



West Ottawa Public Schools

Preparing Students to Be College, Career and Life Ready!

Great Lakes Newsletter

May 21st, 2021

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From the desk of Mr. Stefanich

I have been happy to see our upper el students work so hard on the state assessment (MSTEP). This year has been a very challenging year but one thing that continues to amaze me is the grit and determination our students have shown. Children are always very resilient and never has that been more true. If you have a child in 3rd, 4th, or 5th grade, please thank them for their hard work on the MSTEP.

Some of you may have received an email or two about the possibility of signing your child up for summer school. If you have gotten this email and still have questions, please reach out to me directly. Summer school will be more valuable than ever before as we are just starting to (hopefully) see the light at the end of the COVID tunnel. This opportunity will allow for students to continue to make up some of the ground that was lost due to this pandemic.

Finally, it is important that we continue to work to get all students to school on time. School starts at 8:35 AM and the staff at Great Lakes works hard to make the most out of every teachable moment. Your help with this is greatly appreciated.



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Important Dates

May 25th

4th Grade Math MSTEP

May 31st

No School

June 4th

Last Day of GSRP

June 10th

Anchors Away Day

June 11th

Half Day of School



PTO Board Members

We do not have volunteers for our PTO this year. We are in the process of dissolving our PTO with hopes to start it back up next year.

President— Leslie Franklin
Treasurer— unfilled
Co-Treasurer— unfilled
Secretary— unfilled

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Ghost: By Jason Reynolds

A National Book Award Finalist

One of my favorite things to do with my children is to read books to them. As they have started to get older I have graduated from reading picture books and we have started to read more chapter books. I recently finished the book Ghost by award winning author Jason Reynolds. Ghost tells the story of a boy who unexpectedly joins a track team and wants to become the fastest sprinter on his team. However, there are some obstacles from Ghost's younger days that at times get in the way. This book is a great read for students who are in third through fifth grade. However, my youngest son, who is a first grader loved listening to this story and daydreaming about being as fast as Ghost. One thing that is really cool about this book is that is part of a series of books. This is the first book in this series and I have already started reading book number two with my own children. This would be a great book to checkout from the library as we sprint into summer vacation.

STAY Connected

Stay connected with us at Great Lakes by following our school on Twitter. You can follow @GreatLakesWO for the most up to date information on what is happening at school.

Also, many of our teachers are on Twitter. Ask your child's teacher what their Twitter Handle is so you can stay current on what is going on in their classroom.

Finally, be sure to checkout our new PTO website. <http://greatlakespto.weebly.com/>

COVID Reflection

As I start to reflect on a school year like no other, I wanted to share with all of you a few of my personal reflections. First and foremost, as I have already stated, our students, your children are amazing. They have gone to school and continued to learn in an environment that is different from the one they left last year. They have worn masks, taken mask breaks, been forced to learn remotely for seven days and many other things that are not typical in a normal school year. They have done this flawlessly and with smiles in their eyes and they have really modeled for the adults in the building what it means to be a "flexible adapter." I am truly so proud of our students.

Student success is driven by having great teachers and at Great Lakes we are blessed to have a staff that cares, loves, teaches and goes above and beyond. The teachers at Great Lakes have learned how to team students in person, students who are at home in quarantine and students who have been learning virtually. The pandemic has continued to reaffirm that teachers matter! What they do on a daily basis and how they interact with students can be life altering.