

School House News

Granville Village School Newsletter, January 2012

COMING EVENTS

February

1. GPA mtg 6PM
6. WF 3-4:30
- 14 School Committee Meeting 5:30 pm
- 20 Winter Vacation
- 27 Welcome back, WF 3-4:30

1.homework!

Student of the Month
Responsibility is our theme

Sincerity

Kaeleigh Sullivan

James Macknight

Karrah Hayes

Molly Bryant

Lauren Sussmann

Sophie Szela-Gaunt

Warren Lavoie

Amanda Desroches

Courtney Wheeler

Emma Conroy

Principal Wardlaw News...

It's hard to believe that 8th grade planning is upon us! Please let me know as soon as possible where your child will be attending high school. It helps greatly in our planning for the next fiscal year.

Southwick High School Information:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| March 7 th | Grade 9 Information Night at High School – 6:00 pm |
| March 23 rd | Students bring home course verification sheets |
| April 4 th | Counselor meet and greet with past GVS students |
| April 30 th | Signed course verification sheets returned |

Westfield Vocation Information:

If your child is interested in attending Westfield Vocational you must fill out a "letter of intent" which can be picked up at Granville Village School's main office or the Southwick-Tolland central office. Letter of intent must be returned by April 1st.

Parents should call the Vocational school for an application if your child is interested. Their number is 572-6533.



All last week our staff enjoyed an array of *goodies* from the Granville Tolland Citizen Scholarship Foundation members. We dress down each Friday and donate to the scholarships. Thank you all for not only the goodies but what you do all year long for our college students. If anyone wants to donate please send to the GTCSF @ PO Box 214, Granville MA 01034

Check out our web site for The Julie LeClair Scholarship Application

Link to GTCSF http://www.tolland-ma.gov/public_documents/TollandMA_Scholarship/index



MUSIC ROOM NEWS

A belated congratulations goes to all of our musicians who performed in the Winter Concert. It is always a special thing for me to see the quality of talent that our students here exhibit. Definitely a job well done!

Also, thank you to the staff members who helped make “This Old Gingerbread House” a reality. It wouldn’t have happened without your help. Thank you also to the GPA for purchasing the musical and for providing the refreshments at the end of the concert. It was very much appreciated!

Our annual Toys for Tots collection again was a great success. The boxes were overflowing with toys and games. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14, 2012 3rd and 4th grades will travel to hear the Springfield Symphony Orchestra. Tickets to this event are paid for by a grant from the Granville Cultural Council and MA Cultural Council

March 2012 (Date TBA) Pops Concert
This is an in-school event that is performed by members of the Middle School Bands and Chorus. Our theme this year is ‘At the Movies’.

June 6, 2012 Spring Concert

3. The ice will crack up!

Wow! Mrs. Billings says we are on the “Downhill” side of fourth grade. Where has the time gone? I guess we had better really buckle down and focus on our lessons so we can be ready for the middle school.

We are writing long compositions now and editing and revising our own work as well as helping each other by giving good suggestions. It’s a good thing we are because our English Language Arts MCAS test is coming up in March and we are going to have to spend a day writing for it.

We are working every day reading and writing for comprehension. It is fun to talk about what we read and learn the entire different literary genre.

We are moving along in math class too. We finished a geometry unit and are working on different types of word problems. We have to use variables to come up with situation and solution equations. We used break-apart drawings and comparison bars to help us picture what we needed to solve.

We are wrapping up a unit on the Northwest Coastal Natives and will be tested soon. We made totem poles and Chillkat blankets as well as having a Potlatch celebration.

The plant unit in Science was a success! We all passed our end of the unit test, which made Mrs. Billings happy. Now we get to study animals and we will be taking our first field trip to Mystic Sea Aquarium as soon as it gets set up.



We want to thank the GPA for supplying us with interesting things to do during indoor recess. We really enjoyed the geodes and the marble run is a big hit with us. Thank you! Thank-you! Thank-you!

Tips for Avoiding Winter Bugs:

- **Get vaccinated against flu**
- **Wash your hands often**
- **Limit exposure to infected people**
- **Keep stress in check**
- **Eat right**
- **Sleep right**
- **Exercise**

2 Quaker Oatmeal!

Since returning from winter break there has been a high level of excitement in the first grade. A magical transformation is taking place...the children are reading. Everyone reads at his or her own pace but it is exciting to watch the students read not only the materials in school but signs, labels, charts, and almost anything they can find. Thanks to all of the parents who have listened to their little one read those reproducible paper books that arrive home each week. They offer opportunity for the



class to not only feel successful but to practice sight words and vowel and consonant sounds. Our friend Dr. Seuss gives lots of practice for high frequency words in his repetitive stories and his use of rhyme allows early readers to predict what will come next. Now that you are being read to doesn't mean that you should abandon the ritual of reading to your child. Now you can read books above your child's reading level and enjoy listening to them read to you. Play games with sight words and spelling words. Build sentences, rhyme, sort, or give clues for a word that your child will have to find.

Above all keep reading! The best way to become a good reader is to read large amounts of reading material. Books on tape also give your child the opportunity to hear good reading with expression and fluency.

We are learning about winter tree birds. Now that we have had some snow we are hoping to catch a glimpse of these backyard friends looking for food on the twigs, branches, and trunks of trees. We have visited a tropical rainforest and a swamp biodome.

Skip counting will be practiced in math, please help your child master counting by two, three and four. We will continue working on place value and add counting coins to include a dime which equates to one ten stick and ten pennies equating to ten ones. Remember when you see homework... all story or word problems must be answered with a number sentence, (also called an equation) and have a label (the thing that is being counted). If only a number is on the answer line, the problem will not be considered correct. You may see NSL written on your child's paper it means I am looking for a number sentence with a label for a word problem. Thanks for your help checking for these items will help your child remember what is needed for word problems.

As we near the half-way mark we will be reading and writing more and all of us will be getting ready to celebrate 100th Day!

Mrs. Scorzafava

Second Grade January News Letter

Welcome to the New Year! We started out the year learning about famous people in history including Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks, and Ruby Bridges.

Martin Luther King Jr. did not believe in the word special, but in the word equal. He fought for the rights of all people and believed in achieving goals without violence.

Rosa Parks was a seamstress who refused to sit in the back of the bus. She was arrested for what she believed in. Africa Americans peacefully boycotted the buses for over a year. The law was changed and everyone could sit wherever they wanted on the buses.

Ruby Bridges was a little girl who attended an all-white school in New Orleans after segregation was banned. She entered first grade and had to walk to school with guards. Parents at first refused to send their white children to the school that Ruby attended. Eventually parents sent their children back to school.

The bird feeders are finally up. So far, we have only had hungry little song sparrows and a few blue jays visit. We are hoping for cardinals and nuthatches. Students have been studying what makes a bird a bird. They are beginning research on a bird of their choice.

In math we are finishing up a unit on time. Children are accustomed to digital clocks. Analogue clocks take a lot more effort to understand. Soon we will be learning about all different kinds of graphs and collecting data. This is all about not only how to organize data, but how to analyze it.



Second graders and their study buddies have been working on creating dialogue between two cartoon birds about bullying. It has been a very enjoyable project.

In Second Step, we are learning about impulse control. One lesson centered on the correct way to join a game. Students wrote about this skill in their journals.

For the most part, winter has been king to us. Please make sure your child comes to school prepared for the cold and wet weather. Snow pants, hats, boots, and mittens are essentials. Some students have been coming to school in boots, but forgetting shoes. It might be helpful if your child kept an extra pair of shoes at school. An extra change of clothing would also be helpful.

Please call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Happy skiing and sledding!

Annmarie Clendenin

Jokes of the Week look for the answers hidden in this newsletter!!!!



1. Xander Fox asks "What is thin, white and scary?"
2. Devin Bettenger asks "What do you call oatmeal that has been in an earthquake?"
3. C.J. Lafreniere wants to know, "Why is it dangerous to tell a joke on ice?"
4. Brooklynn Hayes wants to know "What is red and smells like blue paint??"
5. Julia Hall asks "Why was the apple sad?"
6. Lexie Doiron asks "Why does a kid make cat noises?"
7. Ruby Francis wants to know, "Where do fish go to get their money?"

Grade 3 Newsletter for January, 2012

With the onset of the new year, our third graders have been feverishly devoting their energies into tackling a wide array of academic endeavors. We have been making significant progress in mathematics with the children exploring money concepts, interpretation of tables, and developing strategies for identifying word problems with too much, hidden, or minimal information for solving them. I have been very impressed how the students have shared their views with one another in providing a sound and personalized perspective in approaching mathematical problems. A new component of our math program has been the introduction of a math journal, where students respond to a day's lesson with problems of their own or feedback on what they have learned.

With the conclusion of three chapters devoted to the animal kingdom in science, the students are presently working on a culminating project in two parts: one-dimensional and three-dimensional. The one-dimensional component consists of a poster representing a specific animal habitat, while the three-dimensional segment consists of a diorama. The students have been doing an outstanding job on both of these projects. The posters will be placed on the hall bulletin board at the completion of the activity.



In social studies, we have been reviewing aspects of the geographical regions of our state, Massachusetts. The students have also been learning about terms associated with maps: scale, legend, key, compass rose, cardinal directions, and how such vocabulary is useful for understanding any kind of map configuration.

The *Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader Question for January:*
What is the definition of a *monadnock*?

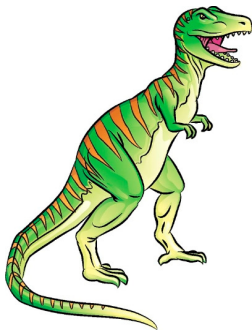
Species of frog

Tool used for cutting ice out of a frozen pond

Mountain made of rock

Name of a tribe found in the Amazon Rainforest

The first student who brings the correct answer to Mr. McKenna will receive a prize!



Kindergarten Update

The kindergarten students are exploring the world of Dinosaurs and Prehistoric Creatures. To kick off the unit they pretended to be paleontologists and visited a dig site. To gather information about each creature to be studied, the students take turns "digging" up bones. (paper bones with written information on each one)

In math, the students are looking closely at teen numbers and taking them apart. (Ex. $13 = 10 + 3$ and $10 + 3 = 13$) They are also finding partners of numbers by using a

break - a - part stick. Our next focus will be on sorting by attributes. (color/shape/size)

As part of their study about Martin Luther King Jr., the kindergarten students discussed various scenarios and decided if they were fair or unfair.

The Study Buddies are learning about speech bubbles, as part of an anti-bullying project they are working on. When the posters are finished they will be put on display around the school.

The class enjoyed their first visit to the school library. Mrs. Bryant read a story before we looked at books. Students and parents are reminded to return the books on Thursdays.

If a book is not returned, then another one can not be taken out. Thank you Mrs. Bryant!

Keep Smiling! Miss Dickinson



Science

Grade 5-

The fifth graders are working their way through the animal unit, currently concentrating on invertebrates. We have watched exciting video clips from the PBS series The Shape of Life which focuses on marine invertebrates revealing the amazing diversity of creatures that are classified as animals. As a follow-up to the series, the fifth graders put their knowledge to the test when they practiced classifying various invertebrates into their correct categories. As of right now, we are studying the different groups of invertebrates in more detail; this week they will be studying mollusks and echinoderms with emphasis on snails, squid and sea stars.

Grade 6-

The sixth graders are making their way through the six kingdoms of life. So far, we have covered the world of bacteria and are currently learning about the unique organisms in the kingdom Protista. This week, the sixth graders will use the microscopes to observe six different microscopic protists including the amoeba, euglena and paramecium. They will be responsible for making wet mount slides of the living organisms, finding them under the microscope and sketching what they see using the correct microscope drawing format.

Grade 7-

The seventh grade continues with physical science. We are close to completing the unit on energy and matter and will then begin another unit focusing on atoms, elements and the periodic table. They were recently assessed on the properties of matter and identifying changes as physical or chemical. Additionally, they performed a chemical change in the lab and were able to witness first-hand the signs of a true chemical change (reaction). In this next unit, they will be putting their periodic tables they constructed last month to good use.

Grade 8C-

The eighth graders (8C) have completed the astronomy unit and continue to study Earth science, focusing now on the structure of Earth unit. From there, they will move into the final unit in the Earth science, geologic changes.

Grade 8K-In 8K, we are halfway through our unit on geologic changes, just completing the chapter on plate tectonics and are now studying the various forces that shape Earth's surface. Upon completing this unit, 8K will then begin the astronomy unit that 8C just completed.

Nicole Roderick

5.Because the banana split!

U-MASS FIELD TRIP

On January 18th, the entire middle school and their teachers attended a U-Mass women's basketball game. It was a tough game against Dayton, and even though U-Mass couldn't pull off a win we saw some great basketball. The day had several "firsts" for many of the students; first time on a university campus, first collegiate sporting event, first autograph from a team mascot (just to name a few). What a great day!



CROSS COUNTRY SKI TRIP

We are in contact with the Maple Corner Farm. If it snows we will go! Estimated cost \$10 per student.

Be on the look out for further information.

Mrs. Haftmann



What Can't Math Be Fun?

Many parents and guardians ask how to help their child with math. Often the best assistance is not with their homework, but to understand that math is everywhere and doesn't just involve "doing math problems".

I recommend that you play games with them such as tic-tac-toe, checkers, dominoes, concentrations, hangman, Scrabble, Rack-o, Sorry, Monopoly, chess and card games such as cribbage. On-line websites are also often a good choice for logic and puzzle games. These games involve problem solving logic and all are based on mathematics. Also, you can find things that interest your child and have them understand the math behind that interest. If you're planning a trip, have your child map the route while figuring out the mileage and the approximate time the family needs to leave by to be on time. If they're interested in architecture, well, figure out the height of the house or the area of its foundation or the angle pitch of the roof. What about planning a garden with the rows and the amount of seedlings needed along with fencing for the garden? Who doesn't love to eat...well, get baking or cooking or having them help you measure out ingredients while making dinner. Grocery stores are a great place to work on calculator skills and it speeds up the time spent while improving a basic skill. History buffs can look at scale models of battleships and determine the size of the actual battleship. When driving, ask your child to look for geometric shapes...they should be able to find signs in a variety of shapes such as rectangles (street signs), triangles (yield signs), and octagons (stop signs). I could go on and on and if you would like some specific connections for your child's interest just let me know and I'll see what I can come up with for you.

Mrs. Wagner

4.Red paint!

Social Studies

It looks like old man winter has finally arrived. We have snow and cold together, just the way it is supposed to be. Hang in there it will all be over by March, or at least we can hope.

5th grade is working hard on their Explorer Projects. They have picked their explorer, researching and presenting their final projects to me. This is first of many projects they will have over the next few years. Let's encourage them.

6th grade is just about ready to start their Geo Terms Booklet. Don't be surprised if you hear many funny place names around their project. It is a big job, but they are up to it.

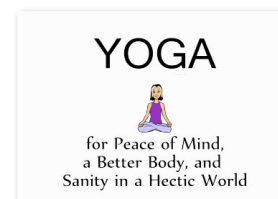
7th grade is moving on to Egypt. Pyramids, mummies, and all that mattered to the ancient Egyptians will be discussed and analyzed.

In 8th grade we are headed towards the Renaissance. Art and literature as well as history will be explored. On their final project they will tell me their feelings on a number of works of art from that time period.

So stay bundled up, hunker down for winter, but know that spring will bloom soon. We try to bring history alive in class, so just like spring, be prepared for a lot of surprises.

Mr. Jenkins

Parents & Grandparents: Need some "ME" time but don't feel like driving out of town? Join us on Tuesday evenings @ the Granville Town Hall for yoga classes. The cost is \$48.00 for 6 weeks, starting February 28, 2012. All levels of experience are encouraged to participate. Interested – call Jane at 357-6626 or Kerri at (413)250-9972.




February MENU AND CALENDAR 2012

6 Because it's a kitty-cat.

Breakfast "A" is served every day, and consists of Toast or muffin, cold cereal, milk & fruit or juice. Breakfast "B" will change each day and will also include milk & fruit or juice, French toast, or hot eggs or egg sandwich. Every student is given the opportunity to eat even if his or her bus is late. The cost is \$1.50 for students and \$2.00 for adults. We invite parents to join us for breakfast. Lunch for students is \$2.25, adults \$3.00 which includes milk. The cost to purchase milk separately is \$.50.

In accordance with federal law an U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Breakfast A 	Breakfast A Town Hall voting 12:00 to 8:00 PM	Breakfast A & B Pasta w/ meat sauce Veggie / fruit / milk 1	Breakfast A BQ baked chicken Rice / veggie Milk 2	Breakfast A pizza veggie / fruit milk 3
Breakfast A Baked potato bar Broccoli / fruit Milk 6	Breakfast A & B Scrambled eggs Ham / hash brown Milk 7	Breakfast B Baked Mac & cheese Veggie / fruit Milk 8	Breakfast A & B Chefs choice 9	Breakfast A Oven toasted cheese sandwich soup / fruit / milk 10
Breakfast A & B Chili w/ ½ bagel Cheese / fruit Milk 13	Breakfast A Cold cut wrap Veggie / fruit Milk 14	Breakfast B Pasta w/meat sauce Veggie / fruit Milk 15	Breakfast A & B Fish sandwich Veggie / fruit Milk 16	Breakfast A Chicken parm sandwich veggie / fruit / milk 17
Breakfast A VACATION WEEK 20	Breakfast A 21	Breakfast B 22	Breakfast A & B 23	Breakfast A 24
Breakfast A Oven toasted cheese Sandwich Soup /fruit / milk 27	Breakfast A Hot dog w/ roll Veggie / fruit milk 28	Breakfast B Baked Mac & Cheese Veggie / fruit milk 29	