

# GMS TIGER TIMES



Find us ONLINE at: [www.http://gms.litchfieldsd.org/](http://gms.litchfieldsd.org/)

## Inside this issue:

## The Principal's Corner

Submitted by: Scott Thompson, Principal

Notes from the Assistant Principal	2
4th Grade News Library News LFD Visit	3
3rd Grade News 2nd Grade News	4
1st Grade News TIGER Program	5
PTO Minutes Math Corner	6
GMS Cultural Arts Assemblies Tiger's Den Scarecrow Jamboree	7
Scarecrow Jamboree cont'd	8

It is hard to believe that we are finishing up the first quarter of the 2013-14 school year. So much has happened since we started school 10 weeks ago, and there is much to share with parents. I know there will be many articles in Tiger Times about classroom and grade level events. I would like to focus my column on some important changes in curriculum and assessment at GMS.

First the immediate: the first quarter officially ends on Wednesday, November 6. Reports will go home on November 13, and Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on November 14 (evening) and 15 (daytime). To make this all possible, there is no school for students on Friday, November 15.

Over the last year or two, you have heard lots of information about new standards for learning and teaching. Litchfield teachers worked together last year to create Litchfield curriculum guides, using the Common Core standards as a resource document. The new stan-

dards call for even higher levels of achievement for our students, and they already are among the highest achieving students in New Hampshire. Our teachers have begun implementing the changes that were made this year in their classrooms, and as a result, we have made some minor changes to our report cards. The report cards will look as they have



in the past, but some benchmarks have changed.

Our teachers have been learning about new ways to measure student learning this year. A team of eight teachers and administrators have joined with teams from LMS and CHS to be part of the NH Quality Performance Assessment network. We, along with schools across

the state, are exploring better ways to connect assessment with learning and creating model lessons that include multiple, authentic ways for students to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding.

Our teachers have begun to learn about a monitoring system we are piloting this year called Aimsweb.

Aimsweb allows us to assess and monitor individual progress in reading and math. We have just learned about this system in the summer, and did a first administration of the Aimsweb assessments in the months of September and October. We anticipate sending home parent reports after the spring assessments in May and

June.

And lastly, parents of third and fourth graders are aware that this year was the last year for the annual NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) tests in reading and math. In the spring of 2015, we will begin using a new state assess

*(continued, page 2)*

### Special points of interest:

- *Report Cards, November 14*
- *Parent Teacher Conferences, November 14 and 15.*

Jennifer Brede, Editor

## The Principal's Corner *(continued from page 1)*

ment aligned with Common Core standards, called the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Since this is a brand new assessment, and is computer-based, there will be lots of questions about how it operates. In order to help our school be prepared, GMS has applied to participate in a field test of the Smarter Balanced assessment in the spring of 2014. We chose to have grade 3 do the pilot, since grade 4 will be doing the NECAP Science test at around the same time. The school should have notification about whether our application was accepted soon.

I wanted to share a little information about our recent Teacher Workshop on the delayed open-

ing day, October 16. Our teachers packed a lot of training into those two hours. The first hour (teachers and para-professionals) was spent learning more about the Aimsweb system. The second hour was focused on the Quality Performance Assessment initiative. It affects all teachers, in that we are working on fall writing prompts as our first project. Para-

professionals met with our related service providers to discuss issues and strategies relevant to their positions. Our second delayed opening is scheduled for Wednesday, December 11. We know delayed openings present a challenge for families, but it means a lot to our teachers to have time to work together on professional growth activities.

As always, please feel free to call or e-mail with any thoughts or questions you may have. We are always happy to hear from our parents.



## Notes From The Assistant Principal

Submitted by: **Connie Faro, Assistant Principal**

I am thrilled to be back for a second year as Assistant Principal at GMS. It has been a great opening as all students quickly eased back into our school routine.

We have some new faces as recess/lunch monitors this year. Joining our wonderful, experienced monitors – Mrs. Gee, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Briere are Mrs. Barka, Mrs. Boucher, and Mrs. Bellino. They are always working hard keeping our students safe at recess, and helping them out during lunch time. Parents are invited to have lunch with their child when they can. When eating with their parents, children are invited to have up to two friends join them. Please let the classroom teacher know when you will be joining your child for lunch.

Our fourth grade students are excited about being student council members. The student council is a fourth grade activity where members are involved in such things as organizing projects that help others, planning fun activities such as school spirit days for the entire school, or representing our school when we need

guides for visitors. A boy and girl from each 4<sup>th</sup> grade are chosen randomly from the students who complete an application. Mr. Thompson and I meet monthly with the group as their advisors to share ideas. Last year the Student Council suggested we have a fourth grade spelling bee in the spring. It was so much fun, that we are making this an annual event!

I'd like to conclude with thoughts about one of our school mantras: "Take care of others." We strive every day at GMS to promote kindness and caring for all our peers. We have a wonderful group of caring students who go out of their way to help others. How lucky we are! And I offer a great big "Thank You" to all our parents for teaching your children the importance of getting along with everyone. Below are a couple of ideas that can help us continue to teach our children the importance of getting along.

**Celebrate Kindness**— When your child does something kind for someone – a family member, a friend, a sibling, a neighbor or relative - point out why you are proud of them and exactly what they did that was so thoughtful.

**Talk about Kindness** – In the car - on your way to dance class or a soccer game - is a great time to have a conversation with your child about any acts of kindness that they saw during the day. You can talk about who they saw being kind and what they saw that person doing. This opens up a wonderful conversation about being kind to others. When children recognize other children being kind, they are more likely to be kind as well.

"Thank you" to all our parents and staff for their continued support. Working together for our children can result in nothing more than a truly great school!



## 4th Grade News

The fourth graders at GMS are off to a fantastic start! We've been busy here in our classrooms and have a lot to look forward to this upcoming year.

Thank you for the PTO, who sponsored the wonderful enrichment activities we've experienced so far. Mr. Jon Nute, a New Hampshire forester, led us on a mini field trip around the grounds here at GMS. We learned how to tell the age of a tree, that New Hampshire has 73 species of trees, and that 83% of New Hampshire is covered by forests! We also loved the Plymouth State University TIGER program and workshop called "Let Your Star Shine!". This program reminded us to celebrate the uniqueness of each individual to promote acceptance of others.

We are looking forward to two exciting activities in the upcoming months. A guest from the New Hampshire Historical Society will be visiting us to give a presentation about New Hampshire's Native Americans, the Abenaki. We look forward to seeing images and handling artifacts from the Abenaki tribe. We've booked our first field trip! As part of our New Hampshire government and history units, we will be heading to the state house and history museum on December 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

In fourth grade we have been busy working on our curriculum! In reading, we've been exploring narrative elements and

characteristics of non-fiction. In math, we've been working on multiplication and division concepts, patterns, and place value. In science, we've learned about plant and animal life cycles. Did you know that your dimples, freckles, or ability to roll your tongue are traits that came from your family members?

**Reminder:** Report cards will be given on November 14<sup>th</sup>. Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on November 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>.

Lastly, the fourth grade team would like to thank the parents for all their help and for getting the

students off to a great start. We appreciate all the classroom donations and the time you spent attending your child's Open House.

## Library News

Submitted by: Melina Prevel-Turmel, Library Media Specialist

Once the children started back to school, they either reviewed or learned where and how to find materials in the library. The kindergarten through grade three students have been enjoying the 2012 NH Ladybug Picture Book Award Nominees as they have been read to them. After each person votes for his/her favorite book, the votes will be tallied up throughout the state of New Hampshire, and the award-winning book will be announced by the end of this year. Fourth graders have been hearing book talks about the New Hampshire Great



Stone Face Awards. Since these are chapter books, the students are encouraged to read these nominees on their own.

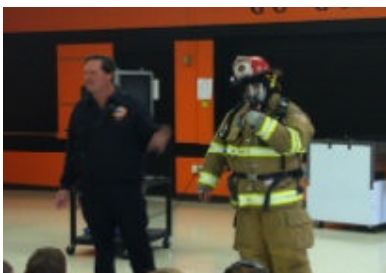
If they choose to participate in this optional program, they will be able to vote for their favorite in April. The link to the list is found on the library page of the school website. Some of them can be found in audio or ebook formats on the **free** New Hampshire downloadable book website (<http://nh.lib.overdrive.com>) as long as you have a NH public library card. The fourth graders have also been reviewing how the

fiction section of the library is organized and practicing finding books in that section.

You can find more information on the library page of the school web site at (<http://gms.litchfieldsd.org>). There is information about the book fair that is coming up November 8<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. You can access the catalog from that page, as well!



## Litchfield Fire Department Visit



A big *THANK YOU* to the Litchfield Fire Department who visited during Fire Prevention Week. Students learned many things about how to stay safe and what to do during a fire emergency.



This firefighter, dressed in full protective gear, is greeting students so that they learn not to be afraid of his mask as well as the different sounds his protective gear makes.

## 3rd Grade News

The third grade classes have been very busy learning many new things. In reading we have been working on identifying the characters, setting, and plot of the story. The children have also been learning about character qualities and author's purpose. They have been practicing how to look up words in the dictionary and how some words can have multiple meanings. This is a skill you could help practice at home when you come across a word your child does not know.

In math we are finishing up our unit on 3 digit addition and subtraction and using rounding to estimate an answer to a problem. The children then use this estimate to check the rea-

*"Multiplication is one of the most important foundational skills taught in third grade."*

sonableness of their actual answers. Our next topic will be multiplication. This is one of the most important foundational skills taught in third grade. Soon, it will be very important to begin working with your child to memorize the multiplication facts. Be on the lookout for more information from your child's teacher.

Our next social studies unit will be on the Jamestown Settlement, the American Revolution, and the foundation of our new country's government. We are planning a field trip to the Concord Museum in Concord, MA, just before Thanksgiving, where we will learn more about the relationships between the colonists

and the Native Americans. We are very fortunate to live in an area so rich in American history.

The students really enjoyed the recent Tiger presentation on the uniqueness of each person and how we all need to be treated with tolerance and respect. We would like to thank the PTO for bringing this outstanding presentation to our school.

The third grade team would like to thank the parents for all the help and guidance you give your children in completing their homework, studying for tests, and learning those math facts. Your partnership is very important to their success. Thanks for all the wonderful treats you sent in for our Halloween parties too!

## 2nd Grade News

The second grade classes have had a wonderful start to their new school year. Everyone has adjusted well to second grade routines and expectations.

All of our students know that in order to become a better reader they need to practice reading every day. We read each day in school. Please make every effort to read with your child and practice the weekly vocabulary words. This will make your child a more fluent reader.

Memorizing our math facts to 20 is another important part of Grade 2. At home, we encourage you to practice math flashcards or play math board games. Using your computer and accessing web sites that practice facts can be fun too. If

you have a smart phone or a tablet, there are now several applications that you can download to practice facts as well.

In Science this quarter, we are learning about Animal Classifications. We are looking forward to a PTO Enrichment Program on Tidal Pools. Be sure to ask your children what animals make their habitat in a tidal pool. We are currently learning about "Communities" in Social Studies. As you drive through our town of Litchfield, point out things that are important to our community like the fire department, the farms and the library. We would like to thank the

Litchfield firemen who visited this month and taught our student about Fire Prevention and Safety.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to all the families that have generously donated classroom supplies to us. It is very much appreciated! As the cold weather approaches, please label your child's jackets and sweatshirts they wear to school. We don't want them to get lost. Lastly, if your child does not know how to tie their own shoes or zip their own jackets, this is a great skill to be working on. As boot and winter coat season approaches, it will be important

- *Students need to practice reading every day.*
- *Memorizing math facts to 20 is another important part of Grade 2.*



**SHOP ONLINE & SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL**

*(The cash earned for our school helps to support enrichment programs for our children)*

[www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)





# 1st Grade News

What a wonderful start to first grade. All the boys and girls have been working extremely hard each and every day. We are so proud of them!

For Science, we have been studying the life cycles of the monarch butterfly, apple trees and pumpkins. Our field trip to The Butterfly Place was a huge success. All of our first graders were so happy to hear that Mr. Thompson received a phone call telling him how wonderful we behaved while on our field trip. He was also told that our first graders are a very smart group of children! We are so very proud of all of you!



During our Social Studies lessons, the children have been learning all about the different holidays we celebrate each year. Many stories were read about the journey Christopher Columbus took many years ago. The children will be learning all about the first Thanksgiving during the next few weeks.

Our math classes are filled with excitement! We use many different ways to practice our addition math facts every day. We are also learning our subtraction math facts. We are using Cuisenaire rods as one of our strategies to help us during our math lessons. Keep practicing those math facts at home!

The Litchfield Fire Department came in to speak to all our first graders about fire safety. The children also enjoyed a TIGER presentation. During this presentation, the children were taught how to treat people with respect.

All of our first graders belong to the "Gopher" Reading Club! The motto for the GMS Reading Team is "The more we read for fun, the better readers we become". They have challenged all of our first graders to read for at least 10 minutes a night for at least 15 days a month. At the end of each month, the children bring in their calendar showing which days they read and the Gopher will give them a prize for their accomplishments. Let's continue to read, read, read!

## TIGER Program

Submitted by: Liz MacDonald, PTO Enrichment Assembly Coordinator



Plymouth State's TIGER Program visited GMS on October 18th. This program encourages young people to accept themselves and others by promoting self-esteem. *Let Your Star Shine!* celebrates the uniqueness of each individual, promoting acceptance of others and decreasing bullying. *Let Your Star Shine!* also seeks to teach children the beauty of diversity and the importance of treating others the way they wish to be treated.

The cornerstones of this production are:

- Tolerance
- Inclusion
- Giving
- Empathy
- Respect



## Script Cards on Sale NOW ~ and at conferences!

Scrip is a great way to order gift cards for gifts and to use for your everyday purchases. There is no extra cost for you and GMS gets a percentage! Each retailer determines what percentage, usually between 2%, to 16%. All of your favorites are available: (amazon.com, Chuck E. Cheese, Toys R Us, Build a Bear, Barnes & Noble, Dunkin Donuts).

We will be selling cards on Nov 14 & 15 during conferences. Bring cash or check

and you can take them home that day! To see other restaurants and retailers, check out the website online at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com)

To set up your own account, just go to the Scrip website and use our code:

**4CCEELDA22168.**

You can order online using their PrestoPay system or send a check into GMS. All

checks can be made payable to **GMS PTO** and sent in with your child's school folder. Just mark it "PTO Scrip to Tiffeny Mackinnon". Thanks!

More ordering opportunities & information will be coming as we get closer to the Holidays.

Any questions, please contact Tiffeny Mackinnon

# PTO Minutes

Submitted by: Kerri Sullivan, PTO President

We have had a busy First Quarter at GMS. We held a great fundraiser, treated our faculty and staff to breakfast, hosted Forester Jon Nute, saw our students' creativity shine in the Scarecrow Jamboree, had a ghostly good time at the Halloween Bash and experienced TIGER's Shining Star program.

November brings the Veteran's Day Assembly, the Book Fair, Conferences, Tide Pools, Abenakis, Ladies Night at the Muse, and Thanksgiving Break.

As we approach Thanksgiving, the Board would like you to know that we are THANKFUL for YOU!

GMS Parents have done so much for the school already this year. You volun-

teered in classrooms, at the library, at the Tiger's Den, for Destination Imagination and at the Halloween Bash. You donated supplies to classrooms, treats for class parties, delicious food to Faculty & Staff Breakfasts, and signed up to treat our Teachers to an energizing dinner and lunch on Conference days. You helped the PTO raise funds to help our kids. You helped each other learn the ins and outs of GMS through emails and Facebook. Every day you work to make GMS the best place for our kids.

YOU make things happen at GMS and for that we are grateful! We hope to continue the good works and thank you for doing so much for our kids!

If you would like to get more involved, please contact us and be on the lookout for our Family Updates! We can be reached through the GMS Page on the GMS Website and by emailing [GMSPTONH@yahoo.com](mailto:GMSPTONH@yahoo.com). We would love to hear from you!

## The 2013-2014 PTO Executive Board

**President:** Kerri Sullivan

[keysullivan@comcast.net](mailto:keysullivan@comcast.net)

**Vice President:** Andrea Bellino

[abellino2@yahoo.com](mailto:abellino2@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:** Denissa Grace

**Secretary:** Heidi Ames

**Cultural Arts Coordinator:** Liz MacDonald

[lizmacnh@gmail.com](mailto:lizmacnh@gmail.com)

**Fundraising Coordinator:** Jennifer Bourque

## MATH CORNER

By: Margaret Parent. Title I Math

There are many ways you can help your child review and reinforce math skills at home. Have your child practice sequencing by counting forward and backwards by ones, twos, fives, or tens. Look for and recognize patterns in numbers and shapes. Have your child practice estimating the cost of items and do simple math problems 'in his/her head' to find the sum or difference. Practice math facts as a game using flashcards, playing cards, or practicing facts while riding in the car, before bedtime, or around the dinner table. The math activities you do with your child should be fun. Practicing these activities will help develop strong math skills.

There are also several commercial games that reinforce math as you play. When

choosing a game, check to see that it is fun to play, has educational value, and depending on the age of the child, lasts from 10 to 30 minutes. Below are some games that reinforce math skills and would make great gift ideas for birthdays or the holiday season.

**Candy Land** - (ages 4+: counting, adding/subtracting, number recognition)

**Chutes and Ladders** - (ages 4+: counting, adding/subtracting, number identification)

**Checkers**—(ages 4+: sequencing, patterns, spatial orientation, strategy)

**Chinese Checkers** - (ages 4+: patterns, spatial organization, strategy)



**Connect Four**—(ages 6+: pattern recognition, spatial orientation, visual clustering)

**Simon** - (ages 8+: multi-step directions, sequencing, patterns, memory)

**Battleship** - (ages 7+: graphing, spatial orientation, visual memory)

**Othello**—(ages 7+: reasoning, spatial perception, strategy)

**Stratego**—(ages 8+: spatial orientation, graphing, logic)

**Yahtzee**—(ages 8+: one & two digit addition, multiplication, estimation, predicting)

# GMS Cultural Arts Assemblies (2013-2014)

Submitted by: Liz MacDonald, PTO Cultural Arts Coordinator

<u>Grade Level</u>	<u>Program</u>	<u>Approximate Cost</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Website</u>
K	Michelle's Menagerie	\$305	June	www.michellesmenagerie.com
Grade 1	Marty Kelly	\$650	February	www.martykelley.com
	Tide Pools	\$675	June	www.neaq.org/education
Grade 2	Star Lab	\$536	February	www.starhop.com
	Mad Science	\$780	May	nhma.madscience.org
	Tide Pools	\$675	October	www.neaq.org/education
Grade 3	Techsploration	\$784	April	www.techsploration.com
	TBD (colonial theme)		February	
Grade 4	Abenaki Indians	\$356	November	www.nhhistory.org
	Early School Life	\$356	March	
	Helping Hands	\$356	May	
	Jon Nute	<i>no charge</i>	October	
GMS Student Body	TIGER TBD	\$1742	October	www.plymouth.edu/outreach/tiger

Michelle's Menagerie- Animal presentation of woodland animals

Marty Kelley- Author and illustrator

Tide Pools – New England Aquarium visit

Star Lab- Christa McAuliffe Discover Dome

Mad Science – Science assembly and experiments

Jon Nute – State of NH Forrester

Abenaki Indians/ Early School Life in NH/Helping Hands – NH Museum of Natural History Presentations

TIGER- Tolerance/Inclusion/Giving/Emapthy/Respect by Plymouth State

## Tiger's Den

Submitted by: Laura Allen

The Tiger's Den school store is in full swing every Friday during recess!! The children seem to be enjoying shopping for their special items. It is so fun to see, and to see them using their math skills to help figure how much they owe! There is a *Sign-up-genius* to volunteer for the store on Fridays. Our BIG event is the Holiday Store the mid-

dle of December. We have many different items to purchase as gifts for family, friends, and teachers. We need lots of help wrapping items before the holiday store opens. We will host a wrapping party on a night toward the end of November or beginning of December. Watch for more infor-

mation during the month of November on the GMS PTO Facebook page. Happy Fall!! Any question about these events, please email [litchfield6@comcast.net](mailto:litchfield6@comcast.net).



## 31st Annual Scarecrow Jamboree

Submitted by: Vicky Mango, Scarecrow Jamboree Coordinator

On October 25, 2013, GMS held the 31st annual Scarecrow Jamboree. An impressive 70 scarecrows were registered and 105 students took part in the jamboree. The creativity and imagination that were displayed in the scarecrow entries were just amazing.

Along with great prizes and the traditional ice cream social, the 3rd and 4th grade students who participated received pumpkins that were donated by McQuesten Farm. The two classes with the highest number of student participation included

Mrs. Llewellen's 3rd grade and Mrs. CullenKent's 4th grade and also received a pizza party donated by Haley's Pizza.





# Scarecrow Jamboree



## There's fun to be had at the Aaron Cutler Memorial Library

Weekly story times geared for  
kids aged 3 - Kindergarten  
(Tu @ 10:30am; W @ 12:30pm)

Pajama Story Time  
(1st Thursday of the  
month at 6:30pm)

Monthly  
Make 'n Take  
Crafts

Book Babies Lapsit  
to age 18 mos.  
Fri @ 10:30am  
(Registration required)

Book Bunch Book Club  
for kids in grades 3-5

Page Turners Book Club  
for kids in grades 6-8

Tiny Tales Toddler  
Time to age 36 mos  
Fri @ 11:30am  
(Registration required)

Weekly coloring &  
activity pages

Summer Reading Club  
with reading, games, contests,  
prizes & cool performers

Early Learning System  
computer for kids

New books like:  
~ Ivy + Bean ~ Pony  
Scouts ~ Pete the Cat ~  
~ Big Nate ~ 39 Clues ~  
~ Diary of a Wimpy Kid ~  
~ I Survived... ~

~ Cub scout & brownie visits ~  
~ Character events & parties ~  
~ Stuffed animal sleepovers ~  
~ The Polar Express ~

New movie releases like:  
~ EPIC ~ The Croods ~  
~ Saige Paints the Sky ~  
~ Disneynature:  
Wings of Life ~

Aaron Cutler Memorial Library ~ 269 Charles Bancroft Highway, Litchfield, NH ~ 424-4044 ~ [www.cutlerlibrary.blogspot.com](http://www.cutlerlibrary.blogspot.com)