



Horseheads Central School District

Golden Star Gazette

November 2017

Gardner Road Elementary School

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ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com



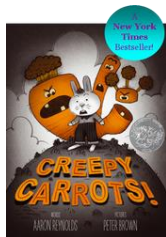
Dear Gardner Road Families –

October was an amazing and busy month at our school. Our students are learning so many new skills, strategies and concepts in their class. It is exciting to see their learning and growth already. We also had many guests help enhance our learning this month. Thanks to the Horseheads Fire Department for teaching us about fire safety and to the Horseheads Police Department for reminding us about Halloween safety and donating doughnuts to all of our classes. Our PTO hosted the first annual Halloween Hoopla, which was so much fun – thanks GRPTO. The kids had a great time playing games and dancing in their costumes. Our 3rd and 4th graders learned about what inspired author Steve Cotler to write his books and inspired us to be authors. I also need to say thank you to all of the students and families that gave back to our community during Make a Difference Day!

November is just as exciting at Gardner Road. We just found out that author, Aaron Reynolds will be visiting our school in May. He is the author of many great children's books but may be best known for Creepy Carrots! On November 9th, we will have our first building-wide career day highlighting the 6 major career paths: human services, health care, arts & humanities, natural & agricultural, business and engineering. Thanks to the Career Development Council for helping coordinate this event. We will also host our 1st annual, 'Celebrating our Veterans' event on November 13th. Students are learning songs to sing for this performance with Mr. Hamilton and practicing how to greet and say thank you to our veterans for their years of service.

We can't forget about parent-teacher conferences on November 9th and 17th. We look forward to seeing all of our parents visit their child's teacher to talk about their current and future learning. Just a friendly reminder that report cards are only distributed in 3rd and 4th grades this marking period. As you are meeting your child's teacher, please keep in mind what the 4,3,2,1 rating scale represents. If your child receives a '3' on the report card, that means they are currently meeting grade level expectations. A '4' would represent that your child is performing above grade level expectation. A '2' means that your child is working towards grade level expectation and a '1' represents that your child is struggling with the current grade level expectation.

We also look forward to seeing students submit their Citizenship Challenge star, sign up for the spelling bee (grades 2-4) and working on shifting their 'power of yet' to 'yes I can!' Please feel free to contact me if you need anything. We look forward to seeing you throughout the month.



Your Partner in Education

Patrick Patterson - Principal



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School Mission & Vision

Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu

November Calendar

November Citizenship Challenge

Parents Make the

Difference Supplement

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Gardner Road School Hours

8:00 a.m. to 2:25 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

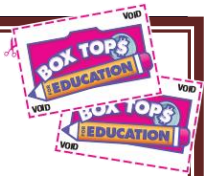


Moishe's Quote of the Month:

Create something that will make the world awesome.

- Kid President

Main Office Updates:



School Delays and Closings:

The cold, slippery, white flakes are just around the corner. When the ice and snow arrive, it is often necessary to delay or close schools. The announcements can be found on our District website www.horseheadsdistrict.com and the local media stations. In the event of a 1 or 2-hour delay, students can be dropped off at the cafeteria entrance beginning at the adjusted time. Please be aware that **NO** breakfast is served when there is a 2-hour delay. I will also post our current status on the Gardner Road Twitter feed. To sign up for the tweets, go to our school website and follow the link.

Recess:

Students will be going outside for recess as the weather becomes colder (20 degrees wind-chill and warmer) Please make sure that your child has a warm coat, a hat and gloves/mittens so they can stay warm as they play. Thank you!

Arctic League Applications:

The Arctic League is an organization that provides Christmas gifts to needy children in Chemung County. The League serves children through age 12. Applications are now available at the school. Please contact your child's teacher, school social worker or the school nurse to obtain an application. Forms will also be available on conference days in the main office. Applications need to be filled out completely in order to be accepted. Completed applications may be returned by mail to the Arctic League or returned to school.

Spring New York Assessment Dates (Grades 3 & 4):

English Language Arts: April 11th & 12th

Math: May 2nd & 3rd

Grade 4 Science Performance: May 23rd

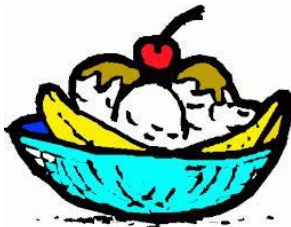
Grade 4 Science Written: June 4th



Be Your Own Hero!

Banana Splits

Banana splits are not just sundaes anymore! They are groups of students that meet during lunch to talk, share and support each other through changes in their families. These changes could be parents separating or divorcing, death of a parent, marriage of a parent, or adding new stepbrothers or sisters.



Banana Splits groups are forming soon for grades 1- 4. If you think your child could benefit from attending this support group or you would like more information please contact Mrs. Rodabaugh, social worker, 739-6347 ext. 4 or through email at arodabaugh@horseheadsdistrict.com.

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

October Snapshots:



Check out more Gardner Road Elementary happenings by following us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). You will find more pictures with learning in the classrooms, guest author [Steve Cotler](#) visiting grades 3 & 4, Halloween and Halloween Hoopla, our fire prevention assembly, and Make a Difference Day!

“We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!”



Character Education Bingo:



Close to 200 students earned Golden Tickets for being responsible throughout the month. Here is Kate adding her star to the 100s chart which made a BINGO. Students have been very proud of their Golden Tickets and have enjoyed the opportunity for a character education BINGO prize. Great Job Golden Stars!

November’s Character Trait is:

Character Education

Citizenship

- Help to make your community, school and world a better place
- Take responsibility for what goes on around you
- Participate in community service and help take care of the environment
- Treat others with respect and dignity



Character Matters
Horseheads Central School District

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



Thanks to all of the Gardner Road & Horseheads students that volunteered for ‘Make a Difference Day.’ We had 50ish students participate in giving back to our local community.

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.

Early Childhood Parents[®] *make the difference!*



Five ways to build skills and promote learning at home

Studies show the more parents engage with and nurture their children at home, the better those youngsters do when they start school. Here are five simple ways to build important skills and promote learning:

1. **Play together.** Don't ignore the value of having fun! Spend time playing games and solving jigsaw puzzles. Dress up in old clothes and put on a silly show together. Stack a tower of blocks. Crank up the radio and sing.
2. **Be creative.** Activities like squishing clay, coloring and finger-painting aren't just fun—they're educational! So let your child get messy sometimes. It could boost her school smarts.
3. **Cuddle.** Hugs and snuggles are more than a cozy way to bond. They're also a way to make your

child feel loved and safe. The more secure she feels at home, the more confident she may be when she heads to school.

4. **Get active.** Healthy bodies nourish healthy minds! Go on walks with your child. Play catch outside. Go down the slide at the park. Skip rope. And when you're finished, share a healthy snack and chat about how much fun you had.
5. **Connect.** Introduce yourself to your child's preschool teacher or day care provider. Ask your child questions about what she is learning and doing every day. The more she knows learning matters to you, the more it will matter to her!

Source: K.L. Bierman and others, "Parent Engagement Practices Improve Outcomes for Preschool Children," Social and Emotional Learning, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Sleep is crucial for your child's brain growth



You probably know that sleep is necessary for your child's growing body. But did you know that

sleep actually helps his brain work better, too?

Getting enough sleep each night allows your child to be more alert, pay closer attention and remember material with greater accuracy the next day.

To help your child get the recommended 11 to 13 hours of sleep each night:

- **Develop a sleep schedule.** Have your child go to bed and wake up about the same time each day. Try to keep the same schedule on the weekends, too.
- **Enjoy some physical activity outside.** Exercise and fresh air help kids sleep better.
- **Follow a bedtime routine.** Take a bath, put on pajamas, brush teeth and read a story. Talk about something positive from the day. Then, lights out.
- **Make him feel safe.** Put a night light in your child's room. Tell him you will check on him.

Source: D. Thompson, "Poor Sleep in Preschool Years Could Mean Behavior Troubles Later," HealthDay, nswc.com/ec_sleep.

Expose your preschooler to a wide range of reading material



Children love to hear their favorite stories over and over again. Don't abandon these cherished books, but don't stick exclusively to them, either. Your child will be best prepared for reading if he becomes familiar with all kinds of books.

Here are some types of reading material to introduce:

- **Make-believe.** These are stories based around a concept that exists only in the author's imagination, but not in real life. Reading them encourages children to be creative. Talk to your child about the difference between *real* and *pretend*.
- **Myths and fables.** You may already know such tales as "The Lion and

the Mouse," one of Aesop's Fables. They teach preschoolers important life lessons such as honesty and loyalty.

- **Poetry.** Look for poems that rhyme. They show preschoolers language is fun. Rhymes encourage them to listen for sounds that are different and alike, a necessary reading readiness skill.

"There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all."

—Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis

Make mealtime an essential part of your family routine



Experts agree that family meals benefit children's learning. Children who regularly eat at least one meal a day with their families are healthier and have better grades. Family mealtime is even more important than playtime, story time or other family events to increase vocabulary.

Eating meals as a family also gives your child the perfect opportunity to tell you all about his day.

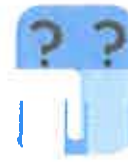
Try these mealtime tips:

- **Plan for meals.** Let your child help you make menus for the week and create a grocery list.
- **Be creative.** If your family can't eat dinner together, that's OK. Plan another special meal instead. Some families eat breakfast together. Others meet for dessert at the end of the day.

- **Let your child help** with meal preparation. He can measure ingredients and stir. Show him how to set and clear the table.
- **Make mealtime fun.** Put dinner in a box or bag. Spread out a blanket inside or outside for a picnic.
- **Teach manners**—napkins in laps, chew with mouth closed, etc.
- **Keep talk positive.** Avoid negative topics or criticism. Have each family member tell one good thing about his or her day.
- **Start traditions.** For example, you might make pancakes on Saturday mornings or eat sandwiches on Sunday nights. The best traditions only need two ingredients: family and fun.

For more tips and information on the importance of family meals, visit The Family Dinner Project at <https://thefamilydinnerproject.org>.

Are you teaching your child to be a keen listener?



Listening is a vital skill for school success—and it can be fun to practice! Are you finding creative ways to help your child build her listening skills? Answer *yes* or *no* to the questions below to find out:

- ___ **1. Do you occasionally ask** your child to stop what she's doing, close her eyes and name all of the sounds she hears?
- ___ **2. Do you take turns** telling a story with your child? You make up a sentence, then your child makes up the next sentence.
- ___ **3. Do you send** your child on short "missions" to bring you things? Each round, you can add more items.
- ___ **4. Do you clap** a rhythm with your hands or on your thighs and ask your child to clap back the same rhythm?
- ___ **5. Do you play** Guess the Sound? Your child shuts her eyes and you make a sound—jingling keys, crumpling paper, pouring water, etc. Your child has to guess the sound. Then switch places!

How well are you doing?

Each *yes* answer means you are helping your child have fun as she strengthens her listening skills. For *no* answers, try those ideas from the quiz.

Early Childhood
Parents
make the difference!

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Focus on building skills that lead to future math success



Researchers have found that a preschooler's ability to grasp certain math concepts is a strong predictor of how she'll perform in math when she reaches fifth grade. Three skills in particular have the greatest impact on a child's future math success—counting, patterning and comparing quantities.

Luckily, there are lots of fun and simple ways to strengthen your child's number smarts. Here are a few activities to try:

- **Count the shapes.** Sharpen your preschooler's counting and shape-recognition skills at the same time! Pick a room in your house, then see how many examples of a particular shape she can find there. Can she find five rectangles in the kitchen? How many circles are there?

- **What comes next?** Draw a simple pattern of colored squares (red, blue, green, red, blue, green). Stop coloring after a certain square, such as blue. Now ask your child what comes next. Is it another blue square? Is it a red one? Or does the pattern call for green? Once she masters simple patterns, challenge her with more complex ones.
- **Which has more?** Make two unequal piles of small objects. (Use coins, pieces of cereal, paperclips, etc.) Ask your child to tell you which pile has more in it. Then ask how she knows. (Is it taller? Is it wider?) Count together to see if she's right!

Source: B. Rittle-Johnson and others, "Early Math Trajectories: Low-Income Children's Mathematics Knowledge From Ages 4 to 11," *Child Development*, The Society for Research in Child Development, Inc.

Simple discipline methods lead to better behaved preschoolers



Children need and want to have limits set for them. In fact, children who have been disciplined in a loving manner generally do better in school than those who haven't.

Here are a few simple and effective discipline methods to try:

- **Enforce reasonable rules.** Make a few key rules and stick to them. Consistency makes it easier for preschoolers to cooperate.
- **Allow give and take.** Your child has opinions, and it's helpful to compromise *sometimes*. But stand your ground when it really counts.
- **State things positively.** When possible, tell your child what *to do* ("Put your hands in your lap.") instead of what *not to do* ("Stop grabbing!").
- **Set a good example.** Demonstrate the behaviors you want to see. Be honest, fair and responsible. Remain calm when you are angry.
- **Criticize carefully.** Talk about your child's behavior, not your child. Say, "That comment was rude" instead of "You are rude."
- **Focus on success.** Notice what your child does well and comment on it. Give specific compliments. "You put your art supplies away. You're taking good care of your things!" Positive reinforcement results in better behavior.

Source: B. Martin, Psy.D., "The 5 C's of Effective Discipline: Setting Rules for Children," Psych Central, nswc.com/ec_effective.

Q: My son bursts into tears when I drop him off at preschool. It's been a week, and things haven't gotten better. Is there anything I can do to make drop-off less stressful for all of us?

Questions & Answers

A: It's always difficult for parents to watch their children fall apart when it's time to say goodbye. But what's going on is normal for children of preschool age. Your child is still very dependent on you and being apart makes him feel unsure.

With the teacher's help, you can convince your child that he'll be safe and cared for at preschool and you will *always* come back to get him. Here's how:

- **Show your child you trust his teacher.** Tell him, "If you need help, I want you to ask Ms. Casey. She will take wonderful care of you."
- **Reassure your child about your return.** Draw a picture of a clock that shows the time you'll return. Say, "When the clock on the wall looks like this, I'll be here." Or give him something of yours, such as a scarf or a photo, to keep with him.
- **Follow a short goodbye routine with your child.** Perhaps you can walk him to his cubby and watch him store his backpack. Then you can give him a hug and kiss, tell him you'll see him soon, and go. Tears may still fall for the first few weeks, but eventually the routine will be comforting to your child.
- **Stay in touch with the teacher** about how your child does after you leave. Ask her about the activities he seems to like best at school and be sure to talk about them at home.

The Kindergarten Experience

Teachers share back-to-school tips for success



What's the secret to making sure your kindergartner has a successful school year? Seasoned teachers

from around the country weighed in to share their best back-to-school advice. Here's what they had to say:

- **Follow routines at home.** Children thrive when they have a regular time to eat, sleep, play, read, do chores, etc.
- **Create daily rituals.** Start school mornings eating breakfast together. Ask about school every evening. And end the day with a bedtime story.
- **Encourage playing by the rules.** Know and talk about classroom rules. Never tell your child you think a rule is silly.
- **Stay up-to-date on school news.** Read the information that comes home from your child's teacher and the school.
- **Tell the teacher** about any changes at home, such as a new living arrangement or new baby.
- **Use email** to contact the teacher. It minimizes "phone tag." Writing notes works, too.
- **Don't say negative things** about the teacher in front of your child. Make it clear that you and the teacher are on the same "team."
- **Make homework a priority.** Schedule a regular homework time and be there to support your child.
- **Don't over schedule your child** Extracurricular activities can be great, but all children need some downtime, too.

Support kindergarten learning by partnering with the school

When your child starts elementary school, you'll be joining a community of people who support your kindergartner's learning.

Studies show that the more parents work with their child's school, the more it benefits the school. And kids with involved parents perform better academically.

To be an effective partner with the school:

- **Introduce yourself** to your child's teachers. Tell them about his likes, dislikes, strengths and challenges. Find out what your child will be learning this year and how you can reinforce those skills at home.
- **Make an effort** to get to know all the adults who interact with your child—the librarian, the bus driver, the school counselor, etc.
- **Get involved.** Join the parent-teacher organization. Help out with school activities. Chaperone



field trips or after-school activities. Ask about volunteer tasks you can do from home, such as cutting out items for a bulletin board display or raising funds for an event.

- **Review the school calendar.** Write down important dates, such as back-to-school night and parent-teacher conferences. Plan to attend as many as you can.

Source: "Research Spotlight on Parental Involvement in Education," National Education Association, nswc.com/ec_partner

Kindergarten is the time to instill lifelong attendance habits



As the parent of a new kindergartner, you're starting with a clean slate. You have the chance to instill positive habits from the very beginning of your child's school career. And few habits are more important than coming to school on time each day.

Here's why attendance is not just important, but critical:

- **It's necessary for learning.**

When children aren't in school,

they miss out on what the teacher is teaching.

- **It makes things easier** on your child. Having to catch up from missed days can be stressful.
- **It's important for promotion.** Students who miss too much school may not be promoted to the next grade.
- **It's the law.** Your child must be in school unless there is a legal excuse, such as an illness or family emergency.



Gardner Road Elementary School



Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
<p><u>Citizenship: Character Education at Home:</u> --Take your child with you to vote. Explain the process & why it is important to you. --Thank a veteran in your family or neighborhood. --Teach your kids about the Star Spangled Banner/Pledge of Allegiance --Volunteer as a family for our community service challenge.</p>				<p>1 Day 3</p> 		<p>2 Day 4</p>		<p>3 Day 5</p> <p><i>End of Marking Period 1</i></p>	
<p>6 Day 6</p>		<p>7 Day 1</p>		<p>8 Day 2</p> <p><i>4th grade to Arnot Art Museum</i></p>		<p>9 Day 3</p>  <p><i>Early Dismissal 11:00 AM Parent Conferences—PM Report Cards Home (GR 3 & 4)</i></p>		<p>10 No School</p>	
<p>13 Day 4</p> <p><i>Veteran's Day Celebration 7:45—9:30</i></p> 		<p>14 Day 5</p> <p><i>Principal Chat 5:30 Library PTO Meeting 6:00 Library</i></p>		<p>15 Day 6</p>		<p>16 Day 1</p> <p><i>BOE at RR 6:00</i></p>		<p>17 No School (K-6)</p> 	
<p>20 Day 3</p> <p><i>Picture Make-Up Day</i></p>		<p>21 Day 4</p>		<p>22</p>		<p>23</p>		<p>24</p>	
									
<p>27 Day 5</p>		<p>28 Day 6</p>		<p>29 Day 1</p>		<p>30 Day 2</p>			