

THE BLUE & GOLD

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
GREENCASTLE-ANTRIM PRIMARY & ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



PTO's Fun Run Reaches One Million Mark

15 years ago the PTO began the Race for Education/Fun Run! Just this year they have reached over a million dollars total raised for our K-5 schools! This year's "Fun Run" was on October 9th and by the day of the event they had already surpassed their goal of \$60,000! This year, \$78,119 has been raised. The PTO will continue to accept donations through the end of the calendar year. The money raised by this & any other PTO fundraiser goes toward field trips (K-5) and special events. The Back-to-School Bash, Trunk-or-Treat and Santa's Shop are just a few of the many events that the PTO provides.

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

November 11 and
November 25-
December 1
(Thanksgiving Break)

Have your
students check
LOST & FOUND
periodically to
claim items!

REPORT CARDS
EMAILED HOME
November 2

Mr. Dennis

Introducing Our New ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Check out his bio
on page 3 to learn
more about him!

Mr. Clever

GAES & GAPS

2026 – 2027

YEAR AT-A-GLANCE

AUGUST

17– Primary Open House
18– Elementary Open House

SEPTEMBER

22– Fall Picture Day

OCTOBER

9– Fun Run
15– Parent Teacher Conferences
27– Picture Make Ups

FEBRUARY

2– 100th Day of School

MARCH

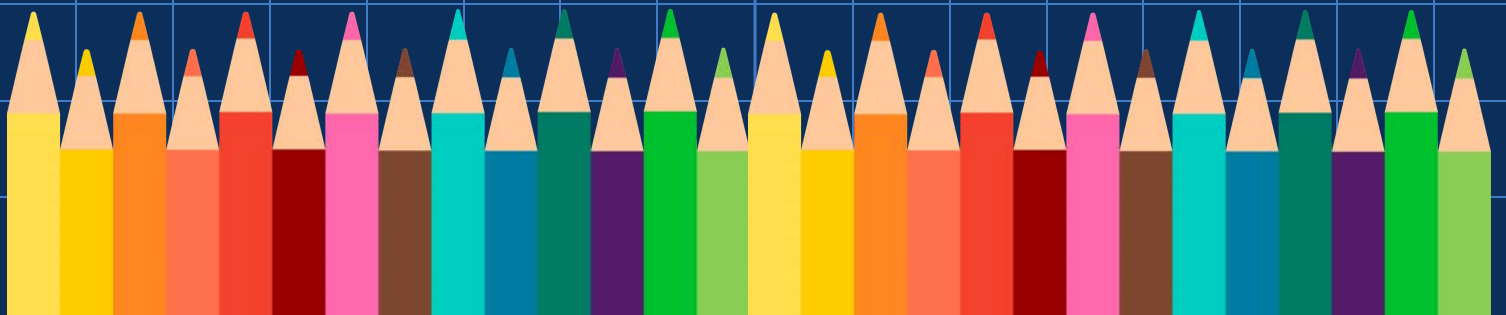
11– Parent Teacher Conferences
23– Spring Picture Day

APRIL

2– Autism Walk
27, 28 & 29– ELA PSSA

MAY

3 & 4– Math PSSA
6 & 7– Science PSSA
12– STEAM Expo
13– G-lympics
19– K-5 Field Day
21– Cumberland Life Festival



New Faces in GA Places

Our primary and elementary schools have a few new faces this year! Check them out...

ETHAN CLEVER

GAPS Assistant Principal

Mr. Clever is a proud 2016 Greencastle-Antrim School District graduate! He has spent the last six years teaching 7th grade math at the Greencastle-Antrim Middle School. He is so excited for the opportunity to now serve the Greencastle-Antrim community in a new way as the GAPS Assistant Principal! In his free time Mr. Clever enjoys sporting clays, hunting & fishing, playing video games, and being involved in his church.



KIRSTEN JAMES

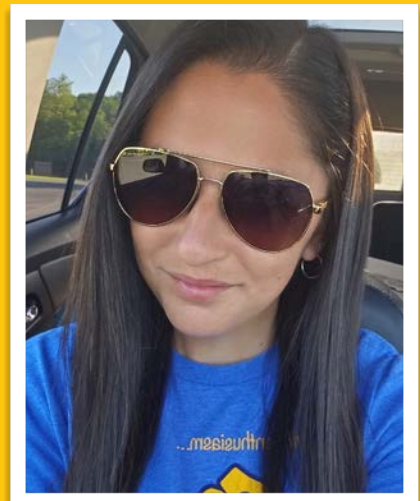
GAES Fifth Grade Teacher

Mrs. James graduated from Shippensburg University with a bachelor's degree in elementary education. This is her 5th year teaching, previously in Cumberland county. She is originally from the Raystown Lake area but recently moved to Chambersburg with her husband. She loves golfing, traveling, spending time with her friends and family, and Penn State football!

HANNA ZISA

GAES Autistic Teacher

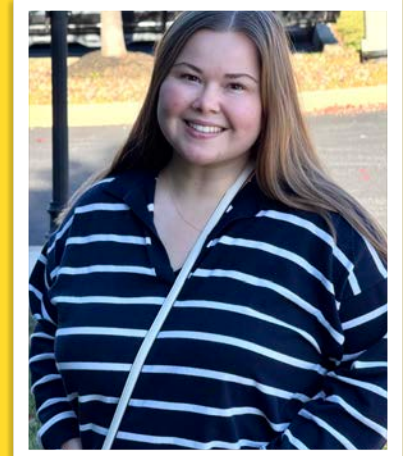
Ms. Zisa grew up and graduated from the Greencastle-Antrim School District. She now lives in Three Springs, PA with her 3 sons (Caiden- 15, Jase- 11, and Colt- 10). Some of her favorite things are; kayaking, plants, & being outdoors. She was an Autistic Support Paraeducator for 10 years before graduating with her degree in Special Education. She student taught in Greencastle before accepting a position as an Autistic Support Teacher. She is thrilled to still be in the district in her new role!



New Faces in GA Places

RENA WILSON GAPS First Grade Teacher

Mrs. Wilson has a BS in Early Childhood /Elementary Education. Previously she taught Kindergarten in the Carlisle Area School District. She grew up in Waynesboro and now resides in Chambersburg with her husband Tyler, and two dogs (Pickles and Winnie). Mrs. Wilson is thrilled to be a part of the Greencastle-Antrim school district, as it has always been a dream of hers to join this community. When she isn't at school, Mrs. Wilson loves to spend time with her family and friends.



BROOKS ALESHIRE GAPS Second Grade Teacher



Mr. Aleshire graduated from Shippensburg University with a BS in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. He student-taught at GAES, before teaching 3rd grade in Washington County Public Schools for 1 year. He is excited to be back at Greencastle-Antrim School District, teaching 2nd grade this year! Outside of school, he loves to hunt and fish, and he also spends much of his free time coaching travel baseball.

ELIZABETH BARNHART GAPS Autistic Teacher

Ms. Barnhart holds a Master's degree in Education with an Autism endorsement and spent the past eight years teaching high school science in a learning support setting. She strives to create an inclusive environment where her students feel supported. She is passionate about helping students build communication, independence, and confidence while having meaningful opportunities to learn alongside their peers. Outside of school, she is a certified personal trainer, and she enjoys hiking, kayaking, backpacking, photography, cooking and baking, and finding any excuse to be outdoors with her kids!





BELLA ADAMS

GAPS Second Grade Teacher

Miss Adams is a first-year teacher here at Greencastle! She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Shippensburg University. She student taught at Greencastle last spring, and is so excited to join this district! Miss Adams feels fortunate that this opportunity brought her to Greencastle where she is not originally from, and is excited to learn a new place. She really enjoys getting to see her friends and family when possible and staying active!



Mrs. Daly & Mrs. Allshouse preparing Mrs. Higgins for the Fun Run Assembly!



Bus-Ride-a-Long
at the primary
school for
incoming
Kindergarteners!



Take Note...



Other than service animals,
ANIMALS ARE NOT PERMITTED
on the patio(s) for afternoon pick
up! Thanks for adhering to this
for everyone's comfort & safety!



As the weather begins
to get
cooler....please send
your child to school
with a coat!

Absent notes can also be sent digitally! Not
only does this allow a quicker turn-around, but
it eliminates the chance of paper notes getting
lost in backpacks & hallways! Emails,
screenshots & digital documents can be sent to:
GAES: hchristophersen@gcasd.org
GAPS: jcooper@gcasd.org

If your child needs to be absent
from school, please be
reminded to send in a note for
the absence within 3 days.
This includes late arrivals and
early departures.

Thank you!

Electronic Device Policy - GASD Policy

237 prohibits the use of any electronic device by any Primary/Elementary School Student while in district buildings, on district property and grounds, and at school-sponsored activities. An electronic device that is possessed by any student in school buildings or on district property must remain powered off and kept out of sight at all times (including the bus ride to and from school).



Fun Run

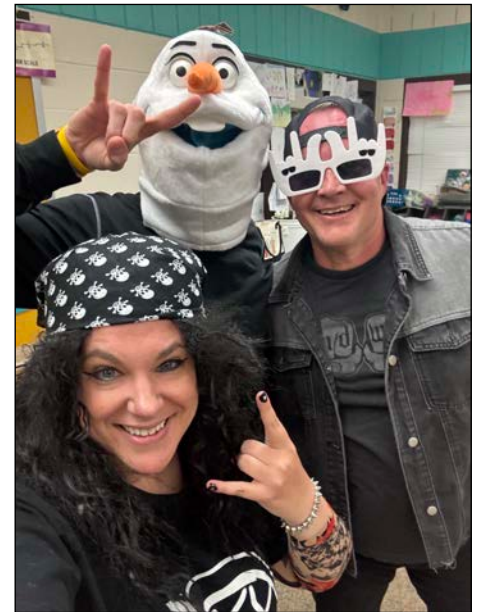




LIP SYNC
MC Mix Master Martin



TRUSTWORTHINESS
"Golden Girls Theme Song"



RESPONSIBILITY
"Let It Go"

Character Counts Assembly



CARING
"Try Everything"



RESPONSIBILITY
"You've Got a Friend In Me"



CITIZENSHIP
"Lip Gloss"

GAES

FAIRNESS
"We're All in This Together"



Field Trips



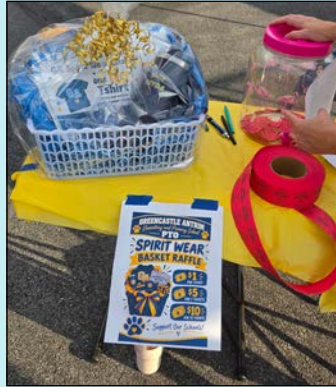


Community Helper Day

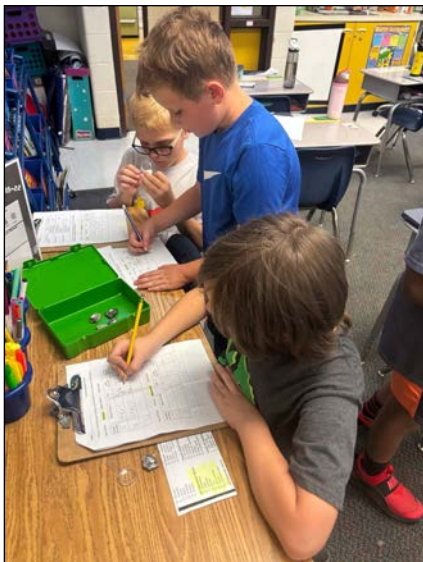


GAPS Bubble Party





PTO's Back to School Bash



Mrs. Winegardner's 4th graders doing rock exploration in science!

Ms. Zisa's class having a fun day to Tayamentaschata!



Mrs. Kolva's lunch bunch group at the primary!



Mrs. Caudill's class at Tayamentaschata with Mrs. Barnes!



Pollinating
science lesson
with Principal
Martin at the
primary school!



"George" the candy monster collecting candy for PTO's Trunk-or-Treat in the GAES office!



**Nurse Carol**

Meet Our Nurses

A Certified School Nurse (CSN) is a bachelor's prepared registered professional nurse (BSN, RN) with a specialized certification enabling provision of care to students within the educational setting. We operate in the school environment to manage chronic and acute health conditions, promote student health, and bridge healthcare and education.

**Nurse Alyssa**

School nurses are responsible for the health of children by, including, but not limited to:

- Assessing the severity of illness or injury in students
- Distributing medications to student that is provided and approved by their parents and healthcare providers.
- Caring for students with chronic conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy/seizures, asthma, allergies/anaphylaxis, and others.
- Ensuring all students are up to date on their vaccinations/immunizations.
- Directing the provision of health services within the school.
- Screening students for vision, hearing, and other potential health issues.
- Preventing and controlling the spread of communicable diseases.
- Connecting students and their families to relevant health resources.
- Providing mental health support to students in need.
- Collecting health data in schools to provide to local, state, and national officials.
- Promotion of overall school community health through education and wellness initiatives.
- Providing urgent, episodic care to students including band-aids or ice packs to children with cuts, scrapes, and bruises.

School Nurses are not:

- A substitute for medical visits with a Physician, Physician Assistant (PA), or Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) for annual well-child checks and sick visits.
- A substitute for your annual eye exam or dental exam
- Able to diagnose, treat, or prescribe.
- Able to give excuses for students requiring Doctor Note Only.

Meet your School Nurses and learn about their professional background:

Carol Barrett: I have been a nurse for 21 years, 6.5 of those years have been spent at the GA Primary and Elementary School! Prior to becoming a school nurse my nursing environments include UPMC Presbyterian in Pittsburgh, Washington County Hospital, Meritus Medical Center, and a Hematology and Oncology infusion center all located in Hagerstown, MD. Over those years I acquired skills and knowledge of care for populations with needs related to: Med/Surg (GI, GU, Respiratory, wound, and Oncology specific), rare diseases, sickle cell, oncology, hematology, palliative care, and phase 2, 3, 4, pharmaceutical clinical trials and observational studies. I have been married for twenty years and have four children in the Greencastle-Antrim School District.

Alyssa Gembe: I've been a registered nurse for 14 years, and for the past two years, I have had the privilege of serving as one of your GA school nurses. During my first year, I worked as a substitute school nurse throughout all four district buildings, and last year, I served students at both the Primary and Elementary schools. Prior to school nursing, I gained experience in trauma and emergency medicine at Meritus Medical Center Emergency Department, as well as home health nursing. I also served as a clinical manager overseeing multiple medical practices. These roles provided me with experience caring for individuals with a wide variety of medical needs and helped prepare me to meet the diverse health needs of students in the school setting. I have been married for eleven years and have two children in the Greencastle-Antrim School District.

As mothers and nurses, we understand how important it is for families to know their children are safe, cared for, and supported while at school. We truly enjoy caring for your children and value the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with students and their families. Our goal is to provide a welcoming and supportive environment where every student feels safe and cared for, while promoting health and well-being resulting in success in the classroom. Please feel free to call or email us with questions or concerns regarding your child's health or medical needs. It is a privilege to care for your children, and we look forward to continuing to partner with you to care for our future leaders—your children!