



Greenland Central School  
Principal's Newsletter  
December 2009



Calendar

December 14	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
December 15	Holiday Concert, Grades, K-2 – 7 p.m.
December 16	Grades 6-8 Progress Reports Issued
December 18	Parents Night Out, 6-9 p.m. (See Below)
December 24-January 3	<b>Holiday Vacation</b>

Monthly Message

In the midst of this holiday season our school community is ever so thankful for heroic emergency and medical personnel and for Katie Tucker's strength and courage, as she survived and now heals from such a terrible accident. Our thoughts, prayers, and support are with Katie and her family every day.

On behalf of the entire staff I extend best wishes to all Greenland families during this holiday season. I hope that you will have the opportunity to relax and enjoy some special time with family and friends.

Important Reminder

A reminder that the price of school lunch will **increase on January 4, 2010**. The new price will be **\$2.25 for students in grades K-5** and **\$2.50 for students in grades 6-8**.

Service to Others

We are very pleased with the strong and positive response to this year's theme of "Service to Others" and to the pledge initiative, by a large percentage of our students, to conduct community service throughout this year. Many students have already engaged in wonderful service activities and **I would remind all parents** to please send in the recording forms or signed note so we can keep track of each child's efforts here at school. We do want to recognize all students at year's end who manage to achieve their goal for community service hours. We continue to share with students suggested activities such as last weeks beach clean-ups and we will post service opportunities on our community email.

Our school community is again this year engaged in a number of **charitable activities** during the holiday season in an effort to serve those less fortunate. The following are some of those activities to which you can still contribute:

- Students and teachers in grades **K-2** are sponsoring participation in the **Toys for Tots** drive in conjunction with the U.S. Marines. **Families can send in brand new unwrapped toys through December 18<sup>th</sup>**, when they will be delivered to the collection bus at the Fox Run Mall.

- Greenland 4<sup>th</sup> grade students are collecting donations for our local SPCA in Stratham. The students have done an outstanding job of organizing and promoting this charitable effort and will deliver the items they collect when they visit the SPCA this month for an educational tour of the facility. **Donations of pet food and supplies** are greatly appreciated and can be delivered to the display area in the school's front lobby.
- **Junior High Student Council** is sponsoring activities to support the **Seacoast Family Services Organization**. Students are collecting new hats, mittens, and gloves which will be distributed to less fortunate children and families. All donations will be displayed on the "**Caring Cord**" in the school's main lobby before being packed up and sent out prior to Christmas.
- **Thomas Fogarty Memorial Fund** – This fund was established by Deb and Brian Fogarty in their son's memory to support enrichment and extended learning opportunities for Greenland students. The fund has already contributed thousands of dollars to support student research, learning styles, math, language arts, and analytical and problem solving activities. Contributions can be sent to the **Thomas Fogarty Memorial Fund care of the Greenland Central School, 70 Post Road, Greenland NH 03840.**

**Note:** If you are thinking of giving a holiday gift to your child's teacher, we ask that you consider donating to one of these or any worthy cause and send along a card to the teacher explaining that you have done so in their name or on behalf of their classroom.

### **Important Notes and Reminders**

- **Emergency Information** – With the winter season upon us the potential for weather related emergency dismissal increases. We avoid such an event at all costs given the difficulty with communication and the confusion of alternate drop off arrangements. It is however important that we are prepared should the occasion arise, and **I therefore ask any parent whose emergency dismissal information has changed since the start of school, to contact their child's teacher with corrections or updates.**

If on any day you fear that mid day weather conditions might cause an early school closing, we ask that you check the **community email** or tune into the local radio stations listed in the school handbook rather than call the school. Any emergency procedures will be conveyed by email and by radio, and a flood of calls to the school could hamper our efforts and response.

**New this year** – We are in the process of implementing a **phone and possibly text message school closing or delay information system**. There are a number of details involved in getting such a system up and running in terms of uploading all the contact numbers we have already on file and then testing the system. You will hopefully receive some test calls soon and then have the opportunity to make adjustments to your contacts either directly on line or by

contacting us at school. More information about this phone alert system should be coming your way soon.

- **Facility Use-** With the onset of basketball season I must ask for the help and cooperation of all students and parents in caring for our facility during this period of heavy use outside of the school day hours. If you are attending a school related or Greenland Recreation basketball event, in either the gymnasium or multi purpose room, we ask that you **please respect and care for the facility by adhering to the following:**
  - Bring **no food or beverage** into these areas
  - Please **supervise children** at all times and limit all activity and movement to the basketball venues that have been assigned.
  - Please **wipe your feet** before entering the gymnasium or school, **do not dribble basketballs** except in the gymnasium or multi purpose room, do not allow children to run in the building, leave assigned areas, linger in bathrooms, go onto the stage or play carelessly on the bleachers.
- **Student Supervision** – A reminder to parents that students are not to arrive at school until **7:25 each morning** and that they are to leave at dismissal unless participating in a supervised school sponsored after school activity. Students have been reminded of this, and they are not to return to school unless with an adult. Any student who has a late sports practice should arrive **no more than 10 minutes before practice time**, and arrangements should be made for **prompt pick up at the end of all practices and games.**

**Note:** All students participating in winter sports have received a more comprehensive notice with similar reminders and expectations.

### **Thank You and Congratulations Department**

Although the following offerings are numerous it is impossible to capture all of the acknowledgements that are due to staff, students and parents in this busy school community. I commend those noted below and I apologize for any contributions or achievements that I may have overlooked. I do acknowledge many staff accomplishments in my school based Staff Notes.

- Hats off to our nine members of the **Greenland Central School Girls on the Run Program**, eight of whom competed in and completed the culminating **5K road race on Sunday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> in Newfields, NH.** In addition to the training and character building educational component of the program the students also took on a service project making jewelry and pet beds which they sold and raised \$200 they contributed to the SPCA and the homeless. We commend all of our student participants **including Tesa Aliouche, Brynn Comtois, Marisa Frizzle, Allie Hagner, Gabby Matheney, Rachel Mooers, Mia Pantenella, Janna Sargent and Kayleigh Vogel.** We extend special thanks to their advisors who successfully launched this program in Greenland for the first year and they are parents **Christine Aliouche, Sandy Maroni and Maureen Moore.**

- Congratulations to the **Greenland Central School Band members** in grades 4-8 who marched in the Portsmouth Holiday Parade this past Saturday evening. Under **Mr. Young's** direction the band braved challenging weather conditions, performing wonderful seasonal songs. Mr. Young would like to thank the parents who make up the **GCS Band Boosters Club** for handling many of the parade details and he would also like to thank the **five Portsmouth High School Band members** who assisted our students on percussion.
- Congratulations to the members of the **Friends of Rachel Service Organization** in grades 6-8 who visited the Wentworth Connections Senior Center on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The students brought great joy to the elderly residents as they engaged in crafts and sang carols. **The Friends of Rachel advisors, Mrs. Cleary, Mrs. Frizzle and Mrs. Roberts** were extremely proud of the students for the kindness, warmth and maturity they exhibited during the visit. They also thank the following parents who assisted with this field trip **Polly Flagg, Marybeth Hardy, Kelly Sinclair and Sandy Tague.**
- **Congratulations to the Greenland Determinators** our school's Lego League Team that competed in regional competition recently at the University of New Hampshire. The team presented a research project to a panel of judges, participated in technical interviews, and then performed well in the timed robot competition. The team received a 2<sup>nd</sup> place award out of 18 teams for **Teamwork**. Team members include **Adrian Whitford, William Hamel, Reese Carolan, Parker Philbrick, Matthew Dowling, Riley Burke, Cameron Callahan, Harrison Flagg, Johnnes Stromksi, Ian Stromski** and special thanks to parent coaches **Joe Philbrick and Rob Dowling** and to our school advisor **Mrs. Sommers.**
- Hats off to the following **GCS staff members** who completed **CPR training** here at school and to **Mrs. Misiaszek** who provide the instruction, **Beth Kendall, Andrea Gordon, Sandy Feeney, Jonathan Dowling, Helen Graham, Vickie Canner, Nancy Emerson, Barbara Prien and Andrea Prieto.**
- Many thanks to the **Greenland Parent Organization (GPO)** for recent fundraising and social events including:
  - The annual **Italian Dinner** which this year featured not only fine food but an excellent magic show for after dinner entertainment. This year's dinner was a huge success and we commend parent **Liza Oprandi** and all those who assisted her.
  - The second annual **Barnes and Noble Book Fair** which included wonderful literacy based activities for students at the Newington Store and the opportunity for parents to purchase books with a portion of the proceeds going to support the GPO. We thank coordinators **Michelle Gage and Cheryl Van Allen** for again organizing this great event.
  - Many thanks to parent **Pam Gentile** for again this year coordinating the **GPO Poinsettia sale** and to all those who have supported this and other GPO events and fundraisers.
- Hats off to parent **Polly Flagg** who in coordination with **our Friends of Rachel Service Group** in grades 6-8 sponsored the **Do Good Denim** drive through which

denim pants were donated and sent to those in need along with inspiring messages.

### **Other Notes and Events**

- **Concert Reminder** – A reminder to parents that students in **grades K-2** will perform their **holiday concert** on **Tuesday evening December 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium**. All K-2 students should arrive at their classrooms by 6:45 on Tuesday evening. For those who arrive early they should stay with their parents until 6:45 and then proceed to their classrooms. **Please note-** as a courtesy I would ask that parents do not arrive and reserve seating until 6:30 p.m.
- **The Greenland Educational Improvement Plan (G.E.I.P.) Steering Committee** has revised the short and long range goals, objectives and initiatives in the annual plan. This plan has been endorsed and approved by the faculty and School Board, and is now posted on the school web site.
- **Parents Night Out** – Greenland teachers are sponsoring a Parents Night Out on the evening of **Friday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 6-9 p.m.** For a small contribution of \$5, which will be donated to the Greenland Food Pantry, you may leave your child in the hands of Greenland staff between the hours of 6 and 9 p.m., when they will play games, work on crafts, watch movies, and socialize with friends. This of course will provide **parents the opportunity to do last minute shopping or enjoy other kid free activities**. The Greenland faculty has developed this event as part of our “Service to Others”, to show appreciation to our wonderful Greenland families and to benefit the Greenland Food Pantry at this important time of year.

### **Honor Roll**

We are pleased to recognize the following junior high students who achieved honors during the first marking term of this school year. This accomplishment represents commitment and hard work and the students are to be congratulated. We appreciate the role you play as parents in providing the necessary support and encouragement. These students were treated to ice cream sundaes in recognition of their efforts and we of course hope they will keep up the good work. **Grade 8 –Highest Honors** - Evan Couture and Fae Kayarian. **High Honors** - Amanda Annicelli, Zachary Frizzle, Patrick Jardine, Lauren Melanson, Ashlie O’Brien, Abigail Scharff, Maranda Searles, Christian Vance, Hope Weaver, James Casella, Olivia Church, Andrew Hutchinson, Rebecca King, Abigail McDonough, Elise McDonough, Christopher Peel, Carol Santos, Elizabeth Carr, Kate Gibney, James Haslam, Sarah Jousset, Marissa Keighley, Jamie Kelly, Cameron McColough, Griffin Mooers, Alex Stone, and Devin Wilson. **Honors-** Thomas Duplessis Jake Rogers, Vincent Sacramone, Mac Allen, Michael Davies, Timothy Waryas, Miles Prevost and Nathaniel Wilson.

**7th Grade - Highest Honors** - Claire Fee, Annika Hamilton, Erin McSally, Peyton Cirulli and Ivey Telles. **High Honors** - Danielle Egeland, Ryan Forbes, William Lebar, Ella Maroni, Isabelle Pafford, Michael Samonas, Amy Vaughn, Sam Vitale, Nicholas Waite, Matthew Durant, Cole Gendron, Haile Hamlett, Lucas Hartmann, Max Matheny, Hunter Maurice, Catherine McDevitt, Sarah Molleur, and Charley Prevost. **Honors** - Joshua Barrett, Isaac Churchill-Broadbery, and Gerty Flagg.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade - Highest Honors** - Kevin Adair. **High Honors** -Tiger Destefano, Emily Durant, Jane Kayarian, Mary McDevitt, Tabatha Nason, Natalie Tague, Joshua Churchill-Broadbery, Emma Conner, Lucian Eaton, Chance Edgerly, Elana Estabrook, Nicole Sinclair, Bryce Smith, Katie Tucker, Keaghan Vogel, Elizabeth Hardy, Katie Locandro Madison Ovadek, Cal Govoni, and James Hamel. **Honors** -Zac Defreze, Brian Hagan, Daniel McGrenaghan, Johnna Oliver, Nicholas Pitts, Kobie Taylor, Keegan Whitford, Reagan Williams, and Molly Flagg.

### **Bee Season**

The school wide **Spelling and Geography Bees** are upcoming and we hope you have received information about these at home. Mrs. Sommers is holding Spelling Bee practice after school on Wednesdays in December and early January and we look forward to this school wide event for grades 4-8. Spelling Bee classroom competitions will be held January 25 -29. Each classroom winner will compete in the **school wide Spelling Bee on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

The **Geography Bee class competitions** will take place **Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>** and the top ten finalists will compete in a **school wide bee on January 27<sup>th</sup>**. If any parent would like more information about how their child can prepare for these two events or any other related questions you are encouraged to contact Mrs. Sommers at 431-6723.

### **Athletic News**

The 2009-2010 Winter Basketball season is underway with 50 students in 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade participating.

Thank you very much to the following coaches who put in many hours with the students during the week preparing them for a tough game schedule:

Jeff Jousett Girls 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

Kathleen Reardon Girls 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Jonathan Dowling and Travis Ducharme Boys, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade

You can access the game schedule through the **Athletic Site on the School Web Page**. It is located on the right hand side of the page under Quick Links. You can view an up to date season calendar including game and practice schedules and school driving directions with addresses under the Driving Directions link for use with GPS.

The athletic site is updated daily and is your best resource for school athletics.

### **Lost and Found**

Our school's Lost and Found is again overflowing its bin and between now and the holiday recess the items will be put out on display for students to claim. If you feel that your child has misplaced any clothing item, lunch box, etc., please encourage them to retrieve it or check out the Lost and Found yourself. **Items remaining in the Lost and Found at the time of the holiday break will be sent off to a charitable organization.**