



Middle School Newsletter

April 2022

OUR MISSION

To educate and inspire a diverse community of K-12 learners by engaging them in rigorous real-world learning experiences which prioritize intellectual, social and emotional growth.

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. LEE



Dear Middle School Families and Caregivers,

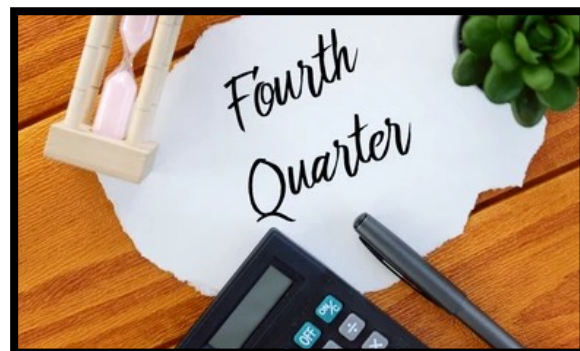
April has been a very busy month within the middle school. We started the month with Student Led Conferences and our first ever Student Government Basket Raffle. After the conferences, we are below our goal of 95% participation. Please be sure to connect with your child's crew leader and re-schedule these important conferences. We raised a significant amount of money which we will contribute to Student Government funds and Ukrainian refugee efforts in Buffalo. Thank you for your support!

WHY STUDENT LED CONFERENCES?

- Students develop **ownership** of their learning
- Students build **independence**
- Students take **pride** in their success
- Students identify areas for **improvement**
- Students **share** knowledge and skills learned

and set final goals so the year wraps up in a successful way. We have many amazing learning opportunities planned for students as the year concludes. Please be sure to check the teacher websites and parent portal so you are aware of assignments and current grades for your child.

Students are in their 4th and final quarter of the school year. The start of the new quarter provides the perfect opportunity to reflect on how the year has gone so far



After spring break, students will have the NYS Math Assessments on **Tuesday, April April 26th and Wednesday, April 27th**. Tapestry is not a test-prep school, we view these assessments as another opportunity for students to apply the skills and strategies they have been learning all year and utilizing in their classes. We will view these days as a celebration of learning and look forward to showcasing what we have learned this year. **Please also note there is no school on Friday, April 29th to allow for a professional development day for the instructional staff.**

Looking ahead to May in the first week, it is Teacher Appreciation Week. We have several exciting things planned to celebrate and appreciate our amazing teaching staff. If you have any donations from yourself or your business to support our appreciation, please connect with me to be included. We will also end the first week of May by recognizing EL's Better World Day. On Friday, May 6th students in each grade level will be completing an act of service to give back to our community and contribute to making the world a better place. We will also have our community meeting during the day and end the day with a staff vs. staff volleyball game. Looking forward to a great day!



Have a safe and healthy Spring,
Mrs. Lee

UPCOMING CALENDAR EVENTS

- April 19: Classes Resume
- April 26 & April 27: NYS Math Assessments
- April 29: No School, Professional Development Day
- May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6: Better World Day, Community Meeting & Staff vs. Staff Volleyball Game





Hello Middle School Families,

We hope that you were able to enjoy the Spring Break with your families. When we get back from break, there is so much to look forward to in the community.

This month, our teachers are raising money for the Ukrainians of Buffalo through their monthly “jeans day” donations. Part of the donations from the Basket Raffle will also go to this organization. Good luck to all who bought tickets for baskets and thank you for your generous donations.

As we get back from break, the end of the school year will quickly be approaching. We have a lot of fun events planned and scheduled for the remainder of the year. It is important that you keep up with the weekly communications and emails from the middle school to stay up-to-date with all of the important information. Students will be getting out the building for field work and grade level trips. When we are out in the community it is important that students understand that they are held to a higher expectation as representatives of Tapestry Charter School. It is so important that we are demonstrating our PIRR core values when interacting with the community. There is so much to look forward to in the coming months and we don’t want anyone to miss out on events like the Staff vs. Staff volleyball game, school dances, end of the year trips, and Better World Day activities.

We wrap up the end of the month with another celebration of learning and the NYS Math assessment. We are excited for students to demonstrate their knowledge of grade level math standards. Participating in assessments will help our charter school continue to thrive, give us access to funding, and allow for us to help support your child with any skills they may need in the future. If you have any questions about assessments, please reach out to the middle school office and we can help to answer them.

Here’s to an amazing April!

Mrs. Meshulam



This school year we will be focusing on one PIRR trait per quarter. For the previous month of March, students have been focusing on the trait of **Perserverance**. Students are being recognized for coming to classes on time and prepared for learning, completing their assignments carefully and in a timely manner, and participating in classes. Crew leaders selected one student in their crew that met these expectations during the month of **March**.

Congratulations to the following:

| 5 th Grade: | Student | 6 th Grade | Student | 7 th Grade | Student | 8 th Grade | Student |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Dytche | Jinnah Williams-Epperson | Hoerner/Cooke | Sienna Hobbs | Hartke | Lily Suraf | Heidenreich | Olivia Griffith |
| Fiorella | Elizabeth Hawkins | Moore | Makel Norris | Close | Samiah Plair | Hills | Joshua Mansaray |
| Chudy/Ziomek | Josh Inniss-Burge | Brunner/Slepian | Tonya Lewis | Capestrani | Ruby Burget | Santora | Starlena Briesch |
| Tolli | Rowan Finnerty | Dehlinger | Akeem Washington | Frost | Michael Hogan | Smerda | Idrees Douglas |
| McCraith | Islaah Cisse' | Yager | Caden Jeffersob | Camp/Brew | Jaymere Gates | Mastrangelo | Chace Hargrove |
| Kauffman | Ella Jurado | Howe | Sanari Ali | Hahn | Simoe Nah | Ritchey | Demetrius Moore |
| MacDonald | Rayja'Nique Pearson | Bailey | Love Carr | McFall | Martina Yockey | Raham | Aaliyah Molson |

COUSELING - JESSICA BEDELL

Spring is finally here! I hope you are looking forward to more sunshine and being outdoors.

I have had a lot of parent concerns and questions regarding social media and apps that students are accessing. I am teaching a lesson this month in 5th grade classes on this topic. We also continue to educate the students on this topic school wide during crew.

I have included this article which summarizes the various apps that are available to children.

<https://www.purevpn.com/blog/dangerous-social-media-apps/>



Please contact me anytime if you have any questions/concerns about anything regarding your child's wellbeing. I am always here to help.

Stay well,
Jessica

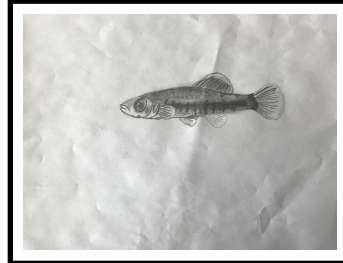
Visual Art With Nikki Ritchey

Grade 5

Grade 5, students illustrated Scientific Drawings of varied species found in the Great Lakes water sources, which required great attention and focus to details. While exploring this process, students were able to train their brain to record and document given features in such a way that they could recall the given proportions found on a photograph which were then translated to 2D forms in pencil.



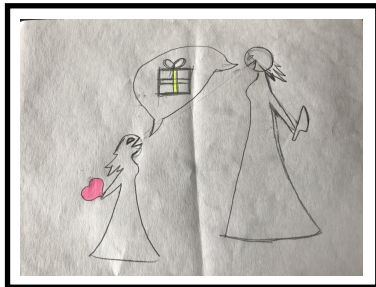
5th Grade, Gerald Stewart-Mitchell



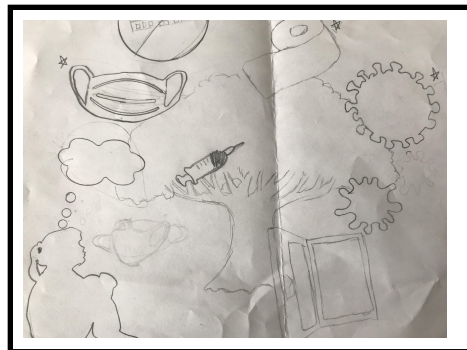
Owen Gracie, 5th grade

Grade 6

In grade 6, students continue to personalize artwork inspired by Bill Taylors "Folk Art" style. Bill Traylor displayed simplistic characters of animals, plants, and people that are prized today for their innovative aesthetic form and documentation of oppression in the Deep South. Students illustrated visual imagery that represents a flat symbolized character connecting to everyday life.



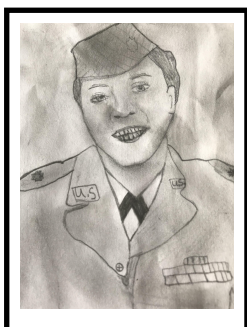
6th Grade, Vienna Ballard



6th Grade, Kayden Smith

Grade 8

In Grade 8, students are focusing on illustrating an African American who served in the United States military forces during World War II. Some of these war heroes fought in the Pacific, Mediterranean, and European war zones, including the Battle of the Bulge and the D-Day invasion. Students are honoring some of the contributions through symbolism inspired by Charles Alston artistic style.



8th Grade, Megan Machin



Muarece Szymanski, 8th Grade

MUSIC

5th

Our 5th Grade students are hard at work learning guitar, piano, or drums for their final performance at The Comeback Concert. The Comeback Concert will be held on May 19th at 4:30pm. The concert is mandatory for all Quarter 4 music students and parents and families are encouraged to attend! An email was sent to all parents regarding the concert last week. Please contact Mr. Barresi at barresig@tapestryschool.org with any questions. 5th Grade will be playing the Jackson 5's classic tune, "ABC."

6th

Our 6th Grade students are hard at work learning guitar, piano, or drums for their final performance at The Comeback Concert. The Comeback Concert will be held on May 19th at 4:30pm. The concert is mandatory for all Quarter 4 music students and parents and families are encouraged to attend! An email was sent to all parents regarding the concert last week. Please contact Mr. Barresi at barresig@tapestryschool.org with any questions. 6th Grade will be playing the The Black Eyed Peas' song, "I Gotta Feeling."

7th

Our 7th Grade students are hard at work learning guitar, piano, or drums for their final performance at The Comeback Concert. The Comeback Concert will be held on May 19th at 4:30pm. The concert is mandatory for all Quarter 4 music students and parents and families are encouraged to attend! An email was sent to all parents regarding the concert last week. Please contact Mr. Barresi at barresig@tapestryschool.org with any questions. 7th Grade will be playing Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth's hit song "See You Again."



The next wave of Covid-19 is coming, and in some parts of the U.S, it's already here. The culprit this time is BA.2, a subvariant of the highly infectious Omicron variant.

How to prepare for the new wave of Covid-19.

- Pay attention to Covid indicators in your community.
- Have high quality masks on hand.
- Order home Covid tests sooner rather than later.
- Get vaccinated and a booster when you're eligible.
- Have backup plans for social events and travel.

Feel free to contact the health office with questions/concerns you may have.

332-0755 ext. 1082



Although many good things come out of **winter**, towards the end of February..March and April.. when the holiday cheer has well worn off and the cold weather and ice become draining, **winter can sap our creativity and energy**. One thing I love about living in Buffalo is seeing the return of our community during the warmer months. It's like all the cabin fever has finally worn off and everyone is splitting at the seams to just get outside! Spring is the time to get up, out, and inspired! Need some ideas?

| | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| 1. Work in a garden | winter for spring clothes | instrument | restaurant |
| 2. Bird watch | 13. Check your phone less | 26. Watch the sun rise or set | 39. Buy yourself flowers |
| 3. Go to a fitness or yoga class | 14. Play a board game with friends or family | 27. Stretch upon waking | 40. Spend an evening with no plans |
| 4. Look for spring blooms | 15. Forgive someone | 28. Go to bed early | 41. Give thanks before eating |
| 5. Buy some new running sneakers | 16. Organize your fridge | 29. Take a nap | 42. Skip the news |
| 6. Tell someone you appreciate them | 17. Listen to an inspiring podcast | 30. Get a new house plant | 43. Take deep breaths |
| 7. Use natural sweeteners like honey and maple | 18. Drink fresh squeezed juice | 31. Organize a closet | 44. Start a new book |
| 8. Eat in a quiet space | 19. Walk in a park | 32. Take a bath | 45. Unfollow toxic people on social media |
| 9. Look at the stars and moon | 20. Drink your water goal | 33. Spend time outside | 46. Create a vision board |
| 10. Start a new journal | 21. Try a new recipe | 34. Make an overdue health appointment | 47. Get a fitness buddy |
| 11. Connect to your breath | 22. Choose herbal tea | 35. Savor something chocolate | 48. Start a savings account |
| 12. Switch out | 23. Write yourself a love letter | 36. Send a thank you note | 49. Start a new hobby |
| | 24. Paint | 37. Get a pedicure | |
| | 25. Pick up an | 38. Try a new | 50. Clear your inbox |



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Our first ever Basket Raffle was a huge success! Thank you to all families who either donated items for our baskets and or purchased raffle tickets. All proceeds were split between Student Government and the Ukrainians of Buffalo to support relief efforts in Ukraine.

Due to high demand for another staff sports game, **StudentGovernment** is hosting a **Staff v. Staff Volleyball Game** from 3:00 pm - 4:15 pm on May 6th in the high school gymnasium. Tickets will cost \$2 and all proceeds will be donated to Make a Wish Western New York. Students can purchase tickets beginning April 25th at the Tap Shack before and after school. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door the day of the event.

We will be holding a planning meeting for the 8th grade dance on May 11th from 2:50pm - 3:15pm in Room 119. If your 8th grader is interested in participating in planning the dance and has not already signed up, please let us know! This event and planning committee is for 8th grade students only. We will be providing more information as we get closer to the dance.

Our next meetings will be on May 4th and May 18th from 2:50 pm - 3:15 pm in room 119.

All students grades 5 - 8 are welcome to join Student Government. If your child is interested in joining, please contact Ms. Smerda (smerdad@tapestryschool.org) or



CONTACT INFORMATION

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Tapestry Charter School is an arts-integrated, K-12 Expeditionary Learning, tuition-free, public school located in the city of Buffalo, NY. Founded by passionate individuals who shared a commitment to choice, accountability, and excellence, Tapestry received approval from the State University of New York Board of Trustees to open in September 2001.