



Greenland Central School  
Principal's Newsletter  
January 2010



Calendar

January 13	GPO Meeting, 7 p.m.
January 18	<b>No School</b> , Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observed
January 22	Quarter 2 Ends
January 25	Kindergarten Flip (a.m. and p.m. session switch)
January 27	Geography Bee, 8 a.m.
January 28	Band Concert, Grades 4-8 – 7 p.m.
February 2	Quarter 2 Report Cards Issued Spelling Bee, 8 a.m.
February 5	Family Roller Skating, Newington Skate, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**Monthly Message**

In this brief message and fairly brief newsletter I would like to extend best wishes to all Greenland families for a happy and healthy new year.

On behalf of the entire Greenland staff I will take this opportunity to express our joy and relief that the two near tragic situations that beset our school community in recent months have had positive outcomes.

On a final note I again encourage all school families to make “Service to Others” one of their new years resolutions and ask parents to support their children in finding opportunities to assist others and record their volunteer service in support of their service pledge.

**Parent Input Survey**

In our efforts to personalize education we conducted **Parent Input Surveys** at the beginning of the school year which were informative and helpful to our teaching staff. It is our intent to follow up on those surveys by checking in at the mid-year point for any additional input or insight, as we did last year. Through our school’s **Aspirations Team** we have constructed a brief **follow up survey which will be sent home with the quarter 2 report cards. We ask that you please take a minute to reflect on your child’s experience thus far in the school year and provide any feedback to his/her teacher(s) that will help to make the year even more rewarding and productive.**

**2010-11 Kindergarten/School Registration, etc.**

- A reminder to all current kindergarten parents that our a.m. and p.m. sessions will flip at the semester change on **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**. Information regarding the mid-year flip has been sent home by Mrs. Barnes and if you have any questions please feel free to contact her or the school office.

- **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 30<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **Safety Reminders**

- **Parking Lot Procedures** – During these winter months we appear to have an influx in students being brought to school by private car. In light of this increased traffic in our parking lot I remind you of the following: **Students arriving by car should be dropped at the sidewalk in front of the Stone Building** where traffic is monitored and students can access all entrances safely. To make the drop off process efficient we ask that **parents have their child ready to quickly get out of the car and that all cars pull up as far as they can so that several cars can unload at once.** Parents may drop junior high students at the sidewalk by the Superintendent's office but we ask that you please pull to the curb. **Only extenuating circumstances should have cars pulling into the first parking lot lane** closest to the building (i.e. crutches, delivery of a large item, etc.) and there the drop off should take place at the crosswalk and you may be held up from exiting if the school buses are in the bus lane and their flashing stop signs are operating. The increase in activity along with ice and snow banks pose potential risk and I ask that all drivers in our school parking lot exercise extreme caution, reduced speed, and constant awareness for pedestrians. **Please note that on Wednesday mornings in January and February** drivers dropping students in front of the stone building must be aware of other cars passing through to the far lot, to drop equipment for Ski Club.

### **Budget Process**

A reminder that budget season is fast approaching and the School Board and administration are putting the final touches on the **2010-11 School District Budget**. The Greenland Budget Committee will conduct the **Annual Public Hearing** for both the school district and town budgets on **Wednesday evening, February 10, 2010 (snow date 2/11)**. That meeting will get underway at 6:30 p.m. and the school budget will be discussed first. This is the opportunity for citizens to see and comment on the proposed budgets and provide input to the Budget Committee before their final recommendations. The final school budget will be voted on at the **Annual School District Meeting** which is scheduled for **Wednesday evening March 10, 2010 at 7 p.m. in the multi-purpose**

**room.** Out of consideration for these challenging economic times school officials have worked particularly hard to develop a very lean and level budget reflecting only items that are essential and/or non-discretionary.

### **Thanks and acknowledgements**

- Hats off to Greenland staff members **Mrs. Pratt, Mrs. Deremer, Mrs. Canner, Miss Little, Mrs. Sommers, Mrs. Kendall, Mrs. Earley, Mrs. Connelly, Mrs. Deely, Mrs. Jenkins, Mrs. Emerson, Mrs. Frizzle, Mrs. Leach and Mr. Norton** for hosting the **Parents Night Out** activity on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Nearly 50 elementary students enjoyed a range of crafts, entertainment, and activities between 6 and 9 p.m. while their parents enjoyed some special kid free time to relax or further prepare for the holidays. The evening was provided as a service and thank you to the wonderful Greenland parents and a small \$5 donation per child was in turn donated to the Greenland Food Pantry.
- **Lowes Grant** – I am pleased to announce that the Greenland Central School has applied for and received a **community grant from the Lowes Corporation**. The **\$1000 award** will be presented during the grand opening ceremonies on Thursday, January 14<sup>th</sup> and the money will be used to support a variety of direct student services that are not generally funded through the school budget.
- The **2010 Ski Club** season is underway with a large number of 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders participating this year. The club will be heading to Gunstock Ski Area on Wednesday afternoons in January and February for skiing and boarding with friends and classmates. Thanks again this year to coordinators **Sandy Tague** and **Wendy Haslam** and to those who will assist them as chaperones on the weekly trips.
- Many thanks to the **GPO** for their ongoing efforts on behalf of our students. The recent GPO Cookie Dough Fundraiser coordinated by parent **Polly Flagg** will support the Reading Resource Fund and other initiatives. Congratulations to GPO Co-Chairperson and Enrichment Coordinator **Kerrie Winsor** who has just released the latest schedule of enrichment activities. The GPO enrichment program again offers a wonderful variety of after school activities and we commend Kerrie for all of her hard work on this challenging and important initiative.

### **Band Concert**

Our annual **Winter Band Concert** will take place on **Thursday evening, January 28<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the gymnasium**. A reminder will be sent home to parents of all band members in grades 4-8 and parents are asked to encourage participants to practice regularly between now and the concert.

We commend our **band students** and **director Mr. Young** for providing holiday music in the cafeteria during lunch prior to the school vacation. Thanks also to Mr. Young for his donation to the Media Center of a yearlong subscription to the Smithsonian Magazine.