

School House News

Granville Village School Newsletter, December 2011

COMING EVENTS

January

- 3 Welcome Back
- 4 Wright Flight Parent Night 6pm
- 9 Special Town Meeting Vote @ GVS
- 16 MLK Day-No school
- 20 Grades close
- 26 Report cards go home
- 31 Override Vote @ Town Hall 12-8pm

Student of the Month
Friendliness is our theme

Caleb Consolini
Paisley Suares
Ari Labrecque
Ava DeGrange
Tucker Costello
Kyle Cahill
Alayna Fortin
Sean Costello
Willy Armstrong
Ethan Brown



Wishing you peace, love, and laughter
this Holiday Season
and throughout the coming year...
from our "family" here at GVS to yours!

Granville Village School Postural Screening Program

Scoliosis is not a disease – it is a description of an abnormal curvature of the spine. While scoliosis may go virtually unnoticed in some children, the condition can affect a person's ability to engage in physical activity, and in severe cases may impair the ability to walk, to sit or to lie down comfortably. The onset of symptoms in the majority of scoliosis cases occurs in children around the beginning of puberty.

Massachusetts laws mandates annual postural screening programs for middle-grade students, as an important preventative public health strategy.

School nurses identify children who should have further medical evaluations by their primary care provider. The physician will then determine if a child should be referred to an orthopedic specialist.

In the Granville Village School, all children in grades 5-8 will be screened during the next few weeks. Parents will be notified if the screening indicates a possible problem. Please contact me if you have questions about the Granville postural screening program. A helpful, family-friendly site, www.iscoliosis.com, also provides a variety of information.

Have a happy, healthy holiday season!
Jane Canfield RN BSN

Social Studies

Well, the holiday day season is officially with us. Hope you and your family have a wonderful time together in this most special of seasons. Here in the school community we are very busy this time of the year.

5th grade just finished their Viking Unit and upon their return we begin looking at the Explorers of the world. Look for projects to come their way, and lots of class work. They are a great bunch and love learning. Let's help them keep up the good work.

6th grade is continuing on their on way towards making their World Map Project. We are learning the skills of using map scale and thematic maps. Upon return, they will shortly be making their first big project, a Geo Terms booklet.

7th grade is wrapping up their Mesopotamia Unit and getting ready for their project also. They will be using Mesopotamian math and designing their own calendars from that.

8th grade is finishing their Middle Ages Unit. After this we move onto the Renaissance period. After that we begin the Law Unit.

So as you can see your students are very busy but they can handle it. They always enjoy themselves even if they tell you they're not. So keep up the encouragement and we will make young scholars out of them. Thank you again for your help and direction.

Mr. Jenkins
Social Studies



Fourth Grade News

We preformed the Greek play Pandora's Box for third and fifth graders on December 19th and 20th. It was so much fun! We got interested in Greek mythology by reading The Lightning Thief series by Rick Riordan.

Great fun was had by all when we made and decorated the cookies for our civic project.

We all want to wish you a safe and happy vacation and the best of Health and Happiness for the New Year.

Mrs. Billings

Second Grade Update

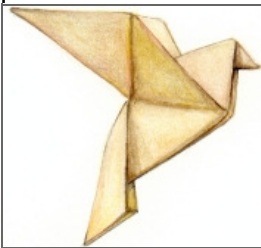
Winter is upon us. Along with the joys of winter fun, come soggy mittens, forgotten shoes, and snow pants. PLEASE SEND in an extra pair of shoes. Having snow boots on all day is not healthy. Extra mittens would also be helpful. Please assume your child will be going out for recess when it is cold and snowy. Lack of boots and snow pants will require your child to stay on the blacktop.

It's students' responsibility to remember folders and to put names on homework. Please reinforce this with your child.

Birdfeeders are now up and students are becoming good observers. At present, we are being visited by many sparrows. Soon other birds will join the feast. It amazes me how entertaining a non-electric activity can be! Students are seeking out bird books and preparing to do research in the coming year.

I continue to be pleased and even amazed by my students' growing math skills. They all enjoy going to the board to not only participate in solving problems, but to also explain how they solved them. My only concern with many of my students is lack of mastering addition and subtraction facts. Although, it is still acceptable to use fingers and number lines, this is a slow process. Memorization is necessary. Please have your child work on math facts three or four times a week. In the car you have a captive audience. Check out your computer for some free math games.

Mapping skills will continue all through second grade. Students love to look at maps. Converse with your child where about relatives have come from to settle in this great country.



Kindergarten and second grade Study Buddies continue to enjoy doing activities together. Recently, we enjoyed sharing what we are thankful for and delicious cornbread and applesauce. We also made and exchanged paper doves of peace.

Thank you for continued help and support. It makes all of the difference to your child and to me.

Wishing you peace now and in the coming year!

Mrs. Clendenin

See you Tuesday, January 3, 2012

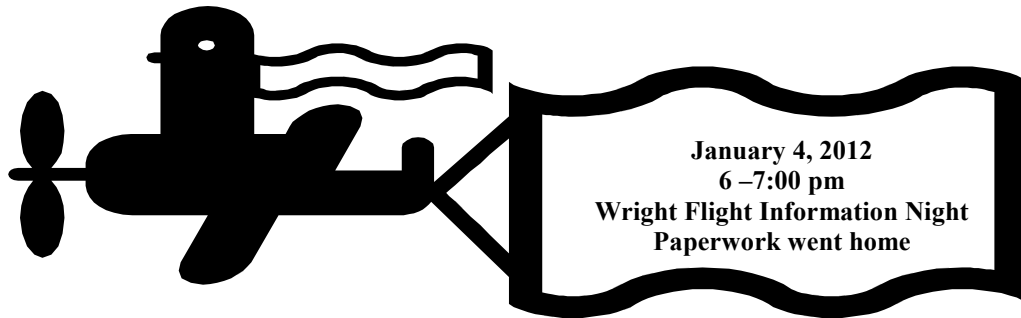


Jokes of the Week look for the answers hidden in this newsletter!!!!

1. Emily Pinney want to know, "What do you call a cat on the beach?"
2. "What is the outcome of a cow in a tornado?" asks Paul Novak
3. Melanie Winn asks "Why don't elephants use computers?"
4. "Why was the little boy not able to see that pirate movie?" Kyle Cahill

Book Fair

Our recent book fair was a success. It's amazing how many books can be sold in one hour! Thank you to Linda Blakesely, Mrs. Daley, and Mrs. Canfield for all of their help. Our buy one, get one book fair will be happening this spring. Mrs. Clendenin



Kindergarten Update

The kindergarten students worked hard on their second math unit. They participated in dot to dot activities, practicing using the five group when drawing math pictures, extending patterns, and drawing their own patterns. (ABABAB, ABBABB, AABAAB) We will begin unit three after vacation.

As a final project for the unit, My Community, we talked about things we like to do for recreation. Mrs. Mechachonis brought in her portable sewing machine and we made bean bags. Mrs. Woodger assisted her at the machine. Mr. Billings was stationed at the bean bucket. Mrs. Armstrong and Mrs. Francis did the hand sewing. Many hands made light work! Thanks! (Thanks to all who sent in bags of beans.) After making the bean bags, we did a few action activities and then the bean bags were taken home.

Our Five Senses, was the science focus for this month. We did a variety of activities, but the favorite was the taste testing. We learned about our taste buds and recorded whether we liked the taste or not. We also talked about how some animals use their senses.

We read The Gingerbread Boy and The Gingerbread Girl during story time. This was a nice connection to the short play about the gingerbread house. As a community project we made paper gingerbread boys and girls with candy canes for the Senior Citizens.

We had a great Career Dress Up Day. The future looks promising for Granville!

Happy Holidays! Keep Smiling! Miss Dickinson



December News From Grade 3

It seems hard to believe that we've come to the end of the calendar year! The third graders have been busy as Santa's elves readying for the main event!

In mathematics, we recently completed a unit focused on geometric shapes and the identification of certain kinds of angles, such as scalene, right, and isosceles. We have begun a new unit highlighting estimation, rounding, and usage of currency in math problems. I have been most impressed with these young scholars!

With respect to the discipline of science, we just wrapped up our study of how animals grow with a concentration on varied life spans and types of birthing in some animal species. As a way of connecting art and science, the students were required to complete drawings of at least two animals showing the stages of growth. Come and see the creativity of our third graders on the bulletin board in our classroom!

As a language arts activity echoing the spirit of the season, students are currently working on a writing piece designed in a John Collins Type # 3 format on the topic of *The Island of Misfit Toys*. Our culminating event will be the sharing of these stories with other classes in the school prior to the winter holidays vacation.

Are You Smarter Than a Third Grader?

First student to come to Mr. McKenna with the correct answer will receive a prize.

Rank the following animals from shortest to longest life span:

a. bear b. mayfly c. turtle d. elephant

1. Sandy-Claws!

English-Literature-Arts

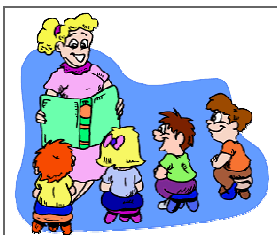
Fifth graders are working on grammar and short stories from their literature books including part of an Amelia Earhart biography.

The sixth grade ELA classes are reading A Christmas Carol adapted into play form from the novel by Charles Dickens. We will then watch an older version of the movie. They are finishing up the novel Holes and will have an essay test following vacation.

The seventh graders are exploring some short stories by O. Henry including "The Last Leaf" and "Gift of the Magi."

Children's holiday books are being written and illustrated by each eighth grader this month. The week before Christmas vacation, they will read them to kindergarten, first, and second grades. This is an annual event.

Mrs. Norwood





Happy Holiday from the first grade.

Hats off to Mrs. Wackerbarth and all of the staff who supported the children in their Winter Concert and Play. It was wonderful to see how hard these kids work to entertain us. Bravo!

We've been invaded by penguins! As we are learning about words and how to read we are also learning about characters, setting and plot. We are beginning to put parts of stories in the correct sequence and learning about cause and effect. We have begun listening for the median (middle) sound in words as well. Our penguin antics have given us a springboard for rhyming and writing sentences using describing words (adjectives). We have also reviewed contractions and naming words (nouns) and action words (verbs.) When you read to your child or he/she writes a sentence ask him/her about these parts of speech. Ask your child to describe things using color, numbers, or sensory words.

In Math we have been working on subtraction and subtraction story problems. Please watch for word problems on homework and remember all word problems need to show an equation and a label telling what the problem is about; $1 + 1 = 2$ apples. Place value will be the next big topic that we will study after the break.

Please remember to keep reading to your child and to keep listening as they read. During these hectic times it's great to sit back and enjoy a good story together. I hope everyone has a happy holiday season and a very safe and relaxing vacation. See you in January, Mrs. S.

Science



Grade 5-

After winter break, grade 5 can look forward to beginning the unit on animals. Topics in this unit will include the major stages of the frog and butterfly life cycles, structures that enable animals to succeed on their environment, reasons for extinction, and the impacts of our ever changing ecosystem on certain populations.

Grade 6-

The sixth graders concluded their unit on cells; they did a wonderful job on their cell analogy projects. Next, we will be describing the six kingdoms of life in more detail starting with bacteria. Students can anticipate using microscopes to observe a variety of microorganisms such as bacteria, amoebas, paramecium and euglenas. We will also spend a great deal of time with plants and animals in this unit.

Grade 7-

The seventh grade continues with physical science, specifically energy and matter. Currently, they are reconstructing periodic tables that they will use this year and next year too. We will be building on what we learned last year in our sixth grade chemistry unit.

Grade 8C-

The eighth graders are still moving through the astronomy unit. We are studying the structure of the solar system, focusing on the outer and inner planets. After we study the structure of our solar system, we will move on to the final section of this unit, stars and galaxies.

Grade 8K-

In 8K, we continue with Earth science focusing on weathering and erosion. This will be the final chapter in our exploring Earth unit which will lead us into our unit on geologic changes including such topics as plate tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes and clues to Earth's past.

Have a safe and happy holiday,

Mrs. Roderick

3. They are afraid of the mouse!

January MENU AND CALENDAR 2012

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	Breakfast A & B	Breakfast A	Breakfast A
No School 2	Oven toasted Cheese sandwich Veggie – fruit – milk 3	Pasta w/ meat sauce veggie / fruit/ milk 4 Wright Flight Parent Night	Pizza Veggie / fruit/ milk 5	Hamburger or cheese-burger w/ bun Fries / fruit / milk 6
Breakfast A	Breakfast A & B	Breakfast B	Breakfast A & B	Breakfast A
Tuna melt Tomato soup Fruit / milk 9 Special Town Mtg 7pm	Scramble eggs Hash brown potato Ham / fruit / milk 9	Oven baked Mac & Cheese Veggie / fruit / milk 10	Ham and cheese Wrap Soup/fruit/milk 11	Chefs choice 12
Breakfast A & B	Breakfast A	Breakfast B	Breakfast A & B	Breakfast A
MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 16	Hamburger gravy Mash potatoes Veggie / milk 17	Pasta w/ meats sauce Veggie / fruit Milk 18	Chicken sandwich Fries / fruit Milk 19	Hot dog w/bun/Baked beans Fruit / milk 20 Grades Close
Breakfast A	Breakfast A	Breakfast B	Breakfast A & B	Breakfast A
Baked potato bar Broccoli / toppings Fruit / milk 23	Sloppy Joes w/ bun Veggie / fruit Milk 24	Oven baked Mac & cheese Veggie / fruit/ milk 25	Chefs Choice 26 Report Cards Home	Meatball grinder Veggie / fruit milk 27
Breakfast A	Breakfast A			
Oven toasted cheese Sandwich Soup / fruit / milk 30	Mexican chicken Taco chips Veggie / fruit / milk 31 Town override vote 12-8pm @ Town Hall			A HAPPY NEW YEAR