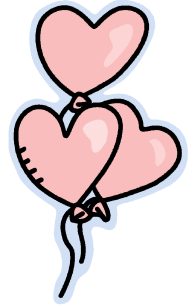


**Greenland Central School
Principal's Newsletter
February 2010**



Calendar

February 18	Grade 8 Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser, 5-8 p.m.
February 22 -26	No School , Winter Vacation
March 3	Junior High Quarter 3 Progress Reports Distributed
March 5	Family Roller Skating, Newington Skate, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
March 9	Town Voting, GCS Multi Purpose Room
March 10	Annual School District Meeting 7 p.m. – GCS Multi Purpose Room (snow date March 11 th),
March 12	Drama Production of Alice in Wonderland Jr. – 7 p.m.

Monthly Message

A reminder to Greenland parents that we are in the midst of budget season and the school's 2010-11 budget will soon be brought forward for a vote of approval at the Annual School District Meeting in March. The proposed budget as recommended with reductions from the Budget Committee was reviewed at the public hearing last Wednesday evening February 10th and raised few questions. The operating budget will likely be at or close to zero in terms of any increase and the Budget Committee will make their final recommendations in the coming days. There is also a Warrant Article for a three year teacher contract that seeks a zero increase in year one and cost of living increases in years two and three.

I encourage all Greenland parents to attend the **Annual School District Meeting on Wednesday, March 10th at 7 p.m.** to once again show your support for our school programs and personnel.

2010-11 Kindergarten/School Registration

We are currently registering kindergarten students for the **2010-11 school year**. You may register by stopping by the school office any day between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m. Students entering kindergarten must be five years old on or before September 30th of 2010. A kindergarten parent information night will be held on the evening of **May 6, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.**

Students entering first grade in September of 2010 who did not attend Greenland kindergarten are also encouraged to come in and register at this time. If registrations for next year greatly exceed our expectations this could have a significant impact on our staffing and class sizes. If you have any questions you may call the school office at 431-6723 and I ask that you please share this information with any friend or neighbor who would not receive this notice.

Parent Input Follow Up Surveys

A reminder to all parents that we are seeking any additional **Parent Input Follow Up Surveys** that have not already been returned to your child's teacher. The surveys that were enclosed with the quarter 2 report cards were a follow up to those sent at the beginning of the school year soliciting your feedback, recommendations, comments, etc. with regard to how we can make your child's experience at school as positive and rewarding as possible. Any additional surveys that can be sent along would be appreciated even if you are simply reporting that everything is going well.

NECAP Results

Results from the October administration of the New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) testing for grades 3-8 have been released and will be mailed home to parents within the next week. Greenland students performed well on this regional assessment and were generally above the state average in all subject areas in all grades tested. As I have noted in my letter to parents that will accompany the results, we will conduct an item analysis for all grades to determine if there are any aspects of our curriculum or instruction in need of review.

A reminder that we will conduct the annual Terra Nova nationally normed standardized testing for grades 2-8 on the dates of April 6-8. We ask that you try to avoid student absences during those days.

Please feel free to contact myself or guidance counselor Sheila Cleary if you have any questions regarding any of this testing.

Service to Others

This year's school wide **theme of "Service to Others"** has so far been a huge success with a variety of very positive initiatives and a great deal of student involvement. You may have noticed the beautiful "Service to Others" bulletin board display in our main lobby where we are highlighting the efforts of students after they have been shared with the school during morning announcements. Our students were particularly active over the holidays and families continue to find wonderful opportunities for their children to volunteer and help others. Those activities coupled with many initiatives here at school have been most gratifying for all involved.

This theme has inspired many wonderful activities such as our knitting club where 32 students are helping to make helmet warmers for soldiers, first graders are engaged with the Salvation Army making meals for those in need, many students have been active with the Pease Greeters, helping in nursing homes, assisting neighbors, volunteering through their church and scouts, and we are very proud of everyone's efforts.

The **Student Council Hat Day for Haiti** raised over \$700 dollars and during the junior high spirit week we are collecting Cell Phones for Soldiers and contributions for the Greenland Food Pantry. The **Friends of Rachel** service organization involving students in grades 6-8 has been working with their peers and younger students to promote a positive school climate and they have recently met with their counterpart from Portsmouth High

School to share ideas. The **Blue Ocean Society** conducted assemblies for all three houses on Wednesday, February 10th and they connected last year's Green Theme with this year's emphasis on volunteering, through their presentation about our coastal environment and the clean up efforts they sponsor. We are gearing up for our **school wide Day of Service on Friday, April 23rd** and if any parent has strong interest or connections to our theme I ask you to please contact me about further involvement. Please watch your community email for a list of local opportunities to further involve your child in service to others and again I thank all of our families for your support and encouragement around these important activities.

Activities and Events

The following are highlights of recent or upcoming school events:

- **Geography Bee** – Our school held its annual Geography Bee on January 27th as part of the National Geographic National Geography Bee competition. Students in grades 4-8 competed in classroom competitions sending forth eleven classroom winners to compete in the school wide championship. We congratulate our Geography Bee finalists including **Ginny Church, Reece Carolan, Will Mauer, Andrew Fogarty, Iain Cutter, James Hamel, Nick Waite, Matt Durant, Andrew Hutchinson, Miles Prevost, and Vince Sacramone**. Sixth grader **James Hamel** emerged as our school champion with 5th grader **Will Mauer** the runner up. James will now complete a written test to determine his eligibility to compete further in the regional and national rounds. We commend our bee moderator **Mr. Dowling**, Judge **Mr. Chandler** and our Geography Bee Coordinator **Mrs. Sommers**.
- **Spelling Bee** – Our annual Spelling Bee was conducted on Tuesday, February 2nd as eleven classroom winners competed in the school finals of the Scripps National Spelling Bee contest before a packed gymnasium audience. We congratulate the following classroom winners **William Hamel, Trevor Van Allen, Kyle Allen, Kevin Moore, Zac DeFreze, James Hamel, Ella Maroni, Ivey Telles, James Haslam, Rebecca King, Abby Scharff, and Maranda Searles**. Hats off to this year's champion 7th grader **Ella Maroni**, to second place runner-up **Kyle Allen**, and third place runner-up **Rebecca King**. Ella will compete in March at the regional competition at the Portsmouth Elks Club. We thank our guest Spelling Bee Moderator **Mr. Brian Fogarty** as well as our judge **Mrs. Bacon**. Again we commend our Extended Learning Coordinator **Mrs. Sommers** for the tremendous amount of work she invested in organizing the Spelling Bee event.
- **Literary Lunches** – Again this year our Librarian **Mrs. Bacon** has organized literary lunches for grades 3 and 4, when guest readers share engaging stories over the course of the week during the student lunch periods. Upwards of 20 students may sign up for any given week's reading and this activity is extremely popular as we promote reading at GCS. Many thanks to this year's guest readers, media center assistant **Mrs. Kendall**, Weeks Public Library Librarian **Mrs. MacDonald**, Title I Tutor **Ms. Brown**, grade 3 teacher **Mrs. Simons**, and grade 4 teacher **Mrs. Deely**.
- **Band Festival** – GCS Junior High Band members attended the **Solo and Ensemble Festival at Keene State University this past Saturday, February 13, 2010**. Participants in the festival were **Jaime Kelly, Elise McDonough, Amy Vaughn, Peyton Cirulli, Sarah Molleur, Emily Durant, Claire Fee, Ivey Telles, Cole**

- Gendron and Abby McDonough.** Several students received “A” ratings for their solos and duets and the judges were extremely complimentary of our students playing ability and gave them many helpful hints towards future performances and guidance on playing their instruments. We commend our band instructor **Mr. Young** for providing this wonderful opportunity for our band students to participate with middle school and high school students from all parts of New Hampshire.
- **Grade 8 Spaghetti Dinner** – Eighth grade students are sponsoring a **Spaghetti Dinner this Thursday evening, February 18th from 5-7 p.m.** This event is a fundraiser for their end of the year graduation trip to New York City. Please join them for a delicious spaghetti dinner including meatballs, salad, bread, beverage and dessert. The cost is \$5 per person or an entire family of four or more for just \$20.
 - **Spirit Week/Winter Carnival** – We are in the midst of junior high spirit week, February 15-19 culminating in winter carnival events on **Friday, February 19th.** Amidst the fun and competition for students in grades 6-8 they are sponsoring two service projects, the **collection of Cell Phones for Soldiers** and **collection of food for the Greenland Food Pantry.** Notices regarding both of these events have been sent home and the junior high students as well as these important service programs would greatly appreciate your support.
 - **Drama Production** – The **Greenland Drama Club** will be presenting the play **Alice in Wonderland Junior on Friday evening March 12th at 7 p.m. on the GCS stage.** The cast, crew and directors have been working hard on this year’s production and I strongly recommend that you mark that date on your calendar and plan to attend. More information about the play will be coming your way nearer to the date.
 - **GPO/RIF Book Swap** – The **GPO and Reading is Fundamental (RIF)** are sponsoring a school wide book swap on **Wednesday, March 17, 2010.** Students may bring in up to four books for swapping **on or before Friday, March 12th** and will then be able to select four books at the end of their lunch period on March 17th. The book swap organizers ask that students **bring in books that are at their current grade and reading level** and books will be collected in their classrooms/homerooms up until March 12th. More information about the book swap will be coming home soon and we hope this effort to recycle and put new reading material into the hands of our students will be a great success.
 - **Talent Show** – In the planning ahead department the **Greenland Talent Show will take place on Friday, April 16th,** but **auditions** are right around the corner on **March 15th and 16th.** It is not too soon to be planning and rehearsing your act as we begin gearing up for another wonderful night of talent here at school.

Junior High Honor Roll

The following students have achieved honors in the second quarter of the school year. Students were rewarded for their hard work with the opportunity to make their own ice cream sundaes on Friday, February 12th. Additionally, their names will appear in upcoming issues of the Portsmouth Herald and Fosters Daily Democrat. **Grade 6: Highest Honors – Natalie Tague. High Honors – Kevin Adair, Tiger Destefano, Emily Durant, Jane Kayarian, Kobie Taylor, Emma Connor, Chance Edgerly, Elana Estabrook, Cal Govoni, James Hamel, Katherine Locandro, Nicole Sinclair, Katie Tucker, and**

Keaghan Vogel. Honors – Mary McDevitt, Tabatha Nason, Johnna Oliver, Nicholas Pitts, Joshua Churchill-Broadbery, Molly Flagg, Elizabeth Hardy, Madison Ovedek, and Bryce Smith. Grade 7: Highest Honors – Claire Fee and Annika Hamilton. High Honors – Peyton Cirulli, Matt Durant, Cole Gendron, Haile Hamlett, Lucas Hartmann, Max Matheny, Ivey Telles, Danielle Egeland, Erin McSally, Michael Samonas, Amy Vaughn, and Sam Vitale. Honors – Gerty Flagg, Hunter Maurice, Catherine McDevitt, Charley Prevost, Will Lebar, Ella Maroni, and Nicholas Waite. Grade 8: Highest Honors – Patrick Jardine, Lauren Melanson, Abigail Scharff, Evan Couture, and Fae Kayarian. High Honors – Ashlie O’Brien, Maranda Searles, Olivia Church, Andrew Hutchinson, Abigail McDonough, Elise McDonough, Kate Gibney, Sarah Jousset, Miles Prevost, and Alex Stone. Honors – Sam Davies, Thomas Duplessis, Vincent Sacramone, Christian Vance, Hope Weaver, Mac Allen, Caroline Campano, James Casella, Michael Davies, Rebecca King, Carol Santos, Elizabeth Carr, James Haslam, Marissa Keighley, Jamie Kelly, and Cameron McColough.

Items in Brief

- **CPR Training** – Congratulations to the following Greenland staff members who have recently completed and/or updated their adult and child CPR and AED (defibrillator) certification. **Sue Bacon, Dana McKenna, Ken Olsen, Rynne Earley, Liz Smith, and Peter Smith.** Many thanks to our school nurse **Maryann Misiaszek** for again conducting this Red Cross certified course.
- **Yearbook Sales** – Orders are now being taken for the 2009-10 Greenland Viking Yearbook. The cost for this beautiful full color yearbook is \$24 and checks should be made out to the Greenland Central School or GCS. Yearbooks may be ordered through March 5, 2010 and order forms are available in the office and have also been sent home.
- **Box Top Reminder** – A reminder that the GPO is sponsoring a **Box Top for Education collection contest through the end of this week February 19th.** The classroom/homeroom that collects the most Box Tops for Education will win an ice cream party. **Please send in any box tops you have by the end of this week.**