

School House News

Granville Village School Newsletter, September 2011

COMING EVENTS

October

- 3 Blue Shirt Day for Bullying Prevention
- 4 2nd Field Trip * Mid terms go home
- 5 GPA Mtg 6-7pm * Bird Program 7-8 pm
- 5 National Walk to School Day
- 8-10 Harvest Fair
- 11 School Committee mtg. 5:30
- 12 Bring your parent to LUNCH DAY
- 19 11:30 dismissal, parent conference
- 25 Mad Science Starts 3:05-4:05

Student of the Month
Responsibility is our theme

Gabriel Monjaras
Tia Lin MacDonald & Rayna Humason
All 2nd grade students
Philip Hall
Tommy Wheeler
Grace Ingledue
Maggie Drohen
Matthew Corrigan



Message From Mrs. Wardlaw:

Welcome back to a new school year! After a quiet summer here at school, I am happy that the hallways, playground, and classrooms are once again filled with the sounds of children laughing, playing and learning. Granville Village School is truly a wonderful place to learn and grow. The teachers and myself began the school year with an in-depth analysis of student performance on the MCAS test taken last spring. The data gleaned from MCAS scores assists us in: following student progress; identifying strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in curriculum and instruction; gathering diagnostic information that can be used to improve student performance; fine-tuning curriculum alignment with the statewide standards; and identifying students who may need additional support services.

It is with great pleasure that I once again congratulate our students and their families, and our incredibly hard working staff, for demonstrating outstanding growth on our MCAS scores. Granville Village School's test scores continue to be above the State average. Congratulations to all!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have volunteered to help during field trips. Please remember if you would like to accompany your child on a field trip or volunteer in the classroom the CORI (criminal record information) law requires that you fill out the necessary paperwork. The CORI check can take anywhere from a few days to a few weeks. Therefore, I suggest that you fill out the form at the beginning of the year so that everything is up-to-date. The CORI checks must be repeated every three years. Please call or e-mail Mrs. Blakesley if you would like to know your status.

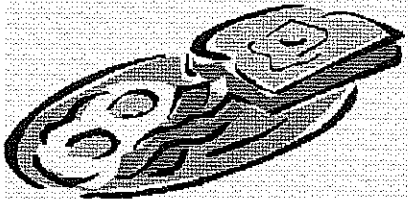
We are continuing with our monthly assemblies in which students of the month are announced. This is a fun time in which the whole school comes together to announce birthdays, showcase the skills our students have, honor various achievements, and perform skits based on the monthly theme, etc. Parents are always welcome to attend.

On Friday, September 16th, the whole school came together for our first ever "milkshake" assembly. As part of Mr. Grant's writing class, every student in grades five through eight wrote a persuasive essay to me as to why their class deserved a milkshake. The top three of each grade read their essays in front of the whole school. In the end, I decided to give the whole school milkshakes. The students ate their milkshakes outside and then the whole school played together. Wow, was this an exciting and fun afternoon here at Granville Village School!

As always, thank you for your interest and involvement in your child's education. Research has shown us parent involvement strongly impacts student achievement.

I wish everyone a wonderful year,
~Mrs. Wardlaw

Note from the Nurse: Breakfast



EAT, DRINK, AND BE SMARTER: HELP YOUR CHILDREN TO EAT BREAKFAST

A message from the GVS School Nurse

Jane Canfield RN BSN

Breakfast= Achievement

Want your children to be alert, focused and ready to tackle the day's academic challenges? Encourage them to eat breakfast. Not just on test days, but every day of the year. It's well-documented that breakfast eaters are healthier and more energetic throughout the day. National Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) study consistently confirm that breakfast provides fuel for school and boosts brain power.

Eating breakfast:

- *Improves classroom performance, including better test scores and grades
- * Increases children's ability to focus and concentrate on school work
- * Decreases behavior problems, tardiness and visits to the school nurse
- *Increases attendance rate

Just as important, when students routinely start their day with breakfast, chances are good that it will become a habit that carries into their teenage and adult years.

Healthy Tips For Parents To Encourage Breakfast

Provide healthy foods that are fast and convenient: yogurt, cottage cheese, fruit, low-fat whole-grain bars, fresh fruit pieces, high fiber cereal, whole-grain toast.

Help your children get organized so they have time to eat breakfast.

- Consider preparing breakfast the night before. Examples include hard boiled eggs and whole wheat waffles that may be warmed in the morning.
- Offer food on the run – if your child is late – such as fruit, trail mix, or whole-grain breakfast bar.
- Role model eating a healthy breakfast

2011-2012 Breakfast Program At Granville Village School Although it is favorable to eat together as a family, this is not always possible before school. All GVS students may take advantage of eating breakfast at school. Students who qualify for free or reduced price meals will be entitled to a free or reduced price breakfast and a free or reduced price lunch.

GVS Breakfast Time	8:05 – 8:15AM
Place	GVS Cafeteria
Breakfast price regular	\$1.50
Breakfast price reduced	\$.30

Upon arriving at school, students are to go directly to the cafeteria. Students who are eating breakfast at school will not be marked tardy for homeroom.

Thank you for guiding your children with healthy breakfast habits, because healthy children learn better.

Writing

September has flown by and students are adjusting well after a hopefully restful summer. It's great to be back!

5th- I'm happy to say that after a week of being stone silent in the classroom, they have warmed up and seem to be enjoying themselves. The first writing assignments have gone quite well.

6th- What an energetic group! These students learn at an incredible pace and really seem to take to writing.

7th- This group has shown great creativity in their first few assignments. I very much look forward to reading their essays.

8th- These students have shown good maturity and really make teaching a treat. Discussions have been exceptional thus far. Be sure to look for December field trip information soon.

Finally, a reminder that weekly updates can be found on my new.schoolnotes.com webpage.

Darrel Grant



ELA

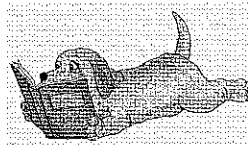
This year we are welcoming fifth grade into middle school. They are adjusting the difficult change of ringing necessary books and notebooks to six different classes!! While sorting out each teachers' requirements, they are adapting well. In ELA, we are exploring short stories and reading Sasquatch by Roland Smith in class. They are learning to take notes and learn new vocabulary from the novel.

Sixth grade ELA students are currently reading the play The Miracle Worker by William Gibson. They read the play during class while learning to take notes and interpret meanings successfully.

Seventh grade is doing a poetry unit. Each student is assigned a poem to memorize and analyze. These will be shared with their class. They are also reading and interpreting short stories from their literature books.

The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle is being tackled by the eighth grade. This classic is difficult reading but important as a preparation for high school.

Connie Norwood



STOP & SHOP Has an A+ SCHOOL REWARDS Program

Participation is as easy as 1,2,3!

Register your card online

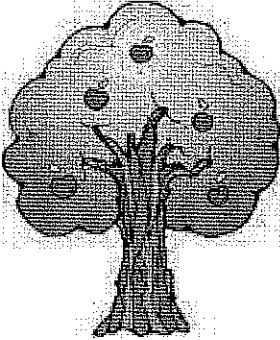
1. Go to: stopandshop.com/aplus, and select Granville School
2. Our School's 5 digit ID code: 09522
3. Confirm the information,

Our school will begin to earning A+ School Rewards, Thank you

Second Grade News

I love the beginning of a new school year. It is the time to develop new friendships with a whole new group of students. It is also a hectic time to establish rules and let my students understand that I have high expectations for each and every one. I have the huge and sometime overwhelming responsibility of continuing to develop a community of learners.

One of the traditions that I enjoy most is our kindergarten and second grade study buddy program. Second graders take pride in helping their kindergarten partners become more comfortable in their new school environment. Second graders eat lunch with their buddies and show them how to get lunches and milk. Second graders take great pride in helping their buddies and at the same time are learning to be responsible for these younger students.



Recently Study Buddies celebrated Constitution Day by coming together and brainstorming important rules for school and their community. They had a lot of good ideas and then watched a brief video about local, state, and national government.

Buddies will also enjoy an upcoming field trip to Hillside Orchard. They will learn about an important community resource and learn how to properly pick apples.

Second graders are busily engaged in reading, writing, and math. We are studying insects in science. On October 4, we will be taking a field trip to Roaring Brook Nature Center. They offer an excellent program on insects and have beautiful hiking trails.

Second graders are huge book fans. When there is any "spare time", you will find them engaged with books. In our daily read aloud, I am reading the six book series, The Dragonling written by local author Jackie French Koller. Over the years students have loved these books about a brave little dragon and the boy who saved his life.

In Social Studies we are studying the continents and learning our global and beyond addresses. We will be learning about our community, fire safety, and mapping skills.

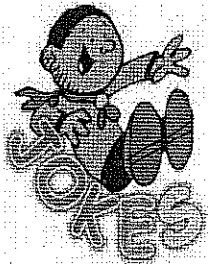
Writing is a very important skill and must be used across all curricular areas. I always tell reluctant writers, that if you can talk, you can write. We have writing journals that I encourage my students to get their ideas down and to use "bigger" words than they know how to spell. Students are beginning to realize that writing is just as important in math as in any other subject.

Mrs. Cigal visits our classroom every other week to conduct lessons from our Olweus Bullying Prevention Program. This is also supported by our social skills program, Second Step.

I'm looking forward to a positive and happy school year. Every day is a new adventure!

Annamarie Clendenin

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

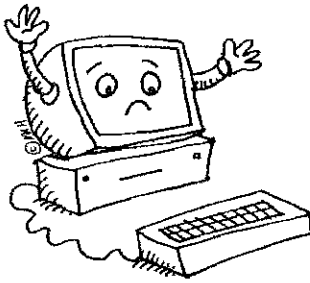


Zach Winn asks: "Why does a fish get low grades?"

Lydia Kinsman asks: "What does a cow carry to work?"

Christian Hepburn wants to know: "Why was the skeleton afraid to cross the road?"

Ke-Andre Godbolt asks: "Want to hear a joke about pizza?"



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.

Grade 3

Third grade has been off to a wonderful year! In spite of the occasional summer-like temperatures, my little scholars have managed to stay focused and become engaged with a new teacher, classroom, and curriculum. We have only been in school a relatively short period of time yet I feel that we have accomplished significant objectives in the classroom routine and curriculum.

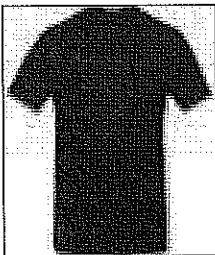
Every day we begin with daily math review, followed by a short morning meeting. This time to come together is designed for the purpose of teaching appropriate social skills, especially listening and respecting one another. My overall goal this year is to foster in the students a sense that we are a community of learners helping each other achieve our respective objectives.

In math we have been investigating various strategies in addition, subtraction, grouping, and money. I am impressed with the basic math sense that most of the students have coming into third grade. My hat is off to Mrs. Clendenin! What is particularly rewarding for me is how creative some of the students are in sharing their strategies in solving math problems.

It's hard to believe but we have already read three selections from our reading anthology. So far, we have discussed humor, realistic fiction, and non-fiction. One of the areas that I will be concentrating on this year is teaching strategies for how to respond to open response questions. Another focus will be reading independently. All students are expected to have a book to read when finished with their work. I have designed the classroom schedule so that the children have an opportunity to read at the end of the day.



So far, we are off to a great start and I look forward to working with my class in helping them progress into the new year! Mr. McKenna



Blue Shirt Day
Monday October 3, 2011
Wear a blue shirt on Monday and help us
celebrate
“World Day of Bullying Prevention”
Everyone who wears a blue shirt will receive a
sticker from Mrs. Andrews and Mrs. Canfield

Why Doesn't This Math Look Familiar To Me?

Why doesn't the math my child brings home look like the math I remember?

If you don't recognize the math in your child's homework, think about how the world has changed since you were in school. The math looks different because the world is different. Advances in science, technology, information processing and communication, combined with the changing workplace, make it necessary for all students to learn more math.

The basics are changing. Arithmetic skills, although important, are no longer enough. To succeed in tomorrow's world, students must understand many areas of math that people avoid ~ algebra, geometry, statistics, and probability. Business and industry demand workers who can:

- Solve real world problems
- Explain their thinking to others
- Identify and analyze trends from data, and

Use modern technology.

The mathematics students do in middle school should prepare them for the new basic skills necessary for their futures. Instead of worksheets with 25 identical problems to work through, your child may bring home problems related to real life such as investigating salaries and budgets, for example. Students need to be given the opportunity to learn real math which maximizes their future options as well as helping prepare them for the "real world".

Jody Wagner

Social Studies 5-8

Well, we are off to a new year with lots of exciting changes going on.

We welcomed the 5th grade to Junior High this year. They will be studying all sorts of new subjects for them. In my room we are off to the Mayan lands of old. Soon we will be visiting the Vikings too!

6th Grade is off to a new start in Junior High also. We are learning Geography this year, starting with basic map and atlas skills. After that we will begin to draw and label personal maps. Remember, map quizzes EVERY Friday.

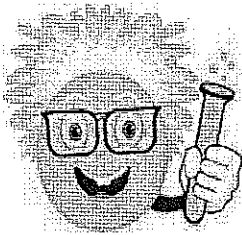
7th grade is beginning to explore history, with a jaunt down Early Man Way. We are learning all about our ancestors and beginnings. They have a new textbook and it is connected to the internet, ask them to show it to you.

8th grade is beginning with Rome. It is an exciting year for them, filled with field trips, school visits, graduation, and a host of new experiences. Let's help them along this journey as best we can.

Feel free to contact me at the school with any questions or concerns you have about your student. In the meantime enjoy the cooler weather, get ready for the Harvest Fair, and enjoy what's left of the summer.

Mr. Jenkins





Mad Science is coming back!

Chemistry and Beyond

The total price is \$179.00 this can be paid in 4 installments of \$44.75

The program will run for 12 weeks, starting October 25, 2011, Until
January 24 2012

3:05-4:05 pm * Grades Kindergarten thru 6th

1st Grade

We are off to a great start in grade one. There are several things that we have to remember when we come into class in the morning. These activities help us to become more independent. We have welcomed a new student to our class Camdynn Diabo joins us from West Springfield and she is a wonderful addition to our group.

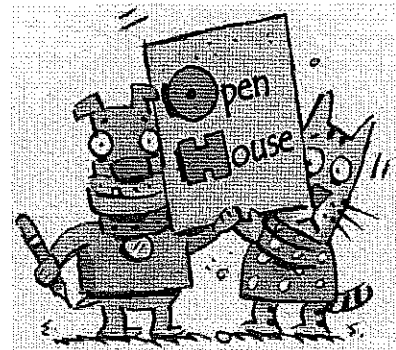
We enjoy a morning meeting time where we do many different activities including reading a message, and talking about the calendar and the weather. Sometimes we might sing a song or play a phonemic awareness game. A favorite activity has been answering our Question of the Day. It is fun to compare and talk about the results. We often also review a new or old concept. We are trying to express ourselves in words to help develop writing skills, so being able to explain orally is a first step to being able to explain on paper.

In Math we are reviewing the numbers 1-10 in both counting and writing exercises. We have learned about partners and switch partners. It has been a lot of fun to use the white boards as we learn to write number sentences. We are also practicing writing our numbers and must remember they start at the top, top, top.

We have several different levels of readers. Mrs. Noel has given each child a Benchmark reading test to determine that level. We will follow up on this to be able to determine each child's independent and instructional levels which will help them choose appropriate books, not too easy, not too hard. Initial consonant sounds are being reviewed and we have been bringing home some take-home readers to practice reading. Please let your child read these books to you many times...practice is so important. We have begun using our reading book and we are in the process of learning our sight words. These are the words that we should be able to recognize and say as fast as we can say our own name. Currently these words include number words and ordinal words like first second etc. as well as the words on the Dolch pre-primer and primer lists.

A big hit with the class is our listening center where children listen to a story or a following directions lesson on tape. It also fosters independence and provides another way to review and remember material.

It was very nice to meet everyone at Open House, and a wonderful opportunity for the children to show off their work and their new surroundings. If you haven't, please sign up for a conference to discuss your child's progress. Collections are underway for the Harvest Fair. Our food items are canned beans and peas. October will be another busy month as we get into our reading and language books and start writing more. By the way the class works hard to master their color words and I am proud of their achievement. Now they can recognize, read, and spell these words which in turn helps them work independently. Thank you for your help and support and the supplies you so generously donated. Have a great month, **Mrs. Scorzafava**





Mrs. Cigal

School Counselor

We are off to a great start this year with our Bully Prevention Curriculum and the violence prevention 2nd Step Program in Grades K-8. Please be on the lookout for parent information letters that will update you on the work we are doing in the classroom. If you would like more information on the Olweus Bully Prevention curriculum, you can go to our website at www.qvsm.org and then to the Bully Prevention page. More information on the 2nd Step program can be found at www.cfchildren.org.

Every month our school has a focus on a word related to character development. September's WORD OF THE MONTH is: **RESPONSIBILITY**. Each month we will celebrate our students and focus on a different character trait in an assembly on the last Friday of the month. Talk to your kids about what responsibility means to you and to your family. What responsibilities are important to you and what do you do as a family to support this quality in them. How can you make this word feel like a positive fun word?

Think on This:

One's philosophy is not best expressed in words; it is expressed in the choices one makes... and the choices we make are ultimately our responsibility.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Science

We have been very busy in the science lab this year. We are working on experimentation skills with much emphasis on the metric system, becoming familiar with lab equipment and how to use it, and the scientific method. Therefore, all four grades have been carrying out lab procedures to reinforce proper measuring techniques, choosing and using the appropriate lab equipment to measure and find an object's mass and volume, metric conversions, steps of the scientific method and lab safety. In grades seven and eight, they are not only carrying out procedures that are given to them but also responsible for designing the experiment as well.



I will be assigning textbooks at the end of this week or early next week in order to begin the units. In grades 6-8, we will be using the new science textbooks which are broken up by units. Therefore, the textbooks are thin and will be changed periodically throughout the year as we go from one unit to another. I'm looking forward to a very productive year and as always please contact me via phone or email if you have any concerns or questions.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Roderick

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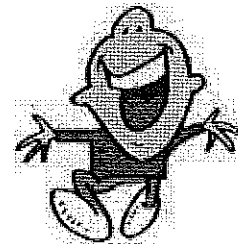
Answers to the jokes

Zach Winn answers: "Because all his grades are under C!"

Lydia Kinsman answers: "His beef case!"

Christian Hepburn answers: "Because he has not guts!"

Ke-Andre Godbolt answers: "Na, it's too cheesy."



Kindergarten Update

Another school year has begun where students will blossom socially, emotionally, physically, and intellectually. The kindergarten students have been busy working on a shape mobile, and a book – All About Me. They have been learning how to use a white tray during math lessons, and studying the life cycle of a butterfly.

We are thankful to the Sullivan family who brought in two Monarch chrysalises. We are waiting for them to hatch. They also brought in a Praying Mantis, which spent the day with us.

Earlier in the month I brought in a Katydid which was eating my Gerber Daisy. Interesting Insects!

The kindergarten students have met their second grade Study Buddies. They greet us at lunch time and help us with our lunch time tasks. We look forward to our apple orchard trip with them and the various other activities we will be doing together throughout the school year. Thanks for all your help Study Buddies!

Enjoy the year and remember to Keep Smiling!

Miss Dickinson

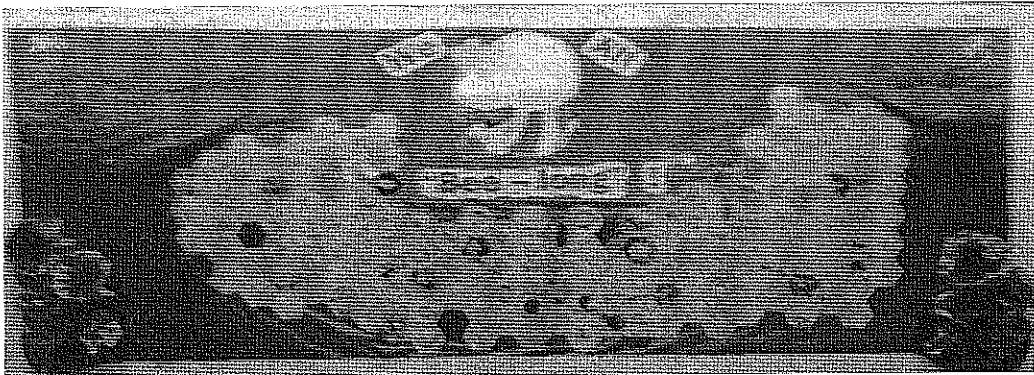
WE ALL BEELONG!

The theme this year for our school-wide bulletin boarding the front hallway is - We All Beelong! Each student and staff member was invited to personalize a honeycomb. The outcome looks great.

I would like to thank Amber and Bridget Nobbs for helping with the background. In addition, thanks go to Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Dickinson who helped outline and cut out many of the honeycombs.

Thanks to all who participated!

Have a sweet year and remember WE ALL BELONG!



Harvest Fair Time

The Harvest Fair will be here before we know it, please help the Granville Parent's Association by donating items for the 3 day event. Below is a list the GPA has put together, for each class.

- K — Oyster crackers, 5oz cups or Pasta
- 1 — Canned beans or peas
- 2 — Canned broth, preferably large cans
- 3 — Canned kidney beans, corn, diced tomatoes, chick peas
- 4 — V8 or Tomato juice
- Grades 5-8 Canned soda or bottled water

**YOUR FOOD DONATIONS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED,
WE ALSO NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS PLEASE PLAN ON HELPING
IT IS A LOT OF FUN**

Fourth Grade News

We the fourth grade have had a terrific start to the new school year! It has been fun getting to know each other better.

We jumped right into learning. Already we have done quite a bit of map work. We've learned about longitude and latitude, map keys, compass roses and even invented our own country. Now we are studying the map of Alaska to get ready for our first map test.

Stone Fox was an excellent book. We completed it and several projects surrounding it. That little Willy is sure a persistent boy!

Multiplication and division facts have been our main focus in math so far this year. We have done some work with graphs, expressions, variables and key words for different operation in word problems.

Whales, whales, and more whales have been our focus in science. We have read about whales, done experiments about whales and are now finishing our unit by researching a certain whale and drawing it to a scale where one inch equals one foot.

We have done some writing and are now in the middle of writing about a cup of worms Mrs. Billings gave to us. Can you imagine such a thing?

We all can't wait to see what else we will be able to learn this year!

Mrs. Billings

North American Birds of Prey Presented by WINGMASTERS

Wednesday October 5, 2011 in the
School Gym at 7:00 pm.
Julie Collier and Jim Parks, MA State Rap-
tor Rehabilitators will present along with
their Friends!
A golden Eagle, 2 Owls,
a Falcon and a Hawk



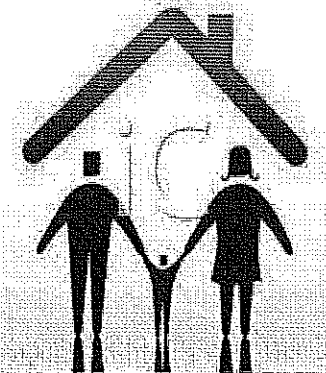
SPONSORED BY Granville Cultural Coun-
cil and the
Massachusetts Cultural Council

This event is free
~Donations greatly appreciated



Bring your Parents to Lunch Day

On Wednesday October 12 with your child
at their scheduled lunch time.
The cost will be \$3.00 for adults. Please call the
school or fill out the paperwork by
Friday, October 7th.



LUNCH MENU
Pasta with meatballs and sauce,
Veggie & Fruit