

GRAYMONT ELEMENTARY NEWSLETTER

Spirit Week Dress-Up Days

September 28-October 2

Monday – Wear PJs

Tuesday – Student & Teacher Swap

Wednesday – Class Color Day

Kindergarten – Orange

1st/2nd – Green

3rd/4th – Blue

5th/6th – Purple

7th/8th – Red



Thursday – Anything BUT a Backpack

Friday – Wear Orange & Blue 🧡💙

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 3rd-6th Ag Expo Field Trip
September 29



Held at 4-H Park
in Pontiac

- * Early Dismissal
October 2

1:00 pm dismissal for the
PTHS Homecoming
Parade



- * No School
October 12

Columbus Day

- * Early Dismissal
October 22

2:00 pm dismissal for Parent
Teacher Conferences

- * No School
October 23



Bringing a Book to Life at Starved Rock

Our 5th and 6th grade students took their reading beyond the classroom this week with a special trip to Starved Rock State Park with Mrs. Gross and Mrs. Pellino!

Students have been reading *On My Honor* by Marion Dane Bauer, a Newbery Honor novel in which Starved Rock plays an important role. Rather than simply reading about the setting, students had the opportunity to experience it for themselves—hiking the trails, taking in the bluffs and landscape, and getting a better sense of the environment described in the story.

The class even finished the book together while at Starved Rock, followed by a discussion about the story and its themes. Being in the setting gave students a unique opportunity to think more deeply about the characters and their decisions while discussing ideas such as friendship, peer pressure, honesty, responsibility, choices, and consequences.

Experiences like this help bring literature to life. Students were able to connect what they had pictured while reading in the actual location, making the setting—and the story itself—more meaningful and memorable. It was a day filled with reading, hiking, conversation, and learning, and a great reminder that sometimes the best classroom doesn't have four walls!



Redbirds Unite for ISU Homecoming!



Junior high students took a picture with Reggie Redbird, to help Mrs. Schopp participate in Illinois State University's homecoming campaign "Redbirds Unite." ISU's School of Teaching and Learning plans to add their alumni's class photos to a map at the university. This helps to showcase where ISU alumni teachers currently are and showcases their awesome students they have the privilege to teach!



PTO Supper and Book Fair

A big thank you to everyone who helped prepare for the PTO Pork Chop Dinner and Book Fair! From planning and organizing to setting up, volunteering, donating, and spreading the word, it takes many helping hands to make events like these possible. We are grateful for the continued support of our families, staff, PTO members, and community.

The Book Fair continues next week! The Book Fair will be open during school hours throughout the week, giving students an opportunity to browse the selection and purchase books. We love seeing our students excited about choosing books of their own and building a love of reading!

Practicing Bus Safety Together



Safety was put into practice this week as Graymont students participated in a school bus evacuation drill. Drills like this help students become familiar with emergency procedures so they know how to respond calmly and safely if an emergency should ever occur.

Our junior high students did an outstanding job stepping up as leaders during the drill. They helped our younger students safely exit the bus, offered guidance and encouragement, and directed them to the safe meeting spot. It was great to see our older students take their responsibility seriously and look out for their younger schoolmates. This is one of the aspects I love about our small school!

A special thank you to John Koltveit for leading the drill and helping our students practice these important bus safety procedures!





PTHS Music Department Takes the Show on the Road

Graymont students were treated to a special performance this week when the Pontiac Township High School Band, Color Guard, and Choir stopped by as part of their annual "Tour of Schools." PTHS musicians traveled to several area schools throughout the day, giving younger students a chance to experience what being part of the high school music program is all about.

Our students enjoyed hearing the band and choir perform and watching the Color Guard in action. The visit was even more special because several former Graymont students returned as members of the PTHS music program! We were excited to welcome back Kole Donze, Emily Bailey, Alex Grampp, Elsie Hansen, and Will Rinker and see them sharing their talents with our current students.

There were plenty of smiles as younger siblings spotted their brothers and sisters performing, too. Two of our students also had an extra-special reason to be excited—they got to see their dad, Mr. Durbin, directing the PTHS choir!

Visits like this allow our students to experience live music, reconnect with familiar faces, and see some of the opportunities that await them in high school. Thank you to the PTHS students and staff for including Graymont on this year's tour!



A New Game in P.E.: Speed-A-Way!

Students in Mr. Marti's P.E. classes have officially wrapped up their soccer unit and are putting some of those skills to use in a new activity—Speed-A-Way!

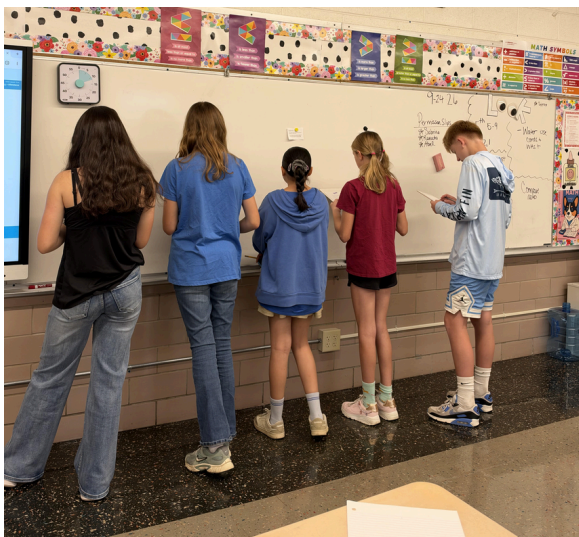
Speed-A-Way is a unique team sport that combines elements of soccer, basketball, and football into one fast-paced game. Students work together to move the ball down the field and score while switching between different ways of controlling and passing the ball. That means they have to think quickly and decide which skills and strategies will work best as the game changes.

Beyond keeping students moving, Speed-A-Way gives them opportunities to practice teamwork, communication, spatial awareness, coordination, and strategy. Students have to find open space, support their teammates, make quick decisions, and work together toward a common goal.

It's a fun way to take skills students have learned in different sports and put them together in a whole new game! Conner said he likes the game a lot because it involves running, passing the ball, picking it up with your feet. "It is similar to football, but you can earn more points depending whether you make a goal, run in for a touchdown, or complete a pass into the endzone." Stella said, "I like the new game, but there are a lot of rules to remember!"



Math in Motion



Our 7th grade math students were up and moving during a recent Math Walk! Instead of working through problems from their seats, students moved around the classroom to solve a series of questions focused on the constant of proportionality.

As students worked through each problem, they practiced identifying relationships between quantities and using those relationships to solve real mathematical problems. The activity also encouraged students to collaborate with classmates, explain their thinking, compare strategies, and problem-solve together. Adding movement and collaboration to math gives students another way to engage with challenging concepts while reinforcing the skills they are learning in class.

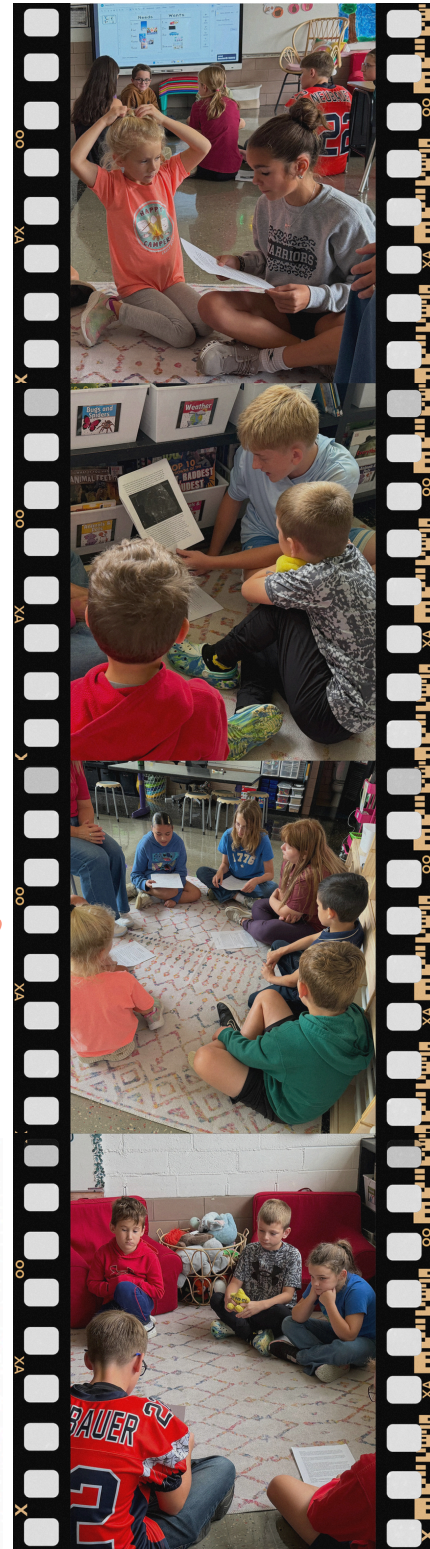
Building Connections, One Story at a Time

Our 7th and 8th grade writers have been busy taking their personal narratives through the entire writing process! Students were challenged to write about a time when they—or someone they know—demonstrated the qualities of a good friend. With plenty of creative freedom, students developed their own topics and found unique ways to tell their stories.

Students began with graphic organizers to brainstorm and organize their ideas, including sensory details that would help bring their experiences to life. As they developed their narratives, they focused on important writing elements such as first-person point of view, dialogue, descriptive details, and figurative language. After completing their drafts,

students participated in peer editing, giving and receiving feedback before making revisions and preparing their final pieces.

The best part came when their writing was complete! Our junior high students visited the 1st and 2nd grade classroom to read their finished stories aloud. Afterward, the students talked together about the stories and the ideas behind them. It was a great opportunity for our older students to share their hard work with an authentic audience while also building connections across grade levels. From brainstorming to drafting, revising, editing, and finally sharing, our students experienced the full writing process—and got to see their work come to life for younger readers!



Teacher Wishlists

Abby Rinker
Kindergarten



Jami Hinz
1st & 2nd Grade



Jodi Winchester
3rd & 4th Grade



Elena Gross
Junior High
English & Social Studies



Hayley Schopp
Junior High
Math & Science



Cody Marti
P.E. & Health





BREAKFAST LUNCH

OCTOBER 2026

Graymont Elementary School

Monday

5
BREAKFAST:
MUFFINS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
SLOPPY JOES
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK



NO
SCHOOL

19
BREAKFAST:
MUFFINS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
PIGS IN A BLANKET
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK

26
BREAKFAST:
MUFFINS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
GRILLED CHEESE & TOMATO
SOUP
FRUIT, MILK

Tuesday

6
BREAKFAST:
BISCUITS & GRAVY
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
GRILLED CHEESE
FRIES, FRUIT, MILK

13
BREAKFAST:
BISCUITS & GRAVY
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
CORN DOG
FRIES, FRUIT, MILK

20
BREAKFAST:
BISCUITS & GRAVY
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
MAC & CHEESE
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK

27
BREAKFAST:
BISCUITS & GRAVY
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
BAKED POTATOW CHEESE
BROCCOLI, FRUIT, MILK

Wednesday



7
BREAKFAST:
CHOCOLATE CHIP PANCAKES
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
TORTELLINI
GARLIC BREAD, SALAD, FRUIT,
MILK

14
BREAKFAST:
BACON, EGG, CHEESE WRAP
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
SPAGHETTI W/MEAT SAUCE
GARLIC BREAD, FRUIT, MILK

21
BREAKFAST:
CHOCOLATE CHIP COOKIE
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
CHICKEN NUGGETS
FRIES, FRUIT, MILK

28
BREAKFAST:
EGG, SAUSAGE & CHEESE
ENGLISH MUFFIN
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
MEATBALL SUB
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK

Thursday

1
BREAKFAST:
EGG, SAUSAGE, CHEESE ON
ENGLISH MUFFIN
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
CHICKEN AND RICE
GREEN BEANS, FRUIT, MILK

8
BREAKFAST:
BREAKFAST PIZZA
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
ITALIAN BEEF
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK

15
BREAKFAST:
CHOCOLATE CHIP PANCAKES
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
TURKEY
MASHED POTATOES, FRUIT, MILK

22
BREAKFAST:
EGG, SAUSAGE, CHEESE
ENGLISH MUFFIN
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
HAMBURGER/CHEESEBURGER
FRIES, FRUIT, MILK

29
BREAKFAST:
MONKEY BREAD
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
HAM & SCALLOPED POTATOES
FRUIT, MILK

Friday

2
BREAKFAST:
FRENCH TOAST STICKS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
TACOS
CELERY & CARROTS
FRUIT, MILK

9
BREAKFAST:
FRENCH TOAST STICKS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK

LUNCH:
PIZZA BREAD
FRUIT, MILK

16
BREAKFAST:
FRENCH TOAST STICKS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
TACOS
VEGGIE, FRUIT, MILK

NO
SCHOOL

30
BREAKFAST:
FRENCH TOAST STICKS
FRUIT, JUICE, MILK
LUNCH:
TACOS
CHIPS, FRUIT, MILK