



Gehmans Mennonite School

Newsletter – September 8, 2017

Volume XXV #1

Thoughts on Homework

While very few parents and students just *love* homework, it is an important and critical aspect of the education process. Homework helps students develop responsibility, self-discipline, and lifelong learning habits. It also provides students with the opportunity to apply information they have learned through relevant, challenging, and meaningful assignments.

There are many benefits to homework. Here are a few of the top benefits as shown by research: homework helps students learn the importance of planning, staying organized, and taking action; increases understanding; better critical thinking; and more independent problem-solving.

These days, our lives are busier than ever with many good and necessary activities vying for our attention. Establishing a **homework routine** in your home is important. Routines will vary depending on the age and personality of your child. Allow yourself the flexibility to experiment with routines for your individual children. But when you identify a process that works, stick with it in a way that is stickier than crazy glue.

Here are a few tips for establishing a homework routine:

1. Establish the time the work will be done.
2. Establish a place for your child to do the homework.
3. YOU, as a parent, need to be involved.
 - a. Check your child's backpack every evening – especially younger students. Older students should learn to share homework and school information with you.
 - b. It isn't *your* homework, but it is your *child's*. Don't DO the work, but support the importance of the routine. You are his/her life-long teacher and can model that homework is an important part of learning.



Homework assignments will vary according to differences within each grade level. If a student is consistently spending an excessive amount of time on homework, parents should communicate with the classroom teacher about it.

Exterior Renovation Project

Over the summer, there was a lot that happened around here and we got to the start the school year in a building that received an amazing facelift! There was also a lot of work done on the inside as we shifted classrooms and now have classroom for our Learning Support program. We are very grateful for everyone that invested volunteer time and energy in various ways throughout these projects. **Thank-you!!!**

The expenses for this project did run over the anticipated budget and we still have landscaping work to be completed around the building. Your donations towards the landscaping project would be greatly appreciated.

Matching Fund

In May, we were given a \$75,000 matching fund! All donations given to the school from the end of May till Dec. 1 will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$75,000. This is a wonderful opportunity to give to the needs of the school and have it *doubled*. To date, we have received \$40,439.10 in donations, leaving **\$34,560.90 needed to reach the \$75,000 goal.**



PTF - Monday, Oct. 2, 7pm



Our first PTF for this year is on **Monday, October 2, at 7pm**. The title for the evening is 'Classroom Insights'. The format of the evening will include gathering in the gym for opening remarks/announcements and then be dismissed to visit the classrooms of your students in 2 different time blocks. In those time blocks, the homeroom teachers will share with those in their classroom the classroom expectations and procedures. Giving parents a deeper understanding of how things function during the day for their students in the classroom. *Mark your calendar now and plan on attending!*

Attendance and Excuse Cards

Each family should have received a small packet of excuse cards and a letter about them. Please remember to fill them out and turn them in as the instructions in the letter specify.

As a reminder, if you are picking your child up early from school, please remember that we do require a note to the homeroom teacher for each child that is leaving early. Also remember to inform your bus driver if your child is not going to be on the bus as well. *If your child comes late or leaves early, either the parent or the student must check in with Lisa at the office so that the attendance records are kept accurately.*

Pizza

On Wednesdays, by the slice pizza is available to purchase for lunch. It is \$1.50 per slice and \$1 for a half slice. You may send the money for the pizza along with your student and they will then place the order with their teacher in the morning.



Asbestos Control

Each year, we notify our patrons of the presence of minimal amounts of non-friable asbestos in some floor and ceiling tile glue in the 1969 building. Also, the linoleum in the foyer of the modular building contains some asbestos. All of these areas are perfectly safe as long as we maintain them properly. The emphasis is not on removal but proper management as to prevent the release of fibers. Please contact me if you have any questions.

www.smile.amazon.com

If you are a person who makes purchases from Amazon.com, we encourage you to use www.smile.amazon.com to make your purchase. When you use that website, Amazon will ask you to choose your charity. You can then search for Gehmans Mennonite School, and a percentage of each eligible purchase will be donated to GMS.



Moms Prayer Group

On the second Tuesday of each month, there is a group of moms who gather to pray specifically for the school and teachers. They meet at the home of Clair & Gerry Good, from 9:30-11:00. (Baby-sitting is provided, if needed). All Moms are welcome to join us! If you have any questions...you may call Gerry at 445-4107.

Patron Contact Info Correction

Please make the following corrections to your patron list.

Michael & Laura Burkholder – 717-669-2365

Jason & Cheryl Widrick - 717-682-8124



Calendar of Events

Sept. 21 – Picture Day

Sept. 26 – Free Hot Lunch

Oct. 2 – PTF @7pm

Automated Calling System

We use an internet-based automated calling system to 'blast' a voice message to all of our patrons, or just to parents that have students in certain grades. Most commonly, this system is used to inform of delays/cancellations due to weather, but is also used to push out critical messages to the patrons.

Each family can have 2 different numbers, either cell and/or landline, for the system to call. It is recommended that you chose a number(s) that are most likely to be answered so that the message gets heard in a timely fashion.

Both numbers will be called when a message is 'blasted' for a group that you are in.

Please fill out the bottom section and return it to the office Sept. 22.

Thank-you!

Name: _____

Phone # 1: _____

Phone # 2: _____