

# TIGER TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER, 2012

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Report cards will be given the week of November 5th
- Student picture retakes November 8th at 10 AM.
- Book Fair November 5th through the 9th.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Assistant Principal 2
- Library News & Guidance Perspectives 3
- News from Grades 4, 3, and 2 4
- News from Grade 1, Kindergarten & Preschool 5
- PTO News; Destination Imagination 6
- Box Tops; Volunteers 7
- Enrichment Assemblies 8

Jennifer Brede,  
Editor

Special thanks to:  
Julie Green, Printer

## The Principal's Corner

Submitted by: Scott Thompson, Principal

As I reflect on the close of the first quarter, one thing has become very clear: this is a much-loved and thriving school; our students and their parents demonstrate that every day through their caring attitudes, their involvement, their commitment to high achievement; our dedicated teachers work tirelessly to provide our students with a first class educational opportunity.



Scott Thompson  
Principal

While a goal for Miss Faro and me has been to nurture and sustain our many successful practices, new things are also happening. Certainly a big emphasis for our staff this year has been to begin the process of aligning our curriculum with the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The Common

Core standards have been adopted by nearly all states, and will replace the current NH state standards. New Hampshire schools are expected to implement the CCSS by the fall of 2013, and a new state test will follow. As discussed at Parent Information Night, another important development this year is the expansion of Morning Meeting in classrooms, as a way of keeping students engaged both academically and socially. This past week, all classroom teachers had a half day of training with our math consultant Mahesh Sharma. Professor Sharma visited GMS last year, and will return in the spring of 2013. He is also working with math teachers at LMS and CHS, so that our teachers will have a shared understanding about effective techniques for teaching

mathematics. At GMS, Professor Sharma taught demonstration lessons, with staff in attendance, in Mrs. Webster's first grade classroom and Mrs. Levesque's third grade classroom. The students responded well to using Cuisenaire rods and interactive instructional models to unravel the mysteries of number sense, place value, and mathematical functions.

As we begin a new quarter, I encourage all parents to take advantage of the many opportunities to participate directly in school activities. Certainly it is well-established that we welcome volunteers. I'm aware that there are still some classrooms that are looking for volunteers, so if you are interested in helping out, contact the PTO Volunteer Coordinator, Cortney MacDonald. All parents, of course, are invited to join the PTO. The PTO is a very important part of our school's success.

*(continued, page 2)*

## GMS Upcoming Events

Parent Conferences are scheduled for Monday afternoon, November 5<sup>th</sup> and all day Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, (there is no school on the 6<sup>th</sup>). If you have not scheduled a conference please contact your child's teacher.

Students will be attending the Book Fair during Library special between Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Parents are wel-

come to stop at the Book Fair during Family Event hours on Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 7:30 pm and Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.

Please take a moment to check the Lost and Found table located outside the gym. Items not claimed by Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> will be donated to a local "not-for-profit" agency.

Student picture retakes will be Thursday, November 8 beginning at 10 am. If you would like your child's picture retaken please send the original packet to school with your child Thursday. If your child was absent on the original picture date you are welcome to send your child with the original order form Thursday. There are additional forms available in the school office if needed.

# The Principal's Corner

(Continued from page 1)

The PTO helps enrich the lives of every student through fundraising that supports field trips, guest speakers, special events and activities such as the Scarecrow Jamboree, Destination Imagination, and Field Day. The PTO purchased the climbing wall that was recently installed in our gym. In addition, the PTO serves the important function of bringing the community together by organizing important family events such as the recent Halloween Bash. Children benefit immensely by having parents actively involved in their school.

I would like to congratulate our third and fourth graders on their completion of the NE-

CAP tests. These tests require six different testing sessions and a focus and concentration over multiple days in October. Our teachers reported that students worked very hard, most using all the available time to do their very best work. We won't know the results of the test until January, but what we know already is that students approached the tests with their usual level of commitment and attention to the task. Many of these same students showed their creative enthusiasm and energy by participating, (140-strong!) in the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Scarecrow Jamboree on October 26. Congratulations to all – the scarecrows were fantastic! Thanks to coordinator

Paula Cullen-Kent, who has organized this event for 30 years.

We look forward to seeing parents in the school on November 5 and 6 for Parent Teacher Conferences. Please keep in mind that report cards may not be available until the close of school on November 5, due to the tight timeline after the close of the quarter. If report cards do not come home with children on November 5, they will be made available at Parent Teacher Conferences.

## Notes From The Assistant Principal

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

It's hard to believe that the first quarter is almost over! We have had a great school opening and I thank our principal, Mr. Thompson, for the wonderful transition into the 2012-13 school year. Our third and fourth graders have completed the state testing – the NECAP- and have done their best to show off their educational strengths and perseverance.

The beautiful fall weather has allowed the students to enjoy being outdoors at recess, taking advantage of the playground equipment, ball games, jump rope and other great activities that keep them exercising! A big thank you goes to Mr. Haarlander, our PE teacher, for reviewing with our students the rules of some of the outdoor games.

In addition to our returning lunch/recess monitors, Mrs. Gee, Mrs. Fisher, and Mrs. Bardwell, we have the pleasure of having Mrs. Gagnon, Mrs. Feely, and Mrs. Corbett as recess/lunch monitors this year. They are doing a fantastic job supervising and caring for our students at recess

and in the lunchroom. Parents are always invited to have lunch with their child. Just let the classroom teacher know when you will be coming in.

Our volunteer program has taken off with a bang! Over forty parents have attended our volunteer training program already this year. We look forward to having them in our building working with our teachers and students and helping in other ways that make our school the great place that it is. If you are interested in being a school volunteer, call the school office to set up an appointment to attend a training session. The training sessions are about 15 minutes long.

Our mantra this year is, "take care of yourself; take care of others; take care of your school". These rules are reinforced daily in our classrooms and whenever students are



**Connie Faro,  
Asst. Principal**

referred to the office. I am pleased to say that Griffin Memorial has well behaved students, who are courteous to each other and the adults in the building. A great big thank you goes to our parents, teachers, and Ms. Seiden, our guidance counselor, for taking every opportunity to build our students' character.

Thank you to all our parents and staff who have given me great support in my new position this year. I look forward to meeting more of you as the school year moves ahead.

**Parents are always invited to have lunch with their child. Just let the classroom teacher know when you will be coming in.**

## 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. Mrs. DePloey will be reading the nominees to her preschoolers so that they can participate in this program as well. 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. The GMS library has 16 of the 25 nominees. Some of them can be found in audio or ebook formats on the **free** New Hampshire downloadable book website (<http://>

[nh.lib.overdrive.com](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 are 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>). Also, you can access the GMS library catalog from that web page or at <http://library.litchfieldsd.org>. You can help your child select books from home or look for a parenting book that you would like to borrow. Please just send a note or an e-mail ([mprevelturmel@litchfieldsd.org](mailto:mprevelturmel@litchfieldsd.org)) if you are interested in borrowing a book for yourself.

The Book Fair is coming! Mark your calendars for Monday, November 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>. A letter has been sent home requesting volunteers to help run the Book Fair, and a different letter was



sent home offering more information about the Fair. There is a Book Fair Web Page that you can access at: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/griffinmemorial> I hope to see you there!

Please help your child to remember his or her library book by looking at the

school calendar to see which days there are library specials. If the book is placed in the backpack the night before, then the book will be returned on time and he or she will be able to check out a new book. Even if a child wants to renew a book, it needs to be brought into the library to do so. Some children keep their library books in their backpack (depending on weight) and others bring them into school when they are finished reading them and place them in their desks until their library day. One of these strategies may work for your child, too. Thank you for your assistance!

### Library Wish

#### List:

**Tissues**

**Disinfecting Wipes**

**Hand Sanitizer**

## Guidance Perspectives

Submitted by: Fern Seiden, Guidance Counselor

This year I am excited to roll out a comprehensive classroom guidance plan that focuses on four critical components of social and emotional learning. The goal is to raise student competencies in each of the following areas:

1. Self-awareness: identifying emotions, self-confidence, and self-efficacy
2. Self-Management: impulse control, stress management, self-discipline, motivation, goal setting, and organizational skills.
3. Social Awareness: Perspective taking, empathy, appreciating diversity, respect for others, taking responsibility
4. Relationship Skills: Communication, social

engagement, relationships, cooperation

I will be visiting each classroom approximately eight times per year to do lessons that focus on these important areas. One of the underlying themes within each of these areas is learning how to be a good problem solver. By helping students identify multiple solutions to a single problem, and to evaluate the solutions, we nurture a life skill that is essential to success.

Another exciting program I am starting this year is the Kindness Counts Service Corps. Twenty four students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade applied to participate in this program, and all of them will be able to join. This

will be a service learning program for third graders. I have found that 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are ready to take on the challenge of helping others in a structured way. They are passionate about their beliefs and ready to give back to their communities. I am excited to harness some of that great, altruistic energy this year with our GMS Service Corps!



Need some Guidance?  
See your  
COUNSELOR!

Please know that if you have any questions or concerns about your student, you can call or email me at any time! [fseiden@litchfieldsd.org](mailto:fseiden@litchfieldsd.org) or 424-5931 x 1106

## 4th Grade News

Submitted by: The Fourth Grade Students & Teachers

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 to the PTO who sponsored the wonderful enrichment activities we've experienced so far.

Mr. Steve Blunt, a talented, local singer, visited and had us all up singing and dancing. He sang one of our favorites, "Hang On Henry"! 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 cov-



**Learning about NH's forests with Forester, Mr. Jon Nute.**

ered by forests!

Tournament of Readers, a fourth grade only reading club, is off to a great start. We have approximately 50 students participating this year! We are looking forward to two exciting activities coming up in the next 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. As part of our New Hampshire Government unit, we will be holding a mock election on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The students will be learning about the election process and will vote on both state and na-

tional candidates.

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?

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.

## 3rd Grade News

Submitted by: The Third Grade Team

Grade Three has had a very busy start to the year! Mr. Steve Blunt visited us in September and we enjoyed singing "Hang on Henry" and other songs. In social studies we learned about communities. We studied the three types of communities and did some map work too. The towns our students imagined were very creative. In science we have been learning about weather and the water cycle. The students have really enjoyed the hands-on experiments!

What a busy month!

In October the third graders had bullying prevention lessons with the guidance counselor. The kids discussed social situations and how to deal with bullying. Our students took the NECAP tests from October 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. We had a fantastic time at the Scarecrow Jamboree and our classroom parties. Thanks to all the parents who donated food and helped out

at the parties.

We are now anticipating the start of our multiplication unit in math, as well as a visit by Eric Pinder, a meteorologist from the Mt. Washington Observatory in the coming weeks.

Happy fall from the third grade team!



## 2nd Grade News

Submitted by: The Second Grade Team

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 18 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 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.

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, this is a great skill to be working on. As boot season approaches, it will be important for them to change their shoes independently.

Have a Wonderful Fall Season.



# 1st Grade News

Submitted by: The First Grade Team

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. All of our classes were very fortunate to be able to watch the metamorphosis of the caterpillar into a butterfly. That was so amazing to watch!

Our field trip to Apple Acres was a huge success. Everyone was able to see how the apple peeling and apple slicing machines work. We all picked apples after our hay ride as we were walking through the nature trail. Our visit to the apple farm ended with a glass of homemade apple cider and a donut!



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. Soon, we will begin to learn our subtraction math facts. This year, we are using Cuisenaire rods to help us during our math lessons. Keep practicing those

math facts at home!

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 the 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!

# Kindergarten & Preschool News

Submitted by: The Kindergarten & Preschool Teams

The kindergarten and preschool class are thankful for the wonderful butterfly garden outside our classrooms. We have enjoyed the many butterflies who visit the garden daily.

The preschool classes have been exploring all that fall has to offer. Both classes have been taking nature walks to collect leaves, acorns and pinecones as well as exploring gourds and carving pumpkins. The four year old class has been busy making an apple counting book. While the three year old class made apple sauce.

The kindergarten classes have been exploring the great learning experiences our community has to offer; through a field trip to Wilson Farms to pick pumpkins. The students were thrilled to get a first-hand look at how pumpkins grow, as we have been learning about the life cycle of a pumpkin. We also enjoyed the very creative Scarecrows at the Jamboree and celebrated Halloween together.



Pumpkin picking at Wilson's Farm Stand with the AM Kindergarten classes.



## GMS SCHOOL STORE

**All items \$1 or less!**

**Proceeds go to the PTO  
For programs such  
As Enrichment**

**Gift Certificates**  
(Available by contacting store coordinators, Beckie Moore, Stephanie Anderson, and Laura Allen.)



Consider supporting your school by giving your child the opportunity to earn cash for the school store. For example, by completing homework without complaint, good behavior, or household chores.



The **HOLIDAY STORE** will be open December 14, 17 and 18.

Find gifts for mom, grandmother, teacher, dad, grandparents, brother/sister, and friends.



# PTO Minutes

Submitted by: Brian J. Bourque, PTO President

Hello GMS Families and Welcome Back! On behalf of the PTO, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

I am pleased to announce that as of our last meeting, we have a full board of volunteers working hard to assist our students and faculty. The GMS PTO Board consists of:


- Brian Bourque, President
- Tricia Curtis, Vice President
- Susan Haley, Treasurer
- Kerry Sullivan, Secretary
- Liz MacDonald, Enrichment Coordinator
- Claire Chew, Fundraising Coordinator

We'd like to welcome back former members and send a warm welcome to our new PTO members as well. We have seen an increase in

meeting attendance with our switch to evening meetings. It has been great to see so many new faces with great ideas, and who are willing to help. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in the GMS cafeteria. Stop on by to find out how you can help! Through the fundraising efforts of the entire GMS community, the PTO was able to provide our students with educational programs like Steve Blunt and the Museum of Natural History. In addition, last year, the PTO was able to provide a Smart Board in a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classroom and the exciting new rock wall in our gymnasium. The PTO also sponsors family activities like the Halloween Bash, Bingo Night and both Mother/Son and Father/Daughter activity nights. We look forward to another fun and educationally filled year with


the opportunity to support our students and faculty. Should you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [warmdec13@msn.com](mailto:warmdec13@msn.com).

**Our next PTO meeting is Monday, Nov 26, 7 PM. Stop in and see how you can help!**



**Reasons to get involved:**

- Your child benefits
- We make a difference
- We're welcoming
- There's a lot to be done
- We have fun
- Meet nice people who share your concerns
- We can match jobs to your interest and abilities
- This work is very rewarding



Did you know that the GMS PTO is now on Facebook? Join us today and keep up with the latest news and events at GMS.

# Destination Imagination

Submitted by: Clair Chew, DI Co-Coordinator

**Destination Imagination** or **DI** is a creative problem solving organization for youth and adults. Destination Imagination's educational goals are to foster creative and critical thinking, to develop teamwork, collaboration and leadership skills, and to nurture research and inquiry skills involving both creative exploration and attention to detail. The program is open to students from [elementary school](#) through [college](#). Teams of up to seven members compete in various challenges that require complex

thinking, problem solving, teamwork and creativity. The organization holds international competitions to encourage creativity in the world's youth.

GMS currently has 4 teams, 2 *rising stars* (K-2nd grade), and 2 *elementary* (3rd and 4th grade). The leaders and assistants went to a training day last Saturday. The meetings are



going to start in November. Maurissa Fluet and Clair Chew are co-coordinators and would like to express our thanks to the parents who stepped up and volunteered to help run the teams, as well as the PTO for their support. We look forward to a successful first year and hope that all involved have fun.

# BOX TOPS! Win cool stuff! Help your school!

Submitted by: Jen Bourque, Box Top Coordinator

Thank you to all of the families supporting the BOX TOP program. Since the beginning of the school year, we have had a participation rate of approximately 20% and have successfully raised over \$700.

We have set an aggressive goal for the year to collect 50,000 box tops (or \$5,000). In order to reward kids and parents, we will be running monthly contests to incentivize participation. Our upcoming contests include:

- November (October 25th-November 30<sup>th</sup>) For every 10 box tops submitted, be entered for a chance to win a \$50 Toys R Us Gift Card (to be presented by Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>).
- December's contest (December 3<sup>rd</sup>-December 21<sup>st</sup>) will be a CLASSROOM contest where the class with the highest percent of students participating will win a PIZZA PARTY for the entire class in January. (Ties will be split by random

drawing).

- Our January contest (January 2<sup>nd</sup>-February 1<sup>st</sup>) will be an individual contest where the student with the HIGHEST NUMBER OF TOTAL BOX TOPS COLLECTED for the month of January will receive a 4 pack of tickets for the Manchester Monarchs!



In addition to these fun prizes, EVERY student who submits 100 total box tops will get special recognition from Mr. Thompson as part of the morning announcements. FUN!! Please con-

tinue to look for collection sheets on a monthly basis in your child's folder. Should you need additional sheets, you can always print them online at [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Please remember to be sure to include your child's first and last name as well as their grade and teacher on any and all submissions. Approximately 25% of the submissions YTD were unidentified. Make sure your child receives the credit for your hard work. Also, when submitting, grouping your submissions in groups of 10, 25 or 50 is best.

One final note; for those of you who like to shop online for your holiday gifts, please consider shopping THROUGH the box tops website which gives CREDIT to GMS for your purchases. Log on for more details on how it works.

Thanks so much for all your support!

## 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)

## Volunteers Wanted!

Submitted by: Cortney MacDonald, PTO Volunteer Coordinator

GMS is a wonderful school! Currently, we have 148 amazing volunteers enlisted to help with PTO events or in the classrooms. I'd like to thank those parents who have signed up to volunteer already. There are many needs in our school, especially with helping our teachers.



We are still in need of volunteers to help in the classrooms as 6 teachers still do not have their requests fulfilled. Volunteering is a rewarding experience as you have the chance to see your children, get to see quality

teaching firsthand, and you can make our school community even stronger. If you are interested in helping a teacher or would like to become a volunteer at GMS, please email Cortney MacDonald at [jc.macdonald@comcast.net](mailto:jc.macdonald@comcast.net).

**Help enrich the lives of GMS students.**

**Volunteer Today!**



# GMS Enrichment Assemblies

Submitted by: Liz MacDonald, PTO Enrichment Assembly Coordinator

CLASS	EVENT	DATE
Kindergarten	Michelle's Menagerie, Animal Presentation of Woodland Creatures	Jun
Grade 1	Marty Kelley, Author/Illustrator	Feb
	Tide Pools, New England Aquarium	May
Grade 2	Star Lab, Christa McAuliffe Discovery Dome	Jan
	Mad Science, Science Assemblies	May
Grade 3	Eric Pinder, Children's Author (weather)	Nov 13
	Techsploration, Exploring science and technology	Apr
Grade 4	Abenaki Indians, US/NH History	Nov 13
	NH Hands at Work, Exploring Granite State Industries	Feb
	Going To School, How children were educated in early NH	May
	Jon Nute, NH State Forrester	Oct 3
Whole School	Steve Blunt, Singer, Writer, Storyteller	Sep 27
	Tiger Program	TBD

## 30th Annual Scarecrow Jamboree

