



Greenland Central School Principal's Newsletter October 2009



Calendar

October 19	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
October 30	Halloween Parade and Parties, 1 p.m. – K-2
November 6	Family Roller Skating, 5:30 – 7:30 – Newington Skate
November 10	Veteran's Day Celebration
November 11	No School , Veteran's Day Observed
November 16	Quarter 1 Report Cards Issued
November 16	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
November 19	GPO Italian Dinner, 5-7 p.m.

Please note the School Cancellation/Delayed Opening and Early Release Information Sheet attached to this Newsletter. In addition to television and radio announcements, I will also try to convey all closures or delays via our GCS Community e-mail.

Monthly Message

Confidentiality is an important and serious issue in any school setting and you may have noticed signage regarding confidentiality now posted in our school. Guidelines and expectations pertaining to our staff have been clearly outlined in our staff handbook and our faculty recently attended an information session regarding the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) which provided further clarification on this topic. I will take the opportunity of this month's message to remind our school families that you too have an obligation to treat confidentially, any information you may encounter about our students that would be privileged and pertaining to their school experience/record be it academic, behavioral, social or emotional.

School employees can only discuss with you official matters regarding your child and no other. We have been advised not to reference student names directly in email communication and it would be helpful if parents did likewise, utilizing initials or references to son or daughter so that our staff members can exercise the email reply option. We recognize that rarely does anyone have ill intent when discussing or communicating school related matters, but there are clearly new rules in our age of rapid and high tech communication and I ask that all members of our school community exercise discretion and confidentiality with school/student related issues.

School Safety

Our school Safety and Emergency Management Team met recently for the annual review of procedures and guidelines in our plan. We have planned and conducted building evacuation drills, bus emergency drills and will soon conduct a school "lock down" which will be unannounced. The efforts of our Emergency Management Team are carried out in conjunction with the Greenland Police and Fire Departments. We look forward to the comprehensive **Fire Safety Program** that will be conducted by the Greenland Fire Department for all students in grades **K-4 on Friday, October 23rd**. The Greenland Central School Emergency/Crisis

Management Plan can be found on our web site at <http://www.sau50.org/gcs> go to Family Resources then to Policies and Procedures.

On a related note I have been asked by the Greenland Police Department to remind all Greenland families to please drive slowly and exercise caution on the access roads to the town's athletic fields. Specific concerns have been raised about excess speed on the access to the Post Road Athletic Fields.

School Lunch Reminder

As noted in a recent letter sent to all GCS families **the cost of ice cream at school lunch will increase from .25 cents to .50 cents beginning this coming Monday, October 19, 2009.** The cost of **school lunch will increase on January 2, 2010 to \$2.25 for grades K-5 and \$2.50 for grades 6-8.** As noted in my earlier letter this increase is being implemented after very careful consideration and analysis regarding costs impacting our food service.

I thank those parents who completed the **Food Service Survey** included with my recent letter, as we will use those recommendations and suggestions in considering any adjustments to our lunch program. It is not too late to send along the survey if you have not already, as we would welcome feedback at any time. If you no longer have access to the survey please contact the school office and we will forward one to you.

NECAP State Testing

We will complete this year's **NECAP state testing for grades 3-8** with the writing component for grades 5 & 8 on October 14th. Students were tested over the last two weeks in math and language arts and we appreciate everyone's efforts to insure that students were well prepared to do their best on these important assessments. The results from the fall NECAP testing will be shared with us mid-year and reports will be sent home at that time.

The results of the **NECAP Science Test** that was administered to **grades 4 & 8** last May were recently sent home to parents. The percent of proficiency at both grade levels improved for Greenland students over last year and were considerably higher than state averages. The grade 8 NECAP science test appears to be quite challenging for students state-wide and I believe the agencies constructing these exams will continue to evaluate the content and format. Locally, we too will continue to look at the results and examine released items in an effort to help improve individual or group scores, as well as make adjustments to our curriculum and instruction.

SAU 50 Curriculum Updates

SAU 50 faculty and administration, in conjunction with our SAU Instruction and Curriculum Coordinator Linda Walsh, have spent considerable time aligning our district curriculum with the revised state standards. The components of our curriculum that have been fully aligned with these standards have been posted to the SAU 50 web site and are available to all members of our school community.

You can access them in two ways on the SAU 50 web site www.sau50.org:

1. Go to the Curriculum and Instruction tab at the top and in the drop down menu choose welcome. There is a direct link at the bottom of that letter to the page where the curriculum is posted.
2. Go to the Curriculum and Instruction tab at the top and in the drop down menu choose teaching and learning and then choose the core curriculum drop down.

Parent Conferences

An early note to parents that **parent/teacher conferences will be conducted in mid November** after the end of the first marking term. Parents in grades K-5 can expect to hear from their child's teacher in early to mid November with regard to conference dates and times. Our teachers in grades 6-8 will again this year use an online scheduling service and that information will be coming your way in early November.

Junior High News

Students in **grades 6-8 enjoyed their annual field day and cookout on Friday, October 2nd** with events intended to build spirit and collaboration within the middle school grades. Again this year the teachers and students in **grades K-2** were invited to join the older students for their cookout and some games which followed. Our junior high students were great buddies and role models during this most enjoyable event and we commend the entire junior high team for putting forth the extra planning and thoughtfulness this entailed.

Greenland **8th graders attended the Universal Challenge Ropes Course** at the UNH Browne Center in Durham on **Thursday, October 15th**. The focus of the day was "challenge by choice" utilizing communication and problem solving skills to accomplish group and individual challenges while having a great deal of fun and excitement.

During the **week of October 26th, our 6th grade students will head off to the Natures Classroom** environmental school program for a week of residential living and learning on Cape Cod.

Upcoming Events

- This year's **school-wide theme is "service to others"** and planning is currently underway with regard to activities and initiatives which will add to the many traditional charitable activities our school currently undertakes. Our Committee here at school is currently designing a yearlong service commitment for our students along with other service related events and presentations. If any parent has ideas, suggestions or connections they feel could lend to this year's theme we would welcome any input or assistance. Please feel free to contact me here at school and I will share your ideas and interest with our planning team.
- The Rye Parent Teacher Association will be sponsoring a **Digital Technology Seminar on October 22nd at 6:45 in** the Rye Junior High School gymnasium. The presentation is intended to increase awareness for parents about internet and cell phone usage by their children. All SAU 50 parents are invited to attend this presentation. **Please see the attached flyer.**
- **Halloween Parade/Parties** – The annual **Halloween Parade** will begin promptly at **1 p.m. on Friday, October 30th**. Weather permitting the parade will march from the

playground along the walkway in front of the Stone Building and new addition. Parents are invited to view this spectacle from the car and bus lanes in front of the school or from the playground area. Halloween parties for grades K-2 will follow in the classrooms before dismissal.

- The annual **Greenland Central School Veteran's Day celebration** will take place on **Tuesday, November 10th at 9 a.m.** **Military veterans are invited to join us** that day to be acknowledged and honored for their service. It is never too late to **submit the name and address of a veteran** to be invited to our Veteran's Day celebration. Please contact the school office or teacher Sheila Pratt if you would like to add someone to our list of special guests.
- Please mark your calendar for the evening of **November 19th** when the GPO will sponsor their annual **Italian Dinner in the school cafeteria**. This wonderful dining and social event should not be missed and more information will be coming your way next month.

Thank You Department

Many thanks to the Greenland Parent Organization which is off to a great start this year hard at work on many initiatives which support opportunities for our students here at school.

- Thanks to parent **Pam Tucker** who compiled this years GCS family directory. This is a valuable resource for parents and school staff alike.
- Hats off to parent **Diane Hartmann** as she again organized the Genevieve Gift Wrap fundraiser which is an important annual GPO fundraiser.
- A big thank you to parent **Wendy Halligan and Mark Fodero** who organized this year's annual GPO Golf Tournament which supports the GPO Scholarship program.
- Many thanks to the following parents who donated their time and assistance with the recent junior high/K-2 cookout: **Heidi Duncanson, Michelle Edgerly, Will Locandro, Michael McSally, Valerie O'Brien, and Scott and Cricket Prevost.**
- Thanks to the **GPO** for a very generous gift contribution in support of the **junior high/K-2 cookout, Life Skills Small Tools Program** and the **Junior High 10th Player Program** to name a few.

Title I Right to Know

The following statement is provided as a requirement for all schools who receive Title I funds from the federal government. I am pleased to report that **all Greenland faculty meet the state's Highly Qualified Teacher (HQT) status.**

The statement is as follows:

As a parent of a student at Greenland Central School you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers who instructs your child. Federal law allows you to ask for certain information about your child's classroom teachers and requires us to give you this information in a timely manner if you ask for it. Specifically you have the right to ask for the following information about each of your child's classroom teachers:

- Whether the State of New Hampshire has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she teaches.
- Whether the State of New Hampshire has decided the teacher can teach in a classroom without being licensed or qualified under state regulations because of special circumstances.

- The teachers college major, whether the teacher has any advanced degrees and, if so, the subject of the degrees.
- Whether any teacher's aide or similar paraprofessionals provide services to your child and, if they do, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive any of this information please contact Principal Peter Smith.

News from the Athletic Department – Mrs. Feeney

We had a very successful fall season and we are gearing up for a full winter sports season. More information on basketball teams, schedules and practice times will follow after sign ups have been completed.

Please make sure that if your child is interested in playing Junior High Basketball this winter (7th and 8th graders only) they sign up ASAP. **The sign up sheets are located in the cafeteria and will be there until October 23rd.** With the large number of participants this year, we will not be able to accept any late sign ups.

If you don't already use it, **please visit the Athletic Site on the School Web Page.** It is located on the right hand side of the page under Quick Links. Some new features include:

- All **athletic forms** available for download
- Up to date **season calendars** including games and practices
- Full addresses (when available) under the **Driving Directions** link for use with GPS
- **News Flash system** for quick important updates (you can also enter a cell phone number to receive the information via text message)

Please remember that ALL 3 athletic forms need to be filled out for your child to participate. It is important you fill in all of the insurance information on the medical form every time as these forms travel with your child's coach and are then discarded after the season.

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

News from the Library Media Center – Mrs. Bacon

Please do not hesitate to contact us (sbacon@sau50.org) if you have any questions or problems relating to books your child has borrowed from us (lost books, prefer different reading level, etc.).

Reminder: **check out our website at <http://www.sau50.org/gcs>, click on Media Center.** Links on "Parent Resources" page include homework help, Everyday Math Parent Homeroom, and internet safety tips. "Field Trip Links" page has links to sites families can visit before or after a field trip!

Cool Website of the Month: www.myoats.com (online drawing application)