



Horseheads Central School District



# Golden Star Gazette



## April 2024

### Gardner Road Elementary School

541 Gardner Road, Horseheads, New York 14845 (607) 739 – 6347

[ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:ppatterson@horseheadsdistrict.com)



Dear Gardner Road Families –

Spring is officially here, and our Golden Stars continue to grow and shine. It is always rewarding to see the amazing amounts of growth that happens for each student through the year. Thank you to our amazing GR Team for making the experiences at Gardner Road so memorable and rewarding. Thank you to the amazing families that support and work alongside us to encourage and celebrate learning every day.

Just a friendly reminder that Monday, April 8<sup>th</sup> is now a half day due to the solar eclipse. Students will have an abbreviated lunch time in their classrooms at 11:00 with a choice of PBJ or yogurt/cheese stick. Dismissal will begin around 11:55. There is no afternoon KidsWorld on this day.

To our 4<sup>th</sup> grade families, please note that the IS Open House scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> has been re-scheduled to May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please see the flyer sent home for details.

Please help us in welcoming Mr. Goodenough to our school as our Music Teacher substitute as Mrs. Smith is out for the remainder of the year. He is a recent graduate of Ithaca College and has most recently been subbing in S-VE.

Report cards will go home on April 19<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.

In the spring, we will be working on class placements for the 2024 - 2025 school year. We value parental input when making these decisions. Please feel free to write a letter to me by Friday, May 3, 2024. You are welcome to include information such as your child’s learning style and the learning environment they learn best in. Please do not include specific teacher requests as we do not honor them. We use a team approach for class placements, and we take many things into consideration.

Thank you to the GRPTO for hosting our St. Patrick’s Day float and Board game night in March. The PTO is hosting a fundraiser Applebee’s Dine in night on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and please join us for swim night on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the HS pool.

Be sure to check out our [school website](#) for updates and please keep up to date with the happenings at our school, by following our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages. For any additional information or inquiries, please feel free to reach out to the school office. We are here to assist you and ensure that your child has a successful and enjoyable learning experience.

Your Partner in Education,

Patrick Patterson - Principal



## Inside the Gazette:

### Page 2:

Main Office Updates  
From the Library  
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### Page 3:

March Snapshots

### Page 4

Character Corner  
School Mission & Vision



### Included in the Online Newsletter:

Lunch Menu  
April Calendar  
Author Visit Order Form  
4<sup>th</sup> → 5<sup>th</sup> Open House - Rescheduled



### 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 and Lunch: Free

<https://horseheadscafeteria.gstbooces.org/>

### Moishe’s Quote of the Month:

“You must expect great things of yourself before you can do them.”

– Michael Jordan

# Gardner Road Main Office Updates:

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

English Language Arts: April 10, 2024 and April 11, 2024

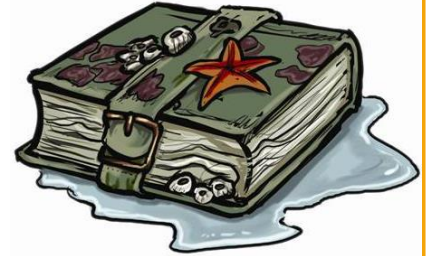
Math: May 7, 2024 and May 8, 2024



## From the Library

### Water Bottles and Books:

As the weather warms up many students start bringing filled water bottles to school to help keep cool and hydrated. Water bottles and library books don't mix well! Many books are ruined each year from leaky water bottles or even from the condensation that forms on the outside of a cold-water bottle. When a book is returned wet or even damp it will often grow mold. Please help us by placing water bottles in outside backpack pockets or in a Ziploc bag. Thank you for helping to keep library books safe!



### Author Visit:

Award-winning children's book author Nancy Viau will be visiting Gardner Road Elementary on May 13! She will be sharing some of her stories, talking about being an author, and the writing process with our students. Order forms to purchase a signed copy of one of her books went home around March 20th. If you need another copy, check the attachments to this newsletter or please let Mrs. Herforth know! Orders are due April 17th.



Check out Nancy Viau's website: <https://www.nancyviau.com/>

## 2024-25 Budget Development

Budget development for the following school year begins early in the calendar year. Regular board meetings and budget workshops are held from February to April until the final adoption of the budget to be offered to voters May 21. All meetings begin at 6pm and are open to the public. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, April 4 – Budget Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, April 11 – Budget Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Wednesday, April 17 – Special Meeting (Board Vote on the BOCES Administrative Budget), 7:30am, District Offices at Hibbard Road
- Thursday, April 18 – Regular Meeting, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm
- Thursday, May 9 – Public Hearing on 2024-25 Budget, High School Multi-Media Center, 6pm

Meetings are live streamed (at <http://ideas.gstbooces.org/hhds/>), recorded, and posted to the district website. For more information on the development of the 2024-25 Budget, including links to videos and presentations from board meetings, click here: <https://horseheadsdistrict.com/HCSDBudget2024-25.cfm>.

### Budget Vote/Board of Education Election

The Budget Vote/Board of Education Election is **Tuesday, May 21, 7am-9pm**, in the High School South Gym. All district residents are eligible to vote, provided they meet the following requirements:

- Are a U.S. citizen
- Are 18 years of age or older on the day of the vote
- Have lived in the district for at least 30 days prior to the vote
- Are not restricted from voting in general elections based on election law
- Are registered to vote in general elections

For information on absentee ballots or other questions about the budget or vote, please call (607) 739-5601, x4260 or email [hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:hcsdinfo@horseheadsdistrict.com).



# March Snapshots



Check out more photos and events on our [Facebook Page!](#)

We  our Golden  !



# "We Succeed Because The Stars Lead!"

## 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

Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Well

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

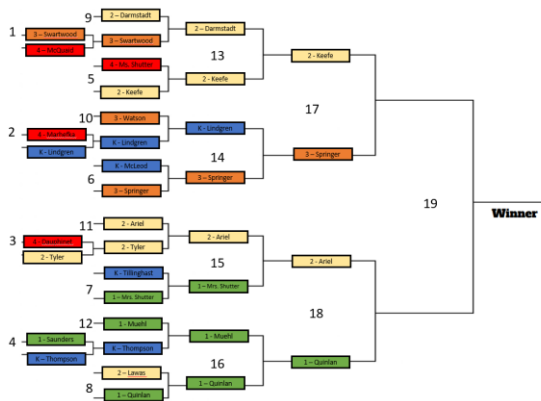


Horseheads Central School District sets the standard of educational excellence by fostering innovative thinking, curiosity, and a passion for learning to maximize the potential of each individual. We engage with our local and global communities to provide a student-centered, nurturing environment.

**EXPLORE      EMPOWER      EXCEL**

## Music in Our Schools Month:

Mrs. Smith, our music teacher, organized a bracket challenge for the best song in honor of Music in our Schools Month. Each homeroom picked a song & each day on the news our school voted for their favorite. There was a lot of buzz & fun throughout the month picking our favorite song. The finalists made a music video to promote their song. The overall champion was Mrs. Quinlan's First Grade Class with the song, *That's What Makes You Beautiful*. The song will be featured daily on our news for the rest of the year!



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



The Horseheads Central School District offers educational programs without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, marital status, military status, sex, sexual orientation, age, gender identity, predisposing genetic characteristic, or disability, and provides equal access to applicable groups under the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act. Inquiries regarding this policy may be made to Caitlin DeFilippo, Title IX/DASA Coordinator, and Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; Anthony Gill, Co-Civil Rights Compliance Officer; or Kelly Squires, Section 504 Coordinator, Horseheads Central School District, One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845, (607) 739-5601.

The Dignity Act Coordinator (DAC) for the Horseheads Central School District is Caitlin DeFilippo, director of Human Resources. If there is a complaint regarding discrimination, harassment or bullying of any student, the complaint should be filed with Caitlin DeFilippo at One Raider Lane, Horseheads, NY 14845; 607-739-5601, x4211, or [cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:cdefilippo@horseheadsdistrict.com). 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.

# April 2024

## Gardner Road Elementary School



| Monday  |   | Tuesday |  | Wednesday  |   | Thursday |   | Friday |  |
|---|---|---------|--|--|---|----------|---|--------|--|
| 1   | No School   | 2       | Day 6  | 3  | Day 1   | 4        | Day 2   | 5      | Day 3<br>Gardner Road Spirit Day<br>Wear Blue & Gold<br>    |
| 8   | Day 4<br>Early Dismissal 12:00<br> | 9       | Day 5<br>Principal Chat 5:30<br>GRPTO Meeting 6:00 | 10   | Day 6<br>NYS ELA Assessments  | 11       | Day 1<br>NYS ELA Assessments<br>BOE Meeting - Budget<br>HS MMC 6:00   | 12     | Day 2<br>End of MP 3<br>GRPTO SwimNight<br>HS Pool 6:00<br> |
| 15  | Day 3   | 16      | Day 4  | 17   | Day 5   | 18       | Day 6<br>BOE Meeting<br>HS MMC 6:00<br> | 19     | Day 1<br>Report Cards Go Home<br>                          |
| 22  | No School   | 23      | No School  | 24   | No School   | 25       | No School   | 26     | No School  |
|  |   |         |  |  |  |          |   |        |  |
| 29  | Day 2<br>Kindergarten Spring Conferences 4/29– 5/3 (See email from classroom teacher)                               | 30      | Day 3  | <p><b><u>Character Education Connection—Responsibility</u></b></p> <p>Choose an area for your child’s school materials to build independence.<br/>Involve children in shopping &amp; meal planning.<br/>Have your child help with age-appropriate household chores.<br/>Help your child make sure all school assignments are complete.</p>  |   |          |   |        |  |




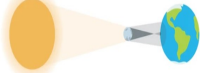




# April 2024

**REDUCE  
REUSE  
RECYCLE**



## HORSEHEADS ELEMENTARY GRADES PK-4TH

**CELEBRATE THE EARTH - MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY!**

| Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  |  |
|---|--|---|--|---|--|
| 1<br><b>NO SCHOOL</b>   | 2<br><b>Solar Eclipse Lunch!</b><br>Out of This World Orange Chicken w/Rocket Rice & Eclipse Egg Roll<br>Half Moon Hot Dog<br>Blackout Broccoli<br> | 3<br><b>Solar Eclipse Lunch!</b><br>Astronomy Chicken Alfredo<br>Big Dipper Cheese Burger<br>Blackout Broccoli<br>Sunny Fresh Baby Carrots<br>Flashing Fruity Jello<br> | 4<br><b>Solar Eclipse Lunch!</b><br>Total Eclipse Chicken Tacos & Rocket Rice<br>Shadow Casting Chicken<br>BLT Salad w/Solar Soft Pretzel<br>Crater Corn<br>Big Bang Refried Beans | 5<br><b>Solar Eclipse Lunch!</b><br>Cosmic Cheese Crunchers & Moonlight Marinara<br>Far Out Fish Filet Sandwich<br>Comet Carrots<br> |  |
| 8<br><b>Solar Eclipse Day! HALF DAY</b><br>Grab-N-Go Solar Lunch<br>Constellation Cheese Stick & New Moon Yogurt Meal or Path of Totality PBJ<br>Sides: Sun Drop Fruit & Veggies<br>Star Light Milk | 9<br>Toasted Cheese Sandwich<br>Chicken Ranch Wrap<br>Hot Tomato Soup<br>Sliced Carrots<br>   | 10<br>Pasta w/Meatballs<br>Pasta w/Marinara Sauce & Cheese<br>Steamed Broccoli<br><b>Fresh Pepper Strips!</b><br>Homemade Fruit Crisp   | 11<br><b>NY MENU DAY!</b><br>NY Chicken Spiedie Sub<br>NY Green Beans<br>NY Strawberry Applesauce<br>NY Juice!   | 12<br>Pizza Dunkers w/Marinara Sauce<br>Tuna Salad Sub<br>Sliced Carrots  |  |
| 15<br>Baked Mozzarella Sticks w/Pasta & Sauce<br>Breaded Chicken Drumstick w/Breadstick<br>Sliced Carrots   | 16<br>Sesame Chicken w/Rice<br><b>NY Hot Dog on a Roll</b><br>Steamed Broccoli   | 17<br><b>Homemade NY Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b><br>w/Bread<br>Italian Meatball Sub<br>Green Beans<br><b>Fresh Green Pepper Strips!</b><br>Cinnamon Applesauce Jello  | 18<br>Chicken Soft Taco w/Rice<br>Bean Taco w/Rice<br>Chicken BLT Salad w/Bread Choice<br>Golden Sweet Corn<br>Refried Beans   | 19<br><b>Cheese Pizza Crunchers w/Marinara Sauce</b><br>Crispy Fish Filet Sandwich<br>Sliced Carrots  |  |
| 22<br><b>CELEBRATE</b><br>   | 23<br><b>24</b><br><b>25</b><br><b>26</b><br><b>SPRING BREAK!!<br/>APRIL 22nd-26th</b>   |   |  | 26<br>  |  |
| 29<br>Chicken Philly Sub<br>Ultimate Cheese Breadstick w/Marinara Sauce<br>Sliced Carrots<br>Oven Fries   | 30<br>Homemade Chicken & Biscuits<br>Ham & Cheese Deli Wrap<br>Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy<br>Green Beans  | <br><b>PaySchools Central</b><br>Make Online Payments at<br><a href="https://payschoolcentral.com/">Payschoolcentral.com!</a>  |  | <br><b>FARM TO SCHOOL</b>  | <b>JOIN US FOR NY MENU DAY!</b><br><b>See menu for details</b> |

Available Daily Entrees

- PBJ Sandwich
- Meat Chef Salad w/ Bread Choice
- Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Bread Choice
- NY Cheese Stick & Yogurt w/Bread Choice**
- Turkey & Cheese Sandwich
- Ham & Cheese Sandwich
- M/W/F:** Baked Chicken Nuggets w/Bread
- T/TH:** Cheese Pizza

Available Daily Sides

- Fresh Vegetables
- Fresh Tossed Salad
- Assorted Fruit
- NY Chilled Milk**
- 100% Fruit Juice
- \*Bread Choice = Soft Pretzel or Breadstick**

PRICING:

- Breakfast & Lunch: \$0.00
- Milk/Ala Carte Side: \$0.75
- Snacks: \$0.75-\$1.50

**NOTE: Every student receives 1 breakfast and 1 lunch at no charge per school day. Each breakfast & lunch must be a COMPLETE MEAL, or student will be charged ala carte for each item on their tray.**

Breakfast Menu

- Monday:** Breakfast on a Stick
- Tuesday:** Cinnamon Roll
- Wednesday:** Breakfast Sandwich
- Thursday:** French Toast Sticks
- Friday:** Mini Pancakes
- Daily Options:** Bagel, Asst. Cereal, Goldfish Graham, Asst. Oatmeal, Muffin Top, Breakfast Oatmeal Bar, **NY Yogurt**, Asst. Fruit, 100% Fruit Juice & **Chilled NY Milk**



## BOOK ORDER FORM

Award-winning children's book author NANCY VIAU will be visiting our school on MAY 13! Here's a chance to order autographed copies of Nancy's books!

Find out more about these titles on Nancy's website: [www.NancyViau.com](http://www.NancyViau.com). or via Amazon.

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher Name/Grade \_\_\_\_\_

| Books  | Type      | Number of Copies | Price Per Book | Total \$ Per Book |
|--|-----------|------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| <b>PRUETT AND SOO</b><br>Picture Book For Grades K-4<br>Aliens who change their school and the world                     | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |                   |
| <b>TODAY IS A BEACH DAY!</b><br>Picture Book For Grades K-2<br>All the fun that comes with a day at the beach            | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |                   |
| <b>FIRST SNOW</b><br>Picture Book For Grades K-2<br>The excitement of those first snowflakes                             | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |                   |
| <b>CITY STREET BEAT</b><br>Picture Book For Grades K-2<br>The rhythmic sights and sounds of the city                     | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |                   |
| <b>SPLISH, SPLASH! FIRST TO LAST</b><br><i>NEW</i> Picture Book For K-2<br>Sealife & counting using First, Second, etc.  | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$15.00</b> |                   |
| <b>STORM SONG</b><br>Picture Book For PreK-2<br>A loud storm sounds like a song  | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$10.00</b> |                   |
| <b>SAMANTHA HANSEN HAS ROCKS IN HER HEAD</b><br>For Grades 3-5<br>Geology, sibling drama, travel, 4 <sup>th</sup> grade  | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$16.00</b> |                   |
| <b>SOMETHING IS BUGGING SAMANTHA HANSEN</b><br>For Grades 3-5<br>Saving bees, community, activism, 4 <sup>th</sup> grade | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$16.00</b> |                   |
| <b>JUST ONE THING</b><br>For Grades 3-6<br>Identity, art, discovering one's talents, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade               | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$13.00</b> |                   |
| <b>BEAUTY AND BERNICE</b><br>For Grades 4-6<br>A skater girl, a princess, and the summer that was almost a fairy tale    | Hardcover |                  | <b>\$13.00</b> |                   |
|  |           | #Books=          |                | Total=            |

Print book title and first name of student(s) for inscription.

Please return this form and money to your child's teacher / Mrs. Herforth by APRIL 17<sup>th</sup>

Payment should be made via CASH or CHECK payable to NANCY VIAU.



**Award-winning children's book author**  
**Nancy Viau**

will be visiting Gardner Road Elementary on May 13<sup>th</sup>!  
She will be sharing some of her stories, talking about being an author and the writing process with our students.

Nancy Viau's books are available for purchase so that your child can take home a memory of her visit to enjoy, over and over again! To make a purchase, complete the back of this form and return it, with payment, to your child's teacher or Mrs. Herforth prior to April 17, 2024. We can accept exact cash payments or checks made out to Nancy Viau.

Ms. Viau will sign and personalize each book to your child or to whomever you might like to give one of her books as a gift. We are all looking forward to Nancy Viau's visit!

Contact Mrs. Beth Herforth with questions.  
[eherforth@horseheadsdistrict.com](mailto:eherforth@horseheadsdistrict.com)





4<sup>th</sup> Grade



## Parent Information Night

It's hard to believe that in approximately 5 months your child will be starting at the Intermediate School. With that transition comes many questions. We would like to make the jump to 5<sup>th</sup> grade as smooth as possible, which starts by learning more about our school. Please join us on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm in the IS/MS Cafeteria for a brief presentation followed by a self-guided tour!

What: Presentation and Self-guided Tour

Who: Parents and Students

When: Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 – 7:00pm

Where: Intermediate/Middle School Cafeteria

Information packets that include a welcome letter, teacher placement, supply list, more information about the school, health information, and more, will be sent home around the second week of August. We also offer 2 more self-guided tours near the end of August after you know your child's teacher so the students can find their classrooms.

Summer Self-guided Tours:

Thursday, August 22 from 10 – 11:30am

Tuesday, August 27 from 6 – 7pm

We are always looking for people who would like to be actively involved in our PTO. Thank you in advance, as we believe that the best experiences come from a team effort!





# SOLAR ECLIPSE

## HALF-DAY DISMISSAL SCHEDULE

Grades 7-12 — 10:40 a.m.

Pre-K — 11:45 a.m.

Grades K-6 — noon

No Afterschool Activities



A solar eclipse occurs when the moon moves between the sun and Earth. During this time, the sun is completely covered by the moon for a brief time. The path of totality will enter in the southwestern part of New York just after 3:15 p.m. on April 8 and will depart northern New York just before 3:30 p.m.

We remind everyone that the only safe way to view a partially eclipsed sun is with special purpose solar filters such as eclipse glasses. Regular sunglasses are not safe to use to view an eclipse. **Significant sight damage will occur without proper protection.** For more information on eclipses and how to safely view them, [click here](#).

For more information about solar eclipses and to access educational resources, we encourage you to visit [NASA's website](#) or use the QR Code.



## LUNAR LUNCH SPECIALS

To celebrate this special celestial event, we will be offering meals that are out of this world. On April 8, a Grab-and-Go Lunch will be offered to students in grades Pre-K through sixth. These lunches will be eaten in the classroom. Teachers have had all students select their lunch choice in the classroom on March 28 to give our cafeteria staff time to prepare. There will be no snacks or ice cream available for purchase on this day. You may choose to send your student with a lunch from home. If you choose this option instead, please contact your child's teacher prior to April 4. Please note that breakfast will be provided for all students.

### APRIL 2

OUT OF THIS WORLD  
ORANGE  
CHICKEN W/ROCKET RICE &  
ECLIPSE EGG ROLL  
HALF MOON HOT DOG  
BLACKOUT BROCCOLI

### APRIL 3

ASTRONOMY CHICKEN  
ALFREDO  
BLACKOUT BROCCOLI  
SUNNY FRESH BABY  
CARROTS  
FLASHING FRUITY JELLO

### APRIL 4

TOTAL ECLIPSE CHICKEN  
TACOS & ROCKET RICE  
SHADOW CASTING  
CHICKEN BLT SALAD  
W/SOLAR SOFT  
PRETZEL, CRATER CORN,  
BIG BANG REFRIED BEANS

### APRIL 5

COSMIC CHEESE  
CRUNCHERS  
& MOONLIGHT MARINARA  
FAR OUT FISH FILET  
SANDWICH  
COMET CARROTS

### APRIL 8 - HALF DAY

**GRADES PRE-K - SIXTH**  
CONSTELLATION CHEESE  
STICK & NEW MOON  
YOGURT OR PATH OF  
TOTALITY PBJ,  
SUN DROP FRUIT, VEGGIES,  
STAR LIGHT MILK