters  
Horseheads Central School District

## Horseheads Schools Budget Development

The Board of Education and district administration are currently developing the 2018-19 proposed school budget. The presentation and videos of previous meeting are available on our website [here](#). The remaining workshops are April 5, at 6pm in the High School Multi-Media Center located in the South Wing. The workshops are open to the public. A public hearing on the proposed budget will be Thursday, May 3, at 6pm in the High School Multi-Media Center. The Budget Vote/Board Election is Tuesday, May 15, 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. High School South Gym.

## Horseheads Central School District's Mission & Vision:

Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.



Explore Empower Excel



**To report child abuse or neglect call toll free 1-800-342-3720 or go to [ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps](http://ocfs.ny.gov/main/cps)**

## Substitutes Needed:

The Horseheads Central School District is seeking applications for substitute teachers, bus drivers and substitute teaching assistants. For information, please visit: <http://www.horseheadsdistrict.com/subteach.html>  
Human Resources Office: 739-5601, x4211  
e-mail: [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com)

## Interested in running for the Board of Education?

Voters will elect three members to the Board of Education on May 15. If you're interested in running for the board, petitions and other information will be available in the Business Office beginning March 1. Interested residents must submit petitions with the appropriate number of signatures of qualified district residents to the Business Office by April 16. Petitions will be available for pick-up March 1.

The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to gender, race, color, national origin, or disability. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Megan Collins, Title IX/DASA Coordinator and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kim Williams, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for Gardner Road Elementary is Patrick Patterson. Complaints regarding discrimination, harassment, or bullying of any student should be referred to Patrick Patterson at (607) 739 - 6347. The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Horseheads Central School District is Megan Collins. Mrs. Collins may be reached at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, 607-739-5601, x4211.



## The 2018 Grades 3-8 New York State Assessments: What Parents Need to Know

Every spring, the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests are administered to students across New York State. These annual ELA and math tests for students in grades 3-8 are required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015. The tests are designed to measure how well students are mastering the learning standards that guide classroom instruction and help to ensure that students are on track to graduate from high school with the critical thinking, problem solving, and reasoning skills needed for success in college and the modern workplace. The tests also show how schools and districts are progressing with the learning standards and can support professional development for teachers. Below you will find information about the 2018 tests.

### Fewer Test Sessions

- The 2018 Grades 3–8 ELA and Math Tests have been reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject this year, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three.
- With fewer test sessions, each test will have substantially fewer questions than in recent years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.

### Untimed Tests

- Like the 2016 and 2017 tests, the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will be untimed.
- In general, this means that as long as students are working productively, they will have as much time as they need to complete each test session, within the confines of the regular school day.
- Schools and districts have discretion to allow students to read silently or quietly exit the room when they have completed their test while others continue to work.

### Test Questions Reviewed and Written by New York State Teachers

- Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.
- This year, the assessments will feature many test questions written by New York State teachers specifically for the annual New York State tests. The future goal is for all test questions to be written by NYS educators.
- Teachers from across the State serve on committees to write, evaluate and select questions for the tests.
- In all, hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for the 2018 assessments and selecting the questions for the test forms.

### Providing Results for Teachers and Improved Resources for Parents

- Like last year, the New York State Education Department plans to have instructional reports returned to teachers by the end of the school year and to release at least 75% of the test questions again.
- As in 2017, the 2018 Score Reports for parents will feature more information about what students should know and be able to do at each grade level.

### Computer-Based Testing

- Some schools chose to administer the 2018 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests on computers rather than by paper and pencil. The computer-based tests (CBT) will have the same questions as the paper versions. Students in those schools utilizing the CBT option have access to CBT practice tests and most have had prior experience participating in other computer-based tests in ELA and Math.
- The long-term plan is for all schools use CBT for annual State tests. CBT has the potential to further reduce the need for stand-alone field tests and make assessments better instructional tools for students with disabilities.

# Elementary School Parents®

February 2018  
Vol. 29, No. 6

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## make the difference!



## Give your child the time and space to think critically

**C**ritical thinking—the ability to go beyond basic knowledge and consider “the bigger picture”—is a crucial skill for school success. The better students are able to think critically, the more deeply they will grasp new concepts and ideas.

To promote these skills:

- **Let your child figure things out.** Resist the urge to solve every problem. Instead, give her time to work through problems herself. If she’s forgotten what she is supposed to do for homework, don’t offer to email the teacher. Instead, ask, “How could you find out?” Can she call a classmate? Look over last night’s assignment for clues? Give her space to come up with a plan.
- **Discuss current events.** Is there a news story that might interest her? Print out an article and chat about it over dinner. Find out what she thinks about the issue, but don’t stop there. Once she’s shared her opinion, press her a bit. “I can see how you feel about this. But why do you think other people might feel differently?”
- **Encourage reflection.** Once your child completes a big project for school, talk about it. Ask her, “How difficult was it to finish? Did you give yourself enough time to complete it?” Regardless of how the project went, reflecting on the process will help her hone her critical-thinking skills.

## Historical fiction brings the past to life!



History can be fascinating. But reading about it in textbooks can often seem a bit dull and

dry to students.

That’s where historical fiction can help. The best historical fiction brings a past time to life. It shares the details about what people wore, what they ate and how they really lived. It gives the reader a vivid glimpse of history.

To provide the most enjoyable experience with historical fiction:

- **Ask a children’s librarian** to suggest a book that presents history accurately and avoids myths or stereotypes.
- **Look for a book** with some illustrations. This is when a picture really can be worth a thousand words.
- **Try reading the book** aloud if it’s too challenging for your child to read on his own.
- **Have your child read more** than one book about the same period. Talk about how people see the same event or period of history differently.

Source: E. Codell, *How to Get Your Child to Love Reading*, Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill.

## Reinforce learning by having your child teach you something



Students are more motivated to learn when they feel capable, connected and in control. Having your child teach you things nurtures these feelings.

When your child tries to teach you about what he is doing, it can help him understand assignments better, reinforce what he knows and reveal gaps in his own comprehension.

Try these strategies:

- **Show an interest** in what your child is learning in school. Have him show you a homework assignment, explain a concept or read a chapter in his textbook aloud to you.
- **Let your child quiz you.** See if you can name the state capitals or the first five presidents. Try to define

vocabulary words and recall math or science facts.

- **Ask your child to help you** solve a problem or create something. What does he think you should do first, second, next?
- **Ask your child to teach you** how to play one of his favorite games.
- **Ask for your child's opinion** and consider it before solidifying your own.

**“When children and parents talk regularly about school, children perform better academically.”**

—National Education Association

## Are you setting an example of respect?



Children learn about respect from watching their parents. Are you modeling the behavior you want your child to

have—so that he will respect you, himself, his teachers and others?

Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

- \_\_\_ **1. Do you treat** your child and others with kindness and honesty?
- \_\_\_ **2. Do you admit** mistakes when you make them and apologize for them?
- \_\_\_ **3. Do you listen** attentively to your child when he is speaking to you? If you aren't able to listen right then, do you schedule a time to talk later?
- \_\_\_ **4. Do you maintain** self-control and find healthy ways to vent your anger—rather than taking your frustration out on your child?
- \_\_\_ **5. Do you enforce** household rules and the consequences for breaking them fairly and consistently?

### How well are you doing?

If most of your answers are *yes*, you are modeling a life of respect for your child. For *no* answers, try those suggestions.

Elementary School  
**Parents**  
make the difference!

Practical Ideas for Parents to Help Their Children ISSN 1046-0446

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Published monthly September through May.  
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Publisher: L. Andrew McLaughlin  
Publisher Emeritus: John H. Wheary, Ed.D.  
Editor: Rebecca Hasty Miyares

## Geography comes to life with fun and educational activities



Helping your child learn about geography can help her relate to the world around her. Here are some educational and

fun activities to boost her interest in geography:

- **Have your child draw a map** of how to get from your home to school, the grocery store or a friend's home. Then follow the map.
  - **Walk outside** and identify *north*, *south*, *east* and *west*, as well as *northeast*, *northwest*, *southeast* and *southwest*. Ask your child to use these words to describe where things in your town are located. “My school is *northeast* of my house.”
  - **Look for street patterns.** In some towns, streets run north and south, while avenues run east and west.
- Street names may be alphabetical: Adams St., Bay St., Club St., etc. Help your child recognize the patterns.
- **Encourage your child** to start a collection of objects from countries around the world. Stamps, post cards and coins are all easy items to collect and store.
  - **Tell your child** where her ancestors came from. Find these places on a map. If possible, learn about the routes they traveled when they came to this country.
  - **Go through your house** and talk about where things came from. Have your child read labels to see where items were made. A calculator may have come from Taiwan. A box of cereal may have a Michigan or Illinois address. Together, locate these places on a map.

# Retelling can improve your child's reading comprehension



You've just finished reading a story with your child. One of the best ways to check comprehension and boost his understanding of the story is to ask him to retell it.

Retelling a story requires your child to think about the details and decide what's really important.

Give your child these three rules for retelling a story:

1. **Tell what's important.**
2. **Tell it in a way that makes sense.**
3. **Don't tell too much.**

Your child should be able to tell you what happens at the beginning, the middle and the end of the story. He should also be able to name the main characters.

You can prompt your child by asking open-ended questions, such

as, "What happened next?" It's OK if he doesn't remember all the details. That gives you a chance to say, "Let's go back and look at that part of the story again." Revisiting parts of the story will show your child that he sometimes has to read things more than once to gain a thorough understanding.

Studies show that this simple activity will help your child become a more thoughtful reader. He will start to pay attention to words whose meanings he doesn't know. He will focus on the story structure and pay more attention to important details. All of these things will improve your child's reading comprehension and make him a better reader—and a more successful student!

**Source:** B. Taylor and J. Ysseldyke, *Effective Instruction for Struggling Readers: K-6*, Teachers College Press.

**Q:** My fifth grader has never been a bubbly child. But in the last year, she has become so negative. Nothing is ever right. She doesn't like school. She doesn't like her teacher. Last week, I asked her to plan something special for the two of us to do. Later, she said it was "All right, I guess." I'm losing patience. What can I do?

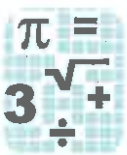
## Questions & Answers

**A:** Parents want their kids to be happy. And it is draining to be around someone who is always down in the dumps.

Here are some steps to take:

- **Listen to your daughter.** Ask her to tell you about things that get her down. If there is one issue (or person) that comes up over and over, you may have hit on the problem. Brainstorm ways she can address the situation.
- **Let her complain.** It's OK to let her complain once in a while. If she whines about homework, let her go for a minute or two. Then redirect her by saying, "Well, you still need to finish it before school tomorrow." Remind her that everyone has responsibilities—whether they like them or not.
- **Model the attitude** you'd like her to have. Try to be positive when you are faced with disappointments. Say things like, "I'm bummed I have to work on Saturday, but it will feel great to get this project finished!"
- **Realize you aren't responsible** for fixing everything in your child's life. Help her take responsibility where you can. It's a way of empowering her.
- **Make an appointment** with your child's doctor. If you think she may be anxious or depressed, it's important to take action now.

# Simple strategies can help your child master math vocabulary



When children learn math, they also need to learn a whole new vocabulary. If they have to stop to think about

words like *product* or *quotient*, they won't be focused on doing the math.

Just as your child needs to commit basic math facts to memory, she also needs to know many math terms. So make a game of learning them.

Here are a few activities to try:

- **Play Math Concentration.** Write a math term on an index card. Write its definition on another card. Then place five or six pairs of cards face down. Your child can only turn over two cards at a time. The goal is to make a match by turning over a math term and its correct definition.

- **Link math symbols** to math words. Have your child create flash cards with a symbol on one side and the word it represents on the other. Use the flash cards to help your child review.
- **Create memory aids** that show a term doing the thing it represents. The math term *circumference*, for example, is the distance around the edge of a circle. So your child could write the word *circumference* around the edge of a circle.
- **Make connections.** Help your child connect new terms to concepts she is already familiar with. Is she learning about *centimeters*? Talk about how there are 100 *cents* in a dollar, 100 years in a *century*, and 100 *centimeters* in a meter.



# It Matters: Attendance

## Make school attendance a family priority



One of the most vital parts of your child's education is also one that's easy to overlook. It's attendance! Study

after study shows that when kids regularly miss school, their learning, and especially their literacy skills, take a serious hit. Not only that, but young students with poor attendance tend to turn into older students with poor attendance.

Don't let your child become one of them! To keep her on the road to school success:

- **Take attendance seriously.** As the parent, *you* set the tone. So be sure your child understands how much you value school and learning. If attendance is a priority for you, it will be a priority for her.
- **Prepare at night.** In the evening, help your child set out everything she needs to take to school the next day—her backpack, completed homework, gym shoes, signed papers, etc. She should also pick out her outfit and decide what she'll have for breakfast.
- **Respect the school calendar.** When possible, avoid scheduling appointments or family vacations that conflict with school. It will remind your child that there's nowhere more important for her to be during the week than in school!
- **Talk to your child's teacher** if you are experiencing problems that often result in school absences. Many families face challenges with health, child care, transportation and other issues. Community programs may be able to help.

## Frequent hand washing can reduce school absences

Scientists estimate that up to 80% of infections are spread through poor hand hygiene. That means a simple step—hand washing—is the top way to stay healthy and avoid missing school. Teach your child to:

- **Wash properly.** He should wet his hands, lather with soap and wash for 20 seconds. It takes about this long to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice.
- **Include all parts of his hands**—front, back, fingernails, between fingers, etc. After washing, he should use a clean paper towel to turn off the faucet and open the bathroom door.
- **Wash his hands often,** especially before eating. Soap and water work best. If they aren't available, he can use a hand sanitizer. To be effective, a sanitizer should have at least 60% alcohol.



- **Sneeze or cough** into his elbow instead of his hand to reduce the spread of germs to others.

Source: P. Boshell, "Hand Hygiene at Home and School," *InfectionControl tips*, [niswc.com/elem\\_hands](http://niswc.com/elem_hands)

## Understand what's at stake when your child misses school



"Does it really matter if my child misses school?" parents sometimes wonder. "Yes!" say experts.

Research shows that regular attendance is linked to current and future school success.

Excused and unexcused absences take a toll on learning. And not everything students miss can be made up with homework. The class discussion about the book they are reading can't be captured in homework. Neither can the

science demonstration or the group project for history. In some subjects, like math, missing even a few days is a problem because learning builds on what students already know.

In addition to missing out on daily lessons, students who are absent miss the chance to build social and academic foundations that help with future learning.

So, support your child's school attendance today and watch him reap the benefits for years to come.

Source: "The Importance of School Attendance," *Absences Add Up Org*, [niswc.com/elem\\_absence](http://niswc.com/elem_absence)

Horseheads Central School District



*Spring*  
ART SHOW






May 1-14  
**2018**

**Arnot Mall**  
Horseheads, New York



# Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
2 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> 	3 <i>Day 3</i>	4 <i>Day 4</i>	5 <i>Day 5</i>  <i>BOE Budget Workshop—HS            MMC 6:00</i>	6 <i>Day 6</i>  <i>Report Cards Go Home—3rd            MP            GRPTO Family Fun Night</i>
9 <i>Day 1</i>	10 <i>Day 2</i> <i>Principal Chat 5:30 Library            GRPTO 6:00 Library</i> 	11 <i>Day 3</i>  <i>NYS ELA Assessment— Gr 3 &amp;4</i>	12 <i>Day 4</i>  <i>NYS ELA Assessment— Gr 3&amp;4</i>	13 <i>Day 5</i>
16 <i>Day 6</i>	17 <i>Day 1</i>	18 <i>Day2</i>  <i>BOE at Gardner Road 6:00</i>	19 <i>Day 3</i>	20 <i>Day4</i>
23 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> 	24 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>  <i>READY, SET...            SPRING BREAK!</i>	25 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> 	26 <i>NO SCHOOL</i>  <i>READY, SET...            SPRING BREAK!</i>	27 <i>NO SCHOOL</i> 
30 <i>Day 5</i> <i>Parent input due for class            placements 2018-2019</i>	<p><u><b>Character Education Connection—Responsibility</b></u>            Choose an area for your child’s school materials to build independence.            Involve children in shopping &amp; meal planning.            Have your child help with age-appropriate household chores.            Help your child make sure all school assignments are complete.</p> 