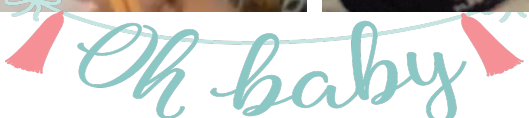
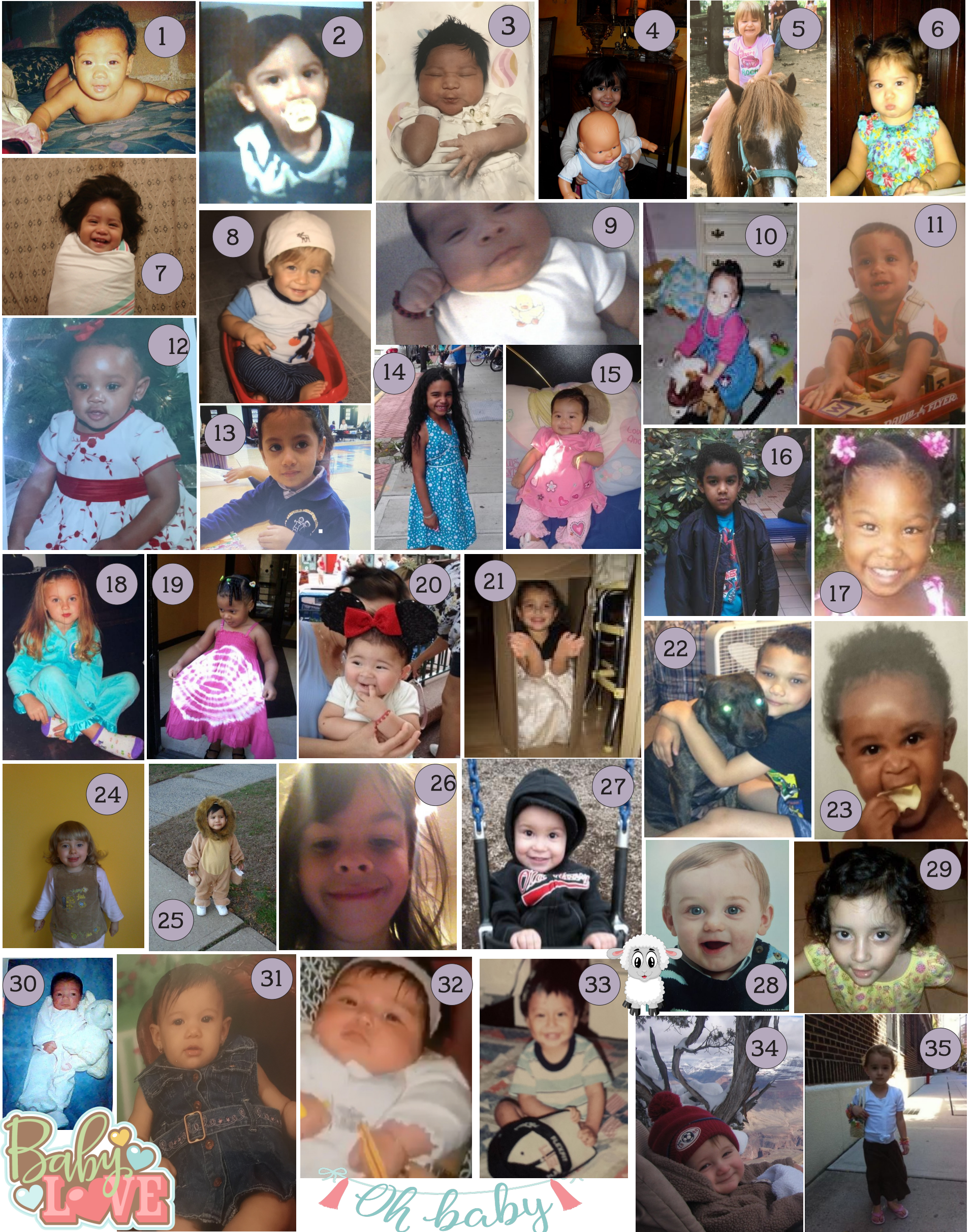




## 2021 Congratulations GMS 8th Graders -Class of 2021

### Oh Baby! Look Who's graduating GMS in 2021

See if you can guess who is in the picture -key is listed on on page 8





### Strangers Helping Strangers - Just to lend a hand The Youth Crew

Strangers Helping Strangers has assembled a youth crew of students. The Youth Crew helps in many different capacities.

Recently, they donated 120 snack bags to the healthcare heroes at The Valley Hospital as part of their *Forever Heroes* initiative. The crew collected, printed, and laminated artwork and letters created by students, and inserted them into snack bags just to remind the healthcare workers that they are appreciated and will forever be heroes.

Included in the snack bags were different kinds of snacks from gum to trail mix to chocolate etc., The students went to the stores and shopped for what they thought the healthcare heroes would like the best.

Their hope is to continue the initiative and visit additional venues in the future.



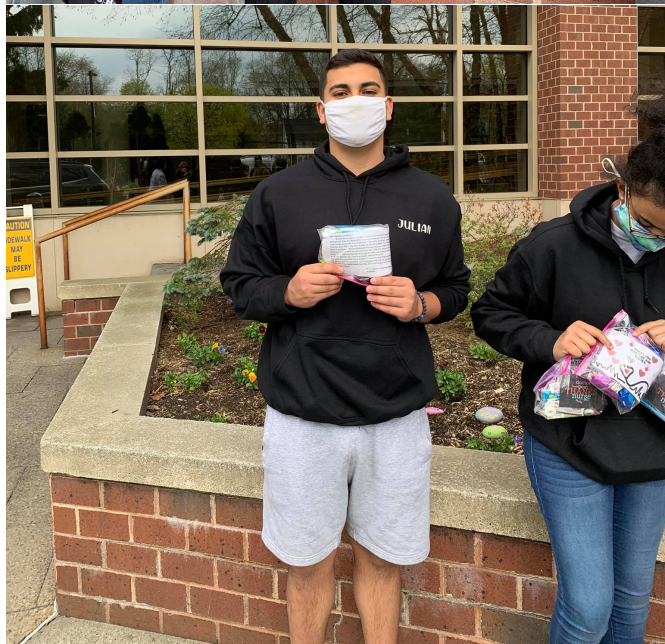
SHS YOUTH CREW

The hoodies pictured, were designed by Youth Crew member Brianna Geer and were made by Jackie Lauren Anello, who did a great job!

Garfield Middle School teachers and students submitted their work for the snack bags and did an amazing job as well



Strangers Helping Strangers Youth crew at Valley Hospital on April 14th, 2021



**Want to get involved?  
SHS Youth Crew is up and running.  
CHS student Natalie Fucile is the president of the Youth Crew.  
Email:  
strangershelpingstrangers@gmail.com  
for more information on how to get involved**

**DOLLAR THURSDAYS - SFS FUNDRAISER**  
WHAT: DONATE \$1 ON THURSDAY  
WHY: HELP PURCHASE DINNERS FOR FAMILIES IN NEED.  
ALL DINNERS BOUGHT FROM LOCAL SMALL BUSINESSES THROUGH STRANGERS FEEDING STRANGERS PROGRAM



STRANGERS HELPING STRANGERS  
Just to lend a hand

**DONATION INFO**  
VENMO @SHS-NJ  
ZELLE 201-370-0721  
CASH APP  
SSTRANGERSHELPING

CONGRATULATIONS!



**Mr. Braitsch**  
Recipient of the  
Champion of Peace  
Award  
Garfield Rotary  
District 7490



**The GMS Book Review:  
Reading during remote**

Written by Ana Redman & Bo Jachevska  
Grade 7

Fly Away Home by Dave Cenker is a book about a character named Claire Perkins. Claire is a 38-year-old woman working an office. She makes a decision to leave her job after her mother's death and move back to her hometown, Pigeon Grove.

While she's settling into the town, some of the wounds from her past start opening up as she slowly tries to heal and move on from her former life.

She meets two new neighbors Lydia and Hank owners of the local produce shop. Claire also meets Jack Burgess, a sketch artist with a troubling past that Claire ends up connecting with. She interacts with many other of the town's residents.

Claire's niece Lizzie Perkins comes over to visit her. She is visiting because her father & Claire's brother, Russell is getting a business opportunity somewhere else. Let's just say the siblings of Claire and her brother don't have the best relationship. But Lizzie's stay might change life as they knew it more than expected.

Will Claire find happiness in the small, reclusive town or end up in more than she had to begin with? Read the book to find out!

Strays Like Us, by Cecilia Galante is a book about a foster kid and the "stray" dog next door.

The main character, Fred, is getting fostered by a hard-working single parent that lives next door to an unusual person. The man is old, and he cannot keep up with his dog and some days he does not feed him.

Fred then connects with the dog and her foster parent does not approve of it. Fred starts sneaking food for the dog and taking care of him when his owner cannot be there for him. They grow a strong bond together and end up being inseparable.

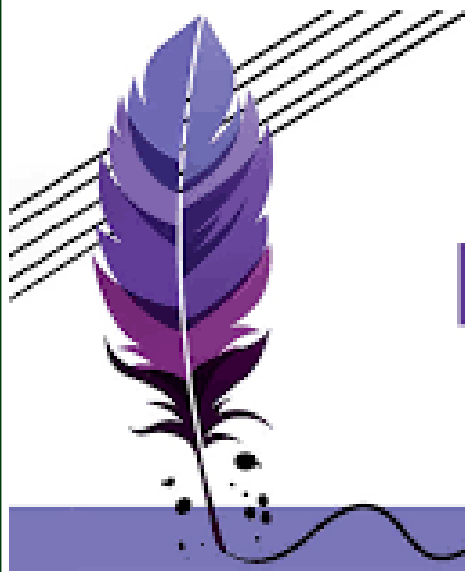
The theme of this novel is that we all face life's difficult choices. Fred must choose to leave the poor dog alone. The dog has already grown attached to him so it becomes a tough decision.

This is a great book that you will want to read multiple times and even I would read it again!

There are some valuable lessons of kindness and doing the right thing which as we all know is not always the easiest thing to do. Get this book, you will not regret it!



**Mr. Palmerson's class gets creative with their Haiku's during National Poetry Month**



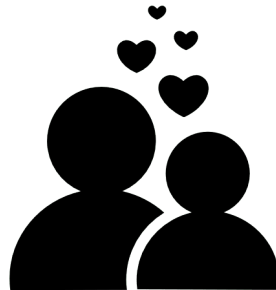
April is

NATIONAL POETRY

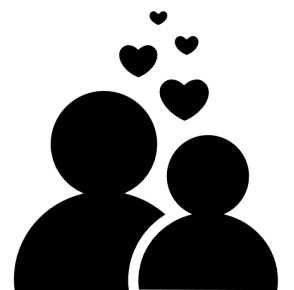
MONTH

He and Her

by Erika Urueta (winning poem)



To him, she was rain  
To her, he was sunshine  
Together, they made rainbows



Rain

by Mya Mitchell



rainy day puddles  
never dances the same way  
without your footprints

Ice Cream

by Alexander Saenz-Mendez

Cream, smooth as velvet A taste,  
sweet as your first love Cold and  
refreshing

Baby Bird

by Ariana Hernandez-Madero

in an egg I grow  
on a tree in a nest strange  
creatures I know

The Little Robin

by Monica Vega

The Little Robin  
On top of an Apple Tree  
Eating an Apple



Flowers

by Alexandra Acevedo

The garden is full  
The pink flowers look lovely  
Can I get one now?



On My Way to School  
by Oriol Pedriel

Is very rainy outside  
Surrounds me with cold weather  
Want to discover with me?



### Garfield Middle School receives donation of 500 books and 150 school supply kits through Mr. Braitsch and his contacts from Amerigroup in May, 2021

*The company Amerigroup supports local communities in leading healthier lives and connecting them to needed resources.*

*In every market they serve, they partner with local community resources —such as schools, advocacy groups, community and faith-based organizations, and local businesses — to address community priorities and specific health concerns.*

*Through Mr. Braitsch, GMS was able to receive 500 donated books and 150 school supply kits on May 7th, 2021.*

### GMS has new bleachers installed Second set of bleachers installed in the Gym May 2021



*Pictured above from left to right: Mrs. Marx, GMS Librarian, Mrs. D'Agostino, ELA Curriculum Supervisor, Principal Rigoglioso, Amerigroup representatives Mr. Rosas and Ms. Danerys, Vice-Prinicpal Mr. Gray, Vice-Principal, Mrs. Mazzola and Mr. Braitsch*



*Mr. Braitsch and the representatives from Amerigroup*

**Now open with limitations**  
Masks must be worn to be in the library.  
Six feet distancing will be observed.

30min limit inside the library.  
<https://garfield.bccls.org/>





# GMS Book Fair May 2021

Garfield Middle School students (shown below) participated in the end of the year book fair during the week of May 17-21st, 2021. Ms. Notar organized the Scholastic Book Fair so that all students could participate. The books were displayed in the front of the Middle School entrance to give all students a chance to shop while practicing social distancing whether they were virtual or in person. Thank you Ms. Notar and her team!



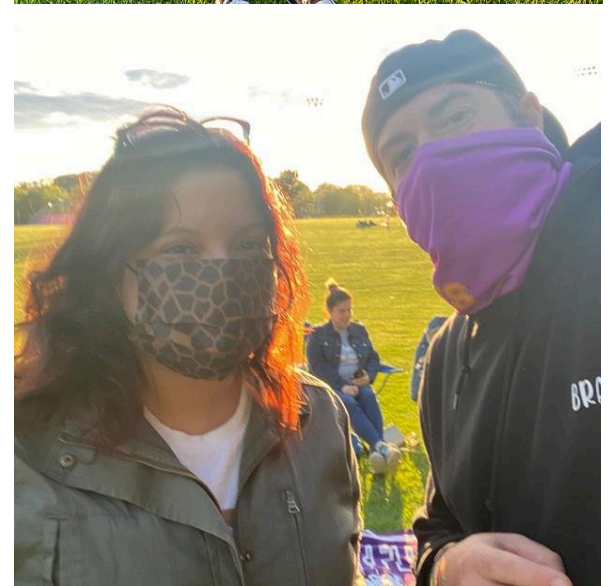
# Garfield Middle School Social Club End of the Year Get-Together May 2021



This school year, Garfield Middle School teachers created Social Clubs for all 3 grade levels. These clubs met virtually and gave students the opportunity to create a social space to connect to other students.

On May 12th, they had a "Dinner in the Park" event at Century Field for their first in-person event. Like their virtual dinner parties, students and staff ordered from local Garfield businesses. The End of the Year party received donations from "Steve's Burgers" and Pazzia Luna to help offset the cost. Berti Skenderasi, owner of Proud Images, donated \$300 to the clubs to help fund some of their virtual dinner parties as well.

All 3 grade levels attended socially distanced on blankets and had fun while spending a night out together. These clubs were run this year by Mr. Braitsch and Ms. DiTrani.





## Principal Thoughts From the desk of Mr. Rigoglioso

This school year has been another challenging and different one for all of us. We stood strong and brave in the midst of a pandemic and watched as the world continued to try to save more lives, find a cure, and distribute a vaccine. Covid-19 forced us to make many changes since March 12th of 2020. We have had school on-line, have had virtual events all the time missing our classmates and friends.

GMS students continue to demonstrate diligence, motivation and determination to work to the best of their ability to learn new lessons and finish another academic year. You have learned to be responsible, empathetic and safe. I along with your parents, guardians and teachers are proud of you. Always remember to study hard, read every day and dedicate yourself to making next year even better.

At GMS we all work together. We stand up for ourselves and others and work hard, use kind words and have self-control. We are the City of Champions. Many thanks go to the Garfield Middle School staff who dedicate themselves day after day teaching you many new educational concepts and strategies, as well as kindness and respect.

A huge thank you also goes out to parents and guardians, who made your homes your school while they were trying to work at home but still making the time and effort to teach and support you.

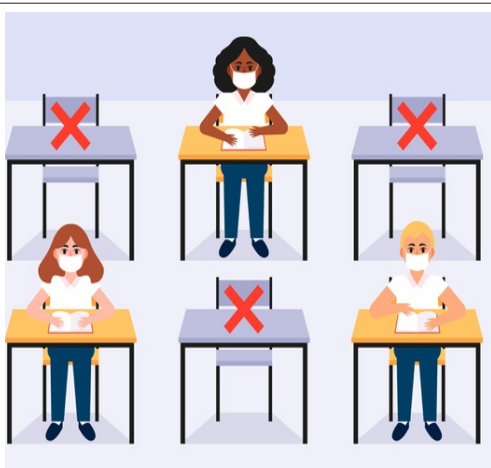
Have a happy, safe and healthy summer vacation. Remember to read every day! Enjoy all the fun of the summer and always stay safe.

I miss you all and look forward to seeing everyone in September!

## Art Teacher Mr. Roberts' Earth Day Art Contest Winner - Sophia Mollinedo



Earth Day drawing shown above, drawn by Sophia Mollinedo for a contest in Mr. Robert's Art class. She tells us that her inspiration is her strong incline towards nature. Sophia believes that nature is beautiful and that it is our responsibility to take care of it.



## GMS Library

### News

## Reading Remotely

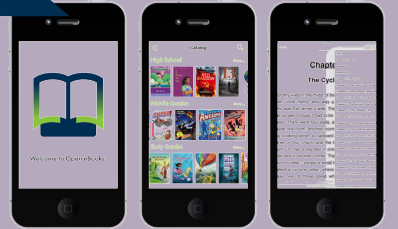
### GMS Media Center offers open E-books to students



#### Growing readers

Open eBooks readers enjoy:

- Popular books featuring award-winning and bestselling authors
- Unlimited downloads on trade and eBooks, say only what you want
- No cost - free to readers. The same quality as print editions, and no late fees!



#### To read Open eBooks:

1. Go to the App Store on your device. THIS ONLY WORKS WITH APPLE OR ANDROID DEVICES
2. Search for "Open eBooks" and follow the instructions to download
3. Open the app
4. Login through FirstBook
5. Agree to any terms and conditions
6. Enter your code and PIN when prompted
7. Browse the catalog of books available or search names of authors you know and love
8. Download the e-Books of your choosing and enjoy reading!

Note: when using the app standard data rates apply

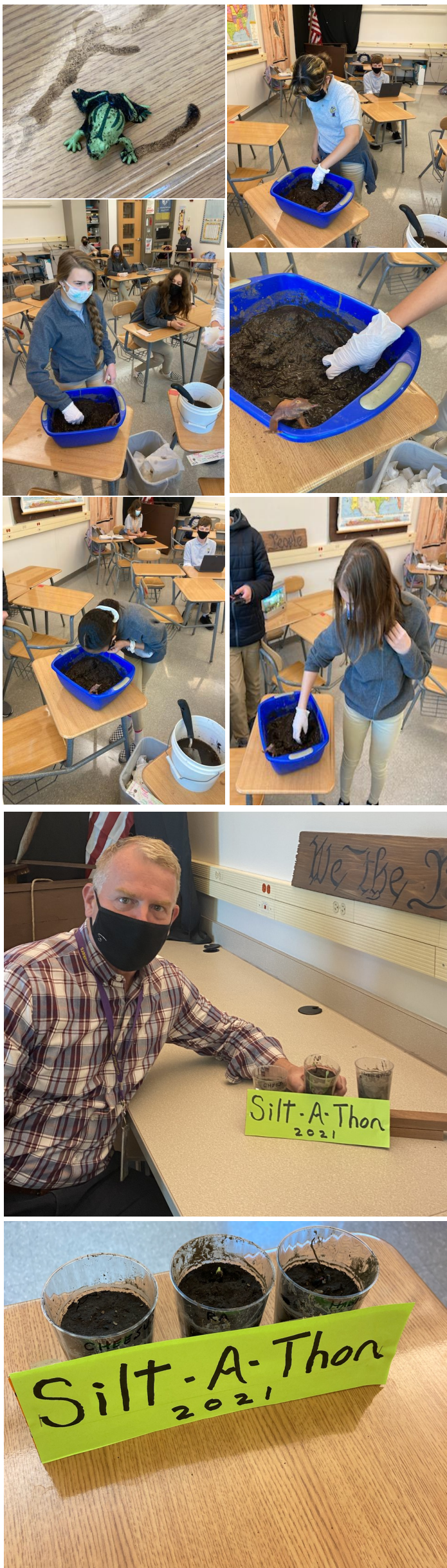
Please note: You can download 10 e-Books at a time. Each e-Book will be available for 56 days before it must be renewed.

To return a book, press the cover and then hit return.



Mr. Leonard's class learns about ancient civilizations by conducting experiments with Silt

Students (pictured below) experimented with silt to explore how and why humans made the transition from small Neolithic villages to the first large scale complex societies located in Mesopotamia, Egypt, South Asia, China, and Sub-Saharan Africa.



New Teacher Spotlight - Welcome to CMS  
Mr. Palmerson & Mrs. Carnevale



Mr. Palmerson is one of our newest Language Arts teachers. He tells us that he comes from a family full of teachers – his mother, several aunts, uncles, and cousins.

The idea of becoming a teacher was always in the back of his mind but he did not know for sure that he wanted to be a teacher until he started taking education courses while he was in college.

Right now, he is in his sixth year of teaching. One of the most challenging parts of being a teacher to him is maintaining a good balance between teaching the curriculum, all while building a rapport with his students. "Sometimes, there just isn't enough time to do everything I would like to", Mr. Palmerson tells us.

When Mr. Palmerson started out in education, he wanted to teach high school. Most of his years as a substitute teacher as well as his student teaching was done at the high school level. However, the first full-time job that he got was teaching 6th grade Language Arts. Middle school was such a big change for him from teaching high school seniors! "I wouldn't mind going back to teach high school again one day, but I'm happy teaching middle school for now", Mr. Palmerson went on to say.

Mr. Palmerson misses the one-to-one interactions with his students. He feels that remote learning is not the same. To my students – I wish that this year would have been better to us, but I am proud of all of you for persevering through this unprecedented time in our lives. You will always remember 7th grade for that reason, and you will be better and stronger because you worked through it.

Mr. Palmerson looks forward to getting to know everyone here at GMS. "I hope to meet and know every single one of you!" Mr. Palmerson remarked. We are so glad you are here !!



Mrs. Carnevale is also one of our newest Language Arts teachers here at GMS. Mrs. Carnevale has been teaching for over 14 years. Before she entered the teaching profession, she was actually working in the Entertainment industry having worked for The Disney Channel and Fox.

Mrs. Carnevale is from New Jersey but lived in California for many years while working in the Entertainment Industry. She has had a very interesting career and has met many different celebrities during her time on the West Coast.

When she moved back to New Jersey after 9/11, Mrs. Carnevale decided to go into teaching; however she still continues her love of film and screenwriting.

Mrs. Carnevale loves teaching. "I love my students and I truly love their creativity", she tells us. Like many teachers, she is not fond of teaching remotely because she misses the energy of her classroom.

Mrs. Carnevale keeps in touch with many of her former students and is currently working on a project right now with two of them. "We are working on a writing project together and we are so excited at how it is all coming together", Mrs. Carnevale explained.

Mrs. Carnevale has had many influential teachers in her life. The one she remembers most fondly was actually one of her College Professors who taught a Business course.

Mrs. Carnevale loves the movies. One of her idols is Sylvester Stallone. She loves how creative he is and hopes to someday be able to write as well as he does for the big screen.

We are all so glad to welcome Mrs. Carnevale to Garfield Middle School. We are lucky to have such a creative teacher here on our staff!



**GMS Spring Sports  
Girls Softball  
Boys Baseball**



**“One benefit of summer was that each day we had more light to read by.”**

—JEANNETTE WALLS

**Congratulations GMS Students of the Month 2020-2021**

**September**

6th grade : Jayden Reyes & AnaMaria Polo  
7th grade: Anthony Gomez & Monica Vega  
8th grade : Jeremy Lebowitz & Jerelyn Valdivia

**October**

6th grade : Alexia Okyere & Shaheed Cousin Jr.  
7th grade: Nour Elkazzaz & Dea Musollari  
8th grade : Austin Douglass & Daniel Gawrychowski

**November**

6th grade : Matthew Borrin & Kaisley Rojas  
7th grade: Jadde Palacios & Kayleen Lucero  
8th grade : Emilia Ristevska & Amelia Siembida

**December**

6th grade : Pranov Santhosh & Steven Mejia  
7th grade: Jade Johnson & Vinicus DaSilva  
8th grade : Isabella Constant & Amaya Romero

**January**

6th grade : Megi Xhogu & Sara Trajanoska  
7th grade: Empiri Vasquez-Urena & Kreena Patel  
8th grade : Nicholas Felipe & Ronardo Crisostomo

**February**

6th grade : Georgji Micevski & Reilyn Castillo-Suero  
7th grade: Bianka Shehi & Kimora Henry  
8th grade : Jakub Stolarz & Jeremy Ore

**March**

6th grade : Jolanda Orizaj & Alina Ligas  
7th grade: Giselle Quijano & Nadeem Jamhour  
8th grade : Giada Leone & Audrey DeGabriel

**April**

6th grade : Jaydin Montero & Jack Nole  
7th grade: Ana Redman & Mila Cekovska  
8th grade : John Kolano & Krystian Piekoszewski

**May**

6th grade : Madison Holley & Samuel De La Torre  
7th grade: Makayla George & Jadde Ruby Palacios  
8th grade : Aiden Peterson & Elson Gorica

**June**

6th grade : Devon Robles & Josue Pico  
7th grade: Sara Marcela Cifuentes Abril & Isabella Pejovski  
8th grade : Ahmet Elci & Christine Massop-Carter

**8th Grade Baby Photo Answer Key (from page 1)**

- |                        |                                |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Sheylin Sanchez     | 13. Carolina Morales           | 24. Amelia Siembida      |
| 2. Jose Solis          | 14. Annielys Hidalgo           | 25. Anabella Ganoza      |
| 3. Naziyah Campbell    | 15. Jazmin Quirino             | 26. Paulina Lidwin       |
| 4. Tiffany Rivera      | 16. Simon Tiburcio             | 27. Rafael Rodriguez     |
| 5. Aleksandra Sikorski | 17. Destiny Davis              | 28. Riley Chojnacki      |
| 6. Mya Sanabria        | 18. Angelika Wawrzosek         | 29. Amaya Garcia         |
| 7. Kaley Flores        | 19. Johmary Delorbe            | 30. Brianna Emanuel      |
| 8. Martin Czovek       | 20. Dariana Simon Flores       | 31. Kiara Cabrera        |
| 9. Stephanie Mixcoatl  | 21. Isabella Garcia            | 32. Amaya Romero         |
| 10. Yazmin Reyes       | 22. Emanuel Carnero Freeman    | 33. George Vaquero Tepoz |
| 11. Luis Frias         | 23. Caileigh-Thompson-Williams | 34. Victor Wida          |
| 12. Kennedy Harris     |                                | 35. Aida Dervisi         |

**Have a wonderful Summer!**

**We will be back next year with more articles written by our outstanding students! New Teacher Spotlight and more polls GMS happenings and highlights More book reviews and of course, more GMS news!**

