



## Greenland Central School Principal's Newsletter September 2009



### Calendar

September 16	GPO Meeting , 7 p.m.
September 17	Open House, Grades K-5, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
September 21	School Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
September 25	School Pictures, Pre-K-8
	Dance, Grades 6-8 – 6:30 – 9 p.m.
October 2	Family Roller Skating, 5:30 -7:30
October 6, 7, 8 & 14	NECAP Testing, Grades 3-8 (see below)
October 9	<b>No School for Students, SAU 50 In-service Day</b>
October 12	<b>No School, Columbus Day Observed</b>

**Please Note:** The Greenland School District Calendar distributed last spring had a minor error regarding the semester schedule. Please note on the corrected copy attached to this Newsletter that the **first semester runs from September 1 through January 22** and the **second semester runs from January 25 to the last day of school**. This change effects the date for the **kindergarten flip** (a.m. and p.m. sessions) which now occurs on **Monday, January 25<sup>th</sup>**.

### Monthly Message

Welcome back! The new school year is underway and we are off to a great start. It is wonderful to have our eager and enthusiastic students back in the building and to see so many parents and families at Open House, barbecue and co-curricular events, as we start this new school year.

The 2009-10 school year promises to be another exciting one with a new yearlong theme of “service to others”. Our students and staff have been very kind and thoughtful through various service and charitable projects in the past and we hope, through this year’s theme, to expand upon our efforts helping others in a variety of ways.

I am pleased to report we received our official report from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges Elementary Commission informing us we have been approved for reaccreditation. The reports from the visiting team and the NEASC Commission were very complimentary of our school and the successful programs we have in place. They shared a few minor recommendations which will be addressed in our two and five-year reports. I thank those parents who assisted during our self study and visitation and I commend our entire school community for this significant accomplishment few other schools in our area have achieved.

A reminder as we start this school year that if you have any items related to school or education you would like to share through this Newsletter please feel free to contact me. Additionally, I welcome parental input, comments or concerns at anytime, as my door is always open for your questions and feedback.

### Staff Notes

We welcomed several new staff members this year and we are extremely pleased with the quality and experience they bring to our school. Our new staff members are: **Ryanne Earley**, Speech and Language Pathologist, **Kate Simons**, Grade 3 teacher, and **Amy Brown** and **Jessica Richardson**, Title I Tutors. As most parents know, the School Board added a third 1<sup>st</sup> grade class in late August due to increased enrollments during the summer. We were fortunate that previous Grade 1 teacher **Chrissy Vogel** was available and able to successfully step into that position on short notice, having done so two years earlier.

### Important Dates and Events

- **GPO Meeting** – The first meeting this year of the Greenland Parent Organization (GPO) is scheduled for **Wednesday evening, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m.** All Greenland parents are invited to attend and childcare is available.
- **Open House – Grades K-5** – As indicated in previous notices, the Open House for grades K-5 will be conducted this **Thursday evening, September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.** A letter was sent home last week regarding this event, and I have attached the same notice to his Newsletter.
- **First Lego League** – Students in grades 4-8 who are interested in joining GCS's First Lego League (FLL) are invited to an informational meeting with **Coach Joe Philbrick** and **Beth Sommers** on **Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in Room 210.** FLL is a competition that revolves around making Lego robots to complete a series of tasks. Students will also need to demonstrate teamwork and present research of this year's challenge at the regional competition at UNH in November.
- **School Pictures** – A reminder to parents that school pictures will be taken on **Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>** for all grades and packets and reminders will be sent home prior to that date.
- **Roller Skating** – Greenland Central School will again sponsor Friday Night Roller Skating at Roller Skate Newington. Our first night will occur on **Friday, October 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30-7:30 p.m.** All future roller skating dates have been listed on the **Calendar of Year-long Events** which you will receive soon. The cost for roller skating is \$5 per person which includes skate rental. We hope to see a big turnout for each roller skating night as this is truly a great family and social event.

### State Testing

The New England Common Assessment Program (NECAP) assessments will be administered to all Greenland students in grades 3-8 between October 6<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. **All 3<sup>rd</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be tested in the areas of math and language arts on the dates of Tuesday, October 6<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup>. Additionally, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the writing test on October 14<sup>th</sup>.**

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year we will be conducting these comprehensive tests covering math, reading and writing, and they will be used to measure student achievement. We are working hard in Greenland to prepare students to take these tests in the most conducive testing environment and with a most serious and earnest attitude. **We ask for parental help** in emphasizing with your child the importance of these tests and their attendance at school during the testing period. I would also emphasize the need to have a good night sleep and a nourishing breakfast. If you

have any questions about the NECAP assessments you are asked to contact myself or the Guidance Counselor Sheila Cleary at 431-6723.

### **Thank You Department**

- Hats off to the **Greenland Parent Organization** and parents **Kerrie and Rich Winsor** for coordinating or **15<sup>th</sup> Annual Welcome Back Family Barbecue** last Thursday evening. Thanks also to Food Service Director **Deb Heikkila and her staff** for helping to prepare for this event and to all those parents who attended and brought delicious side dishes and desserts for all to share.

Many thanks to the GPO and parents **Kathy Ricci, Ann West, Cindy Dube, Patty Porter, and Kim Stocker** for organizing summer social play dates at the school for our new families and kindergarten students prior to the school year.

- We would like to thank the following parents who have spent considerable time counting money and completing the paperwork associated with the grade 5-8 magazine fundraising effort. Hats off to **Tracy Barry, Felicia Sacramone, Michelle Locandro, Pam Tucker, Patty Pafford, Ann West, and Stacey Mood**. **Special thanks to Susan Vitale who coordinated this tremendous effort.**

### **School Arrival and Student Drop Off**

A reminder to all parents that **students are not to arrive at school before 7:25 a.m.** each morning. If on a rare occasion circumstances require that your child arrive slightly before 7:25 they are to sit on the benches in the main entrance or main lobby where they are to quietly wait until bus students are admitted into the building.

**I also remind those parents bringing students by car to please drop their children off at the sidewalk in front of the Stone Building or at the sidewalk by the Superintendent's Office for students in grades 6-8.** Please do not let students out in the middle of the parking lot and I encourage you to pull up as far as you can in front of the Stone Building and have your child ready to exit the automobile quickly so you do not tie up traffic. If yours is not to be a quick drop off or you wish to enter the building or sit for any period of time, you must use the visitor spots in front of the building. I also ask that all drivers please be attentive to pedestrians and do not move near buses that have their lights flashing or stop signs in the open position.

### **News from the Health Office- Mrs. Misiaszek**

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you and your child(ren) back to school and also to go over a few tips to help insure a happy and healthy school year.

Cold and flu season will soon be here! I'm sure you have heard all the news about the H1N1 flu and its potential to infect a large number of people this year. By being proactive we can reduce chances of spreading germs. I encourage you to review healthy practices with your children such as covering sneezes and coughs and good hand washing. Remember, the single most important thing we can do to keep from getting sick and spreading illness to others is to clean our hands.

If your child is going to be absent or late please let the office know as early as possible. We need to account for every child. Please give a reason for the absence and what symptoms your child is exhibiting. I am keeping a log to track flu-like illness this year.

Please keep your child home if he/she is sick. Any child who has a fever of 100 degrees or above should not be in school and will be sent home if he/she exhibits symptoms at school. Any child with a fever should stay home for 24 hours after temperature returns to normal without use of fever reducing medication.

If your child has a sore throat for 3 days with no improvement he/she should have a throat culture for strep. If started on antibiotics they should not return to school for 24 hours after the 1<sup>st</sup> dose is given.

Please be aware that head lice can be a problem this time of year. It is important that you watch your child for signs of head lice, one of which is frequent head scratching. Check your children weekly taking a good close look at their head and hair. Look for very small light brown-beige colored insects near the scalp. These are often difficult to see so look for the eggs (nits). They appear as tiny oval, grayish-white colored eggs and are “glued” at an angle to the side of a hair shaft. They do not brush away like dandruff. If you do find signs of head lice don’t panic. Keep your child home from school and check with your physician or pharmacist for recommended treatment. Follow all directions carefully. Notify close contacts and call me at the school so I can check other classmates and siblings. We all must work together to control this problem.

No student is allowed to have any medication on his/her person. If your child needs to take medication at school, a medication permission form must be filled out and signed by you. If it is a prescription medication, the physician must also sign the form. Parents should hand deliver the medication to the health office. All medications must be in their original pharmacy container. I cannot accept loose pills or home containers.

### **Junior High News**

- **Student Council** – Congratulations to the following students who have been selected to serve on the 2009-10 Student Council for grades 6-8. **Grade 8** – Fae Kayarian, Sarah Jousset, Mike Davies, Rebecca King, Abby Scharff and Ashlie O’Brien. **Grade 7** – Will Lebar, Erin McSally, Charley Prevost and Makayla Leathers. **Grade 6** – Kevin Adair, Jane Kayarian, Katie Locandro, and Chance Edgerly.