

School House News

Granville Village School Newsletter, October 2011

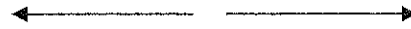
COMING EVENTS

November

- 1 No School Professional Development
- 3 Picture Re Takes
- 4 Grades Close
- 8 School Committee 5:30
- 10 Report Cards Go Home
- 11 Veterans Day, No School
- 23 11:30 Dismissal
- 24 Thanksgiving
- 25 No School

Student of the Month
Determination is our theme

Tariq May
Elleigh Sanctuary
Devan Fox
Irving Monjaras
Benjamin Sorrajja
Rebecca Drohen
Zelida Madera
Lexi Doiron
Patrick Mahoney
Adam Jensen



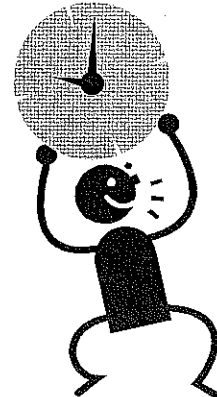
Happy Fall! I hope you are enjoying the beautiful days we have had over the last few weeks because it looks like snow is coming our way soon. Please make sure that your children have warm coats, hats, gloves/mittens and boots to play outside. The only time that kids don't go outside is if it is raining or below 20 degrees. Also, please label all backpacks, jackets, lunchboxes, etc. with your child's name. We put all lost and found items in the coat rack located in the lunch room.

It was wonderful to see so many parents and grandparents at open house and parent conferences. Please know, that you are always welcome to visit a classroom and/or join your child for lunch. On November 15th at 1:30 p.m., students from the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts High School will be putting on a show for us. We will hear their jazz, pop r&b, rock ensemble and their amazing acappella group. These are incredibly young musicians and I hope you can join us for this special assembly.

I am so appreciate of the wonderful, supportive families here at Granville Village School. Thanks for all you do!

~Anna-Stina Wardlaw

p.s. Don't forget to turn your clocks back on Sunday, November 6th.





Healthy steps to say “BOO” to the flu this season:

1. Washing Hands Frequently – Wash hands with warm water and soap for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice).
2. Disinfecting Germ Hot Spots – Disinfect the surfaces kids touch the most frequently – like door knobs, faucets or plastic toys.
3. Doing the Elbow Cough – Cough and sneeze into your elbow instead of your hands to prevent the spread of germs from touch.
4. Following Good Health Guidelines – Eating right, exercise and get plenty of sleep to help boost your body’s ability to fight the effects of colds and the seasonal flu.
5. Get the flu vaccination for everyone 6months and older in your family this fall, before flu activity peaks.

Stay Healthy!
Jane Canfield RN BSN
Granville School Nurse



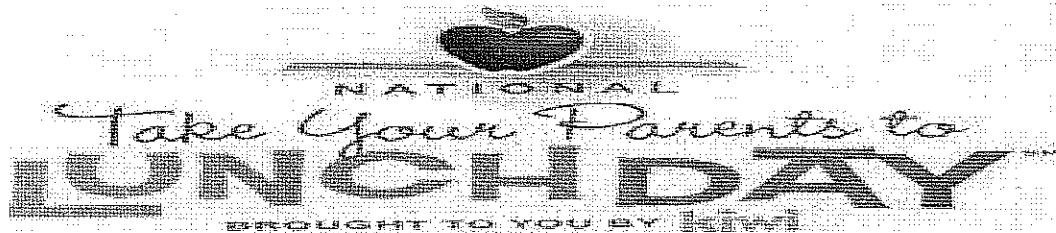
October News from First Grade

It’s amazing how quickly these weeks have flown by. We are very busy but manage to squeeze in a lot of fun too! We have just begun our second of six reading books and will be looking for the problems or plot in our stories. We are continuing to work on short vowels and have explored with some short /a/, /o/ and /i/ sounds. I am pleased with all the work we are all doing to help these students begin the journey of being life-long readers. So please continue to support your child by reading aloud to them, listening to them read their phonics readers and little story books that target sight words, and practicing sight and spelling words. Nouns are naming words and we have begun to look at nouns that name people, places, or things. Verbs (action words) are being introduced this week. We will be using these terms and words to write sentences and form questions.

In math we are learning to count by 5’s and 10’s to facilitate counting coins. Ask your child to sing the song we sing to practice fives. Our math program stresses picking the greater number (or coin), and counting on from there. Addition fact cards will be arriving home soon, please help your child commit these to memory (no fingers).

Scientists classify plants and animals into groups and we will discover how plants and animals are different. The class has enjoyed looking at seeds and cones under magnification and will be exploring leaves and the types of plants. We will also be seeing the difference between a fruit and a vegetable according to the scientists. To help get into the fall season we will be using pumpkins and apples to explore our science concepts.

In October we learned about Massachusetts native Johnny “Appleseed” Chapman. We also made models that showed why Christopher Columbus thought the earth was round. As November makes its debut we will discuss the first inhabitants of our country, the Native Americans, namely the Wampanoags and how and why the Pilgrims came to the New World. It’s no wonder time flies so quickly! Thank you for your support it was great to meet you at conference time. If you have not yet scheduled a conference please drop me a note so we can get together. Thanks again, Mrs. Scorzafava.



Dear Parents, Grandparents, Friends and Students,

Parents are the most important influence in children's lives. Mealtimes behaviors, attitudes and nutritional choices are developed by parents' role modeling. Everyone eating the same healthy foods is the right food-parenting style! We would like to thank you for your participation in the 1st Annual Take Your Parents to Lunch Day. The turn-out was impressive and we appreciated all the positive comments we received.
Jane Canfield RN & Babbette Andrews, Food Service Director

What's Happening in Second Grade?

The first marking term is coming to an end. Second graders have been very busy. We have settled into a routine. Students are engaged in reading many types of genres, including poetry, fantasy, and non-fiction. They are building comprehension skills and learning how to use the question as part of their answers.

We recently completed a unit on insects. We went on a field trip to Roaring Brook Nature Center in Canton, Connecticut. Here students were able to "show off" their knowledge. Ruby was up on stage and dressed up as a butterfly. We hiked on some great trails and located some insects, as well as worms. We saw the animals that live at the center, which included an eagle, albino squirrel, opossum, hawks, owls, and a bald headed eagle. This was a very informative and enjoyable trip.

Recently second graders and their study buddies did an apple science lab in Miss Dickinson's rooms. This was a follow up to our wonderful field trip to Hillside Orchard. Students were involved in estimation activities, apple tasting, and carefully observing an apple, drawing a picture of it, and finally recognizing it after it was taken from them. They were excellent observers.

Second graders wrote thank you letter to their friends at Roaring Brook. They included drawing of things that they enjoyed the most.

We continue to study the continents and learn the difference among continents, countries, and states. We are also studying what makes up a community.

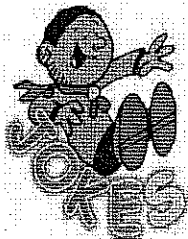
Second graders are learning about measurement and perimeter. Those rulers can be somewhat tricky! We are also working on word problems, how to tell when to subtract or add, and how to match an equation to what is being asked in a word problem.

We will be learning cursive writing soon. Students are really looking forward to this.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please give me a call.

Annamarie Clendenin

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



Maggie Drohen's joke "Why did the seagal cross the sea?"

Karra Hayes asks "What does Tinkerbell drink from?"

Kenzie Sullivan wants to know, "What do you get when you mix a snowman with a wolf?"

Kindergarten Update

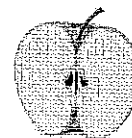
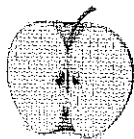
Everything apples! The kindergarten and second grade Study Buddies enjoyed their field trip to the apple orchard. Apples, cider, and a snack were enjoyed by all. The buddies ended their tour of the orchard by singing a song titled, A-P-P-L-E to Mr. Roberts.

To expand the children's knowledge of apples, they participated in a science lab. Mrs. Armstrong, Mrs. Frances, and Mrs. Fox volunteered to help with the stations: Taste Testing, Sink/Float, Weigh, Apple Detective (Can you draw your apple and find it later?). Their help was deeply appreciated.

As a writing project, the kindergarten students were asked to pretend to be a worm, who had just taken a bite of a Granville apple. What they would say was written on a speech bubble. Apples and worms were then colored for a bulletin board display in the cafeteria.

Some of the comments were:

- Yum! - Mmmm! - This is a juicy apple! - I like it! -
I am going to eat it all
- That was delicious! - This is tasty!



This was just part of the curriculum implemented during the end of September and October. We have started our study of consonant sounds, a study of numbers 1 – 5, the shapes: cone and cylinder, and writing the numbers 1 – 10. We are learning sight words and enjoy the word detective activity.

Happy Harvest Time Everyone! Keep Smiling! Miss Dickinson

Science Grades 5-8

Grade 5- Plants, plants and more plants. Fifth grade has been busy identifying plant structures and functions. We began with the structure of the leaf and photosynthesis. They attempted to extract leaf pigments (mostly chlorophyll) using chromatography paper. Next, using celery stalks and blue food coloring, they observed the function of the xylem and phloem in the plant stem. Now, we are working on identifying the parts of the flower and plant reproduction.

Grade 6- The sixth graders are learning how to classify living things. In doing this, they classified 12 different leaves, "creepy critters" from outer space and created a dichotomous key for their own aliens they created from another planet.

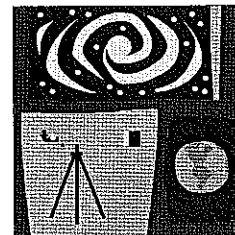
After classification, they will be learning about the different types of microscopes and how to use them to explore life.

Grade 7- It's been all about energy for the seventh graders. So far we have covered the many forms of energy, how energy gets transformed from one form to another and energy resources- renewable verses nonrenewable. To wrap up this chapter, they will be constructing a wind turbine model and testing it under different conditions.

*Grade 8C- Half of the eighth graders are working on astronomy, specifically past, present and future space explorations. In this lesson, I am combining the engineering design process with lunar explorations by having them design and construct a lunar outpost where people will live while carrying out research.

*Grade 8K- The other half of the eighth graders are learning about various kinds of maps and map-making technology along with Earth's formation and structure. The formation of Earth's layers allows me to reintroduce and review the property of density and tie in lab activities comparing the densities of different substances.

- I made the decision to teach different units to 8C and 8K so that they are able to take their textbooks home. Mrs. Roderick



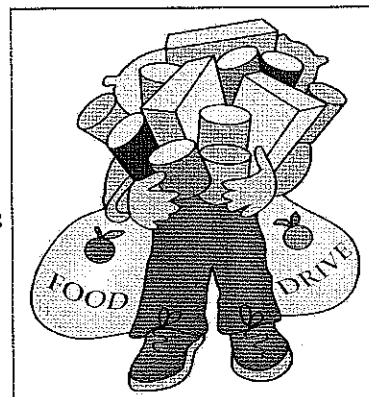
Giving Days 2011

Beginning Monday, October 31, we will begin our annual food drive for the Salvation Army. All classes will be involved in making this year's drive a success. Please send in non-perishables. Protein foods such as tuna fish and peanut butter are important. With the economy being in a slump, it is even more important than ever to help. A date has not been set yet to deliver the food to the Salvation Army. It will probably be the week before Thanksgiving, so time is short. Generally several children are asked to accompany a staff member along with the bus driver to bring the donations into Westfield.

Each class adds up the total weight for their donations divides the total into the amount of students in class. This gives us a total per student. In the past we have donated about 1000 pounds to our needy neighbors. I think we can top that amount this year!

This is also a great opportunity to talk with children about hunger and helping those in need.

Thank you, Annmarie Clendenin



A Tinkerbell drinks from a PIXIE CUP!

October News From Grade 3

As we move into autumn, the third graders have been working on a variety of topics across the curriculum. I am proud of the progress that we have been making in adjusting to a new schedule and daily routine. The beginning of our day with morning meeting has served as a wonderful opportunity for everyone to share and learn to practice skills in respecting other people in the class. Mondays and Fridays are especially noteworthy as the children are allowed to show specific items from collections, interests, and the like. Morning meeting is the foundation for learning, in my opinion, as it promotes a culture of support and community.

I am absolutely amazed at the math sense that the children have this year. We are coming to the close of a mini-unit in math devoted to measuring perimeter, identifying different kinds of quadrilaterals, and understanding the difference between standard and metric measurement. Each day the students explore a variety of topical areas in mathematics and share the various strategies that they use in solving such problems. I am impressed.

In our reading anthology, we recently completed a Mexican folk tale entitled *the Ant and the Great Big Crumb*. As a way of incorporating social studies and language, the students colored maps of Mexico, the Mexican flag, and composed cartoons consisting of characters from the story. What was especially challenging was that the cartoons had to include sentences with at least two Spanish words.

With the arrival of Halloween around the corner, the students are presently working on composing scary stories, which they will share during our festivities for this holiday.

Mr. McKenna

Greetings from the fourth grade! We are moving right along with our studies.

We have completed a unit on the properties in mathematics and have moved on to using variables in comparison problems.

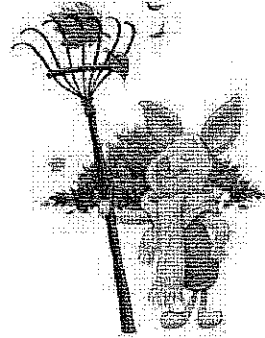
We are moving along nicely in reading class. Not only do we work on phonics and fluency, but we also work on comprehension and just plain enjoying a story. Ask us about the book, "The Lightning Thief" by Rick Riordan. It is so much different than the movie!

In science we started our study of plants. Did you know that plants are classified by their traits? We are studying about flowering plants right now. We took the time to learn about different root systems and looked closely at both tap root and fibrous root systems.

We finished our study of parts of a map and the state of Alaska and are now studying the Arctic native people. Did you know that early natives walked over the Bering Land Bridge from Asia to North America following the food because they were nomadic?

During writing time we completed an excerpt from one of Mary Pope Osborn's books and shared it with the class. We had a lot of fun doing that because we are learning to use vivid verbs, adjective, adjective, noun combinations and similes to paint pictures with words.

We are busy and we even have time to work on puzzles, language centers and reading on our own! Mrs. Billings



Junior High Social Studies

The school year is in full swing now and so are we. Harvest Fair has come and gone and we are down to the serious business of school.

In 5th grade we are learning about the ancient peoples of America, the first Americans, Mayans, Aztecs, and Incas. We have nearly finished the Unit and will be taking the test soon. This means that we can get on to the serious business of edible temple building, watch for a letter home explaining supplies needed.

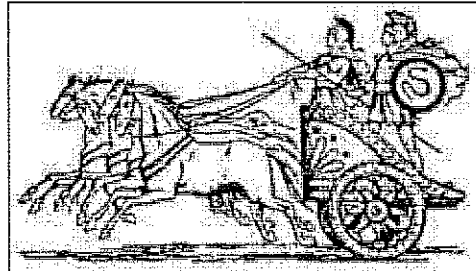
The 6th graders are busy exploring maps and all their intricacies. They made for me a map of their neighborhood. Now I know where the forts, streams, and woods of they're youth is.

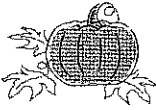
7th grade is discovering more about themselves and human history than they ever thought possible. Early Man, tool making, and the social animal we call man has more facets than they ever knew. Who knew that in our five million year old history so much was discovered and explored at such an ancient age?

8th grade is wrapping up the Roman Unit and soon we will be building roads, temples, and dare I say, chariots, as their final projects. Again, watch for a letter home in the near future detailing this endeavor.

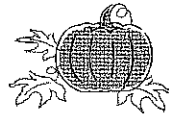
So, all in all a busy fall so far. It's getting chilly out, the leaves are turning, and so are their minds. Turning pages in the history book of man.

Mr. Jenkins





A Plethora of Pumpkins



Junior High Math after honing skills in measuring using the metric system and graphing results is now investigating math, science and social studies concepts related to pumpkins. This project incorporates many aspects of experiential inquiry while meeting our goal to have authentic practice in measurement. This investigation gives students an opportunity to measure attributes of a pumpkin and then, for older students, to analyze data to see if they can identify relationships or trends. Students tend to make huge leaps in the way they think about pumpkins and their measurements, and on the basis of data analysis, what can be predicted about another pumpkin. Another benefit of this project..Mrs. Andrews is kind enough to roast the seeds for us and provides them with breakfast and lunch in the days following our project! Mrs. Wagner

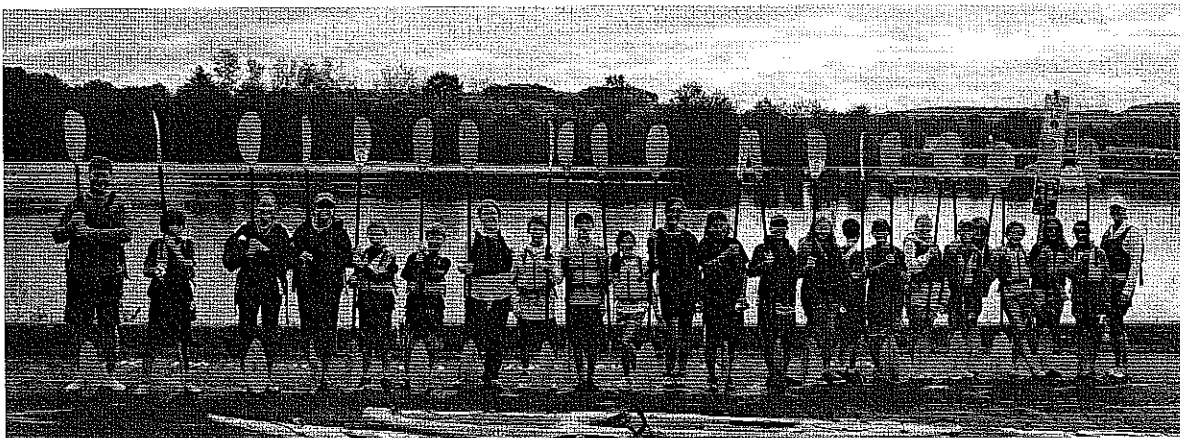
Physical Education

On September 30th, the fifth grade went on a field trip. We packed our lunches and headed down to "Wilderness Experiences" in Southwick. Once there we met our new teachers for the day, Drew, Matt and Justin. We spent the morning working on a low ropes course, where we were challenged to solve problems and complete some very difficult tasks as a group. We learned a lot about one another. Then in the afternoon we faced the high ropes course. We climbed walls and some of us even made it to the top! Next we were on to the "Spider Web" and the "Cat Walk". These were even more difficult than the rock walls. It was a little scary up there! At the end of the day we all agreed that ... 1. We had a great time (fun). 2. We learned a lot about ourselves. 3. We learned a lot about our classmates and teachers. As their teacher I was very proud of each and every one of them!

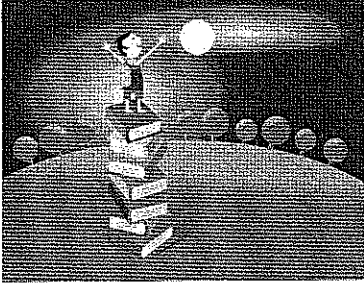


On October 3rd, the sixth grade went on a Kayaking trip. We packed our bags and headed down to "Wilderness Experiences" where we met Matt who was in charge for the day. From there we went to Lake Congamond to meet up with Drew and Justin, who were unloading all of the kayaks. We then got our life jackets on, had a how to lesson, and off we went. We toured middle and south pond we saw a bald eagle. By lunch time many of us were cold and wet so we went back and spent the afternoon swimming in the heated pool. We all had fun and many of us discovered that we need to build up our upper body strength. As their teacher I was very proud of how the students acted and how hard they tried.

Mrs. Haftmann



ELA



The Eighth Grade Literature class has been exploring the world of Sherlock Holmes in The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. They will be comparing detectives' techniques in the classic novel with a more modern Columbo episode.

Seventh Grade is reading Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech. They are assigned the chapters and are expected to take notes on their own. The first book talk of the year is due in November.

Sixth Grade experienced their first essay test on The Miracle Worker, the true story of Helen Keller. We will begin the novel Holes by Louis Sachar the first week in November. The class will also be assigned their first booktalk in junior high.

Fifth Grade is working on the novel Sasquatch by Roland Smith. They are learning how to take notes and respond to open response questions. They are adapting well to Middle School.
Mrs. Norwood

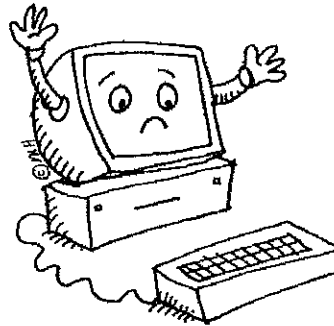
If a Seagal crossed the bay it would be called A BAGEL!

STOP & SHOP Has an A+ SCHOOL REWARDS Program

Participation is as easy as
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Register your card online

1. Go to: stopandshop.com/aplus, and select Granville School
2. Our School's 5 digit ID code: 09522
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Our school will begin to earning A+ School Rewards,
Thank you



Comcast will be offering to low income families internet service under a program called Internet Essentials. To qualify, a family must have at least one child receiving free school lunches. The cost will be \$9.95 a month plus tax, and a low-cost laptop computer is available for \$149.00. Comcast waives the installation charges for households that need it. There are a few restrictions, contact Comcast for more information.