

Mount Garfield Middle School



Bill Larsen, Principal | Jared Burek, AP | Lee Carleton, AP | Lori Thompson, Secretary | Kim Chambers Attendance Secretary

Important Dates

**No School:
Teacher In-Service**
May 4, 2017

**No School:
Non-Contract Day**
May 5, 2017

8th Grade Awards Night
May 11, 2017
6:00 - 7:30 pm

Student of the Month
May 18, 2017
6:45 am @ GMMS Library

Spring Fling
May 22, 2017
All Day

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!
May 24, 2017

Summer Break
Begins: May 25, 2017
Ends: August 15, 2017

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL!
August 16, 2017

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A Message From The Principal

Dear Mount Garfield Families,

We hope this May Newsletter allows you to reflect on a successful 2016-17 school year for your student, as well as hope for a great summer ahead. With summer just around the corner and our registration process for the 2017-18 school year in full swing, we invite you to stay involved in your student's life as they make choices for the next school year. No one knows your child better than you do, so we ask you to stay close in touch with our staff if you believe there are any issues that might need to be resolved in making the finish to this school year highly successful, both emotionally and academically.

It was with great pleasure we honored our MGMS Outstanding Teacher of the Year, Irina Adams, and our MGMS Outstanding 8th Grade Female and Male Students of the Year, Elizabeth Hawkins and Efren Martinez-Garcia. These three individuals, along with their families, were celebrated at the Masonic Educational Awards on April 19th. On April 20th, we also honored our April Students of the Month during a celebration breakfast in our library. Congratulations to: Core 6-1 Joa Gorombol, Core 6-2 Ethan Barkoczy, Core 7-1 Jillian Vasquez, Core 7-2 Xavier Beckwith, Core 8-1 Cody Hall, Core 8-2 Triston Scott, Computers Revyn Drushella, and Choir Taylor Mosby.

In the past five month's newsletters, you have heard about thirteen of the sixteen "Habits of Mind" (HOM):

- Persisting,
- Managing Impulsivity,
- Listening with Understanding and Empathy,
- Thinking Flexibility,
- Thinking About Thinking (Metacognition),
- Thinking Interdependently,
- Remaining Open to Continuous Learning,
- Striving for Accuracy,
- Questioning and Posing Problems,
- Applying Past Knowledge to New Situations,
- Thinking and Communicating with Clarity and Precision,
- Gathering Data through All Senses,
- Creating, Imagining, and Innovating.

(Continued on next page)

This month we would like to introduce our last three HOM:

Responding with Wonderment and Awe:

- Intrigued by the world's beauty, nature's power and vastness for the universe;
- Have regard for what is awe-inspiring and can touch my heart;
- Open to the little and big surprises in life I see others and myself.

Taking Responsible Risks:

- Willing to try something new and different;
- Consider doing things that are safe and sane even though new to me;
- Face fear of making mistakes or of coming up short and don't let this stop me.

Finding Humor:

- Willing to laugh appropriately;
- Look for the whimsical, absurd, ironic and unexpected in life;
- Laugh at myself when I can.

We are hopeful this common vocabulary between home and school might deepen your conversations with your student. As we welcomed our 5th grade students on April 24th, and enjoyed meeting the family members later that day, we are excited to guide our new 6th graders next year, and we wish our 8th graders the very best as they transition to high school. Speaking of transitions, I have been so fortunate to serve the MGMS learning community this past year, and sincerely welcome Ms. Rocio Roybal as she takes over the leadership role as Principal of Mt. Garfield Middle School.

Sincerely,
Bill Larsen

Parent Reminders

We ask respectfully that you make every effort to schedule your child's appointment/s after the school day ends or over weekends, if at all possible. When we interrupt a class, we find it can be very disruptive to the students remaining in class and the classroom learning environment overall. Over the course of the day we work very hard to limit disruptions and would appreciate any assistance you can give when scheduling appointments during your child's valuable education time.

In addition, please visit with your children in the morning about how they are getting home at the end of day. We understand, however, that plans change and we are certainly here to assist you with those special circumstances. We appreciate any help you can give with these matters.

Thank you, Mt. Garfield Staff

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8th Grade Social Studies News

The following 8th grade Social Studies students of Mrs. Decavitch's class have completed their Rough Canyon trail restoration and Mica Mine graffiti removal with the BLM Archeologists, Northern Ute Tribal Cultural Leaders Betsy and Brock Chapose, and the Colorado Canyon Association volunteers: Lily Bagwell, Kylie Bauske, Anja Bode, Evangelina Chacon, Christin Delacruz-Pena, Revyn Drushella, Tory Fowler, Harmony Green, Lodan Head, Kameron Kent, Lori Keplinger, Melanie Keyes, Keegan Leoni, Skyler Lowry, Efren Martinez-Garcia, Joshua Mersino, Summer Montgomery, Matt Ogle, Jaelee Padilla, Suzanna Ramirez, Colby Richmond, Felicia Sanchez, Tristan Scott, Anna Stubblefield, and Hayley Meyers.



Students reported vandalism of petroglyphs and canyon walls to the BLM and asked if we could return to clean-up. Grant monies paid for our transportation and materials needed to complete the project. Students worked to remove trails that led to the petroglyphs by digging up the trail and restoring it with rabbit brush, cactus, logs, and rock barriers. New trail signs were posted and charcoal was washed off canyon walls as students carried bladder bags of water to the sites and scrubbed off graffiti. The Northern Ute tribe shared their thoughts with the students on the cultural and religious significance of the Canyon. The tired, but accomplished, Mount Garfield students were rewarded with certificates of appreciation by the Northern Ute Tribe and BLM bling bags that included rocks/minerals samples of the local area. I was so impressed with my students and their willingness to give back.

Ready, Set, Smile!

The push is on to purchase a yearbook. Yearbooks are still available! The only way to guarantee that your student will get one is if it is prepaid and there are many payment options available. You may purchase a yearbook by paying with cash or with a credit/debit card at the MGMS Budget Office. You may also pay with a credit/debit card over the phone by calling (970) 254-4720 Ext. 37112. In addition, you may order on-line at jostensyearbooks.com. There is also a link to purchase a yearbook on the MGMS home page at the very bottom. The cost is currently \$28.00. Once the books are sold out, we cannot order any more. Your student will have a lifetime of memories in this forty (40) page, full color, hardback book! Don't wait any longer. Order today by calling or stopping by the MGMS Budget Office, or on-line with Jostens!

GET YOUR YEARBOOK NOW!

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Kirk Golba
210-0727

1. Consider important college characteristics you want in a college
2. Understand your learning style and find colleges that embrace that
3. Prioritize and use the college characteristics as a filter when choosing your college list
4. Create a list that has two Safeties, three Targets, and two Reach colleges

MESA Club's year is nearly finished, but there's still some great things coming.

First, Mt. Garfield's MESA Club says, "THANK YOU" to everyone that contributed recycling material for our community recycling day on April 8th. The event was a big success! We received about 12,000 pounds of materials to be recycled. Thank you all so very much!



Monday April 24th is our last competition, and it is one of our favorites: the Egg Drop competition hosted by GJHS and CMU. This is an all-day affair with students enjoying tours of CMU's campus, experiencing scientific demonstrations in college science classrooms, dining in CMU's student center, and then participating in the competition. Student teams have researched, designed, and built devices that hold three raw eggs. In order to win the competition, all three eggs must survive a forty-foot (40') drop onto concrete. It's a exciting (often messy) and good time.

On May 3rd and 4th, our 8th grade MESA students will go on our annual overnight trip to Denver. This year we'll be checking out Dobby the Denver Zoo's baby giraffe born Feb. 28th, as well as all the other wildlife. We'll also experience the Denver Museum of Nature and Science including the exhibit on Vikings, watching a 3D IMAX movie, and going to the planetarium.

Our final event of the year will be a celebration party on Monday, May 8, at Long's Park. It will be a hamburger/hotdog fry for all MESA students and their families. We want to say thank you to parents for supporting our students this year and to let them know about the exciting events that will happen next year in MESA.



Anna Goetz & Shari Vandervelde



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Attendance

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Greetings From the Library!

As we draw to the close of another school year, I would like to take a moment to tell you how wonderful the students are at Mount Garfield Middle School. I have been part of some amazing learning as I have worked with your students on various projects throughout the year, which has been wonderful! I have also watched many, many students figure out what they love to read and it amazes me to watch their faces when they finally realize that they do, in fact, LOVE to read! That, in itself, is one reason I love being a teacher librarian.



- The end of the school year brings with it some items that need to be addressed so please take note of the following:
- ALL books will be due Friday, May 12th. Please help remind your student to locate any books that they might have in their rooms, under the couch, in the trunk of the car, their lockers, etc. Books have a funny way of ending up in the strangest of places so any help you can offer is appreciated!
- If a book is lost, there will be a \$25.00 fine added to student account and the student will be billed for the book.
- Library fines/bills carry over each school year. Current library policy is that if a student has any fines up to \$5.00 they can only check one book out at a time. With fines over \$5.00, students are not allowed to check any books out until some of the fine is paid. I will be notifying students the week of May 15 if they have any outstanding fines. Fines can be paid in the library during school hours on most days. Students may also pay their library fines at the office. Please do not hesitate to contact me for additional information concerning library fines.

I hope you enjoy the summer break. I encourage you and your family to sign up for the summer reading programs offered at the public library. The programs are amazing and reading is a great way to spend time together! Take care and I will see you next year!

Thanks,
Mrs. Cooper



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Do You Know The 12 Strategies?

Research has shown that students who master twelve crucial reading strategies have greater academic success and become better critical thinkers. Students in Ms. Mayes' Literacy Plus classes in quarter three and quarter four are learning, practicing, and growing with these specific strategies. Among the strategies are Finding the Main Idea, Recalling Facts and Details, Understanding Sequence, Recognizing Cause and Effect, Comparing and Contrasting, Making Predictions, Finding Word Meaning in Context, Drawing Conclusions and Making Inferences, Distinguishing Between Fact and Opinion, Identifying Author's Purpose, Interpreting Figurative Language, and Summarizing. Parents can support our efforts in two ways, by encouraging your child to read a little each day and by asking her/him to tell you about what they are reading. You may learn more about the ways he/she is becoming a stronger student.



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