

GMS TIGER TIMES



A NOTE FROM SCOTT THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL

We often discuss the notion of Career and College readiness in education, a big idea that can be defined as making sure that every student who graduates from high school is ready for college or a career. This idea finds its way into discussions about curriculum design, competencies, learning assessments and work study practices, all matters that we have addressed or are continuing to address in the Litchfield district. Naturally, much of the focus on Career and College readiness is at the high school level, but that is really the endpoint of the public school system. We recognize the importance of the Career and College readiness throughout the K-12 system. At the elementary level, students begin forming notions about what they might like to do as their adult work. For nearly all positions, that will involve post-HS education or training of some sort.

To help do our part, GMS held its first Career Fair on October 13, 2016. Mrs. Robinson, our School Counselor, and Mrs. Spotts, School Counselor intern, coordinated this school wide event. We had 27 presenters from professions as

varied as manufacturing business owner, military service, animal rescue, farmer, public works, police and fire, software engineers, genetics counseling, occupational and speech therapists, pilot, golf pro, food service and hair stylist. Our students were assigned to three different sessions over the course of the afternoon, and went from one to the other at assigned times. This, in itself, was an adventure to our students, who typically move with their entire class.

We'd like to thank the many parents and community members who came in to present to our students at Career Day. Their commitment of time and expertise made this day a huge success as evidenced by the degree of enthusiasm displayed by our students when they returned to their classrooms to share about the day. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Mrs. Robinson and Mrs. Spotts. Mrs. Robinson plans on GMS holding a career fair every other fall, rotating with the now-familiar Plymouth State University TIGER program, which focuses on issues of bullying prevention and friendship.

FALL 2016

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Note from Connie Faro	2
Kindergarten Team	2
First Grade Team	4
Second Grade Team	4
Third Grade Team	5
Nurses News	5
Twitter	6
PTO News	6

DATES TO REMEMBER

No School- Veterans Day
Friday, November 11

No School- Parent Teacher Conferences
Friday, November 18

PTO Meeting- Cafe
Monday, November 14 @ 6:30

One-Stop Holiday Shop- Gym
Friday, December 2 @ 6-9

PTO Meeting- Cafe
Monday, December 19 @ 6:30

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

We are off to a great start in kindergarten. We have been busy exploring science this fall. In September, we completed a unit on weather and learned how to be weather watcher. This month we took a trip to Wilson's Farm to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin. While we were there we had a ride through the pumpkin patch and each child was able to pick their own pumpkin.

In reading, kindergarten classes are working hard to name letters and the sounds that correspond. We are also reading new popcorn words (high frequency words) each week. Be sure to review these words with your children.



October was the first month for kindergarten homework. This is a great opportunity to start good homework habits. Your child might like to have a special pencil box for home. In math, we are working to identify and write numbers (0-20). Math homework pages were sent with your child to review Topic one math skills.

KINDERGARTEN CHALLENGE:

Mrs. Adamakos and Mrs. Sweetser are challenging the kindergarten classes to bring back their completed calendars. Everyone who turns in a completed homework calendar will get a prize.

A NOTE FROM CONNIE FARO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It's another exciting and busy year at GMS. Students, staff, and administration continue to put forth their best effort to make GMS the best elementary school in New Hampshire.

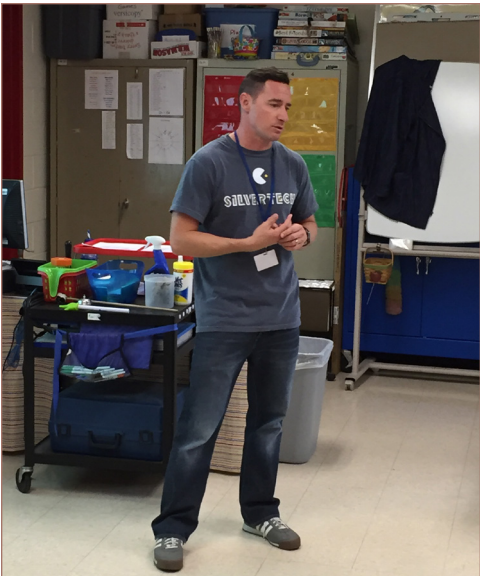
We have just completed this year's 4th grade Kickball season. Approximately 70 4th graders participated in our 5 week program with 6 teams competing for the title of "Kickball Champions" for 2016! The teams competing this year were the Gummy Bears, Purple Dabbing Turtles, Fireballs, Destroyers, Pink Dabbing Mustaches, and the Mustache Pickles. After four weeks of team play and the semifinal round, playing in the finals were the Gummy Bears and the Fireballs. It was a close and exciting game. Pictures were taken and cheering was loud. The Fireballs were the 2016 champions. All students showed wonderful sportsmanship and had fun!

This year our staff has formed the School-wide Supports Committee. A group of teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators meet monthly to discuss ways to help our students develop thoughtfulness and ownership in our school. One of the committee's mission is to strengthen our school climate. As part of the suggestions from this committee, for the past two months we have focused on helping students behave appropriately in the halls when they are walking on their own to another classroom, the nurse's office, the main office, etc. Our other focus has been on entering and leaving the building and walking appropriately on the sidewalks during arrival and dismissal. Each classroom teacher has met with their students and explained and modeled what appropriate behaviors look like. Mrs. Ashe's class and Mrs. Cullen Kent's class modeled appropriate behaviors in school-wide assemblies. The students were absolutely engaged. When adults see students behaving appropriately they hand students a Tiger Ticket which the student enters into a drawing for \$1.00 gift card to the Tiger's Den. Students' names are drawn monthly. To date we have had 30 winners and we have seen much improved hall behavior and sidewalk behavior. Each month we will continue introduce a new behavior as our focused behavior. We have found this to be a wonderful way to teach students some important lessons in a fun way.

Once again, I would like to thank our parents and staff for their continued support. Working together for our children results in a truly great school! We strive every day to make GMS a place where every student, staff, and parent want to be.



CAREER DAY 2016



FIRST GRADE TEAM

We had 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 life cycles. Some of the life cycles we have been learning about are pumpkins and apples. The children have also been brainstorming the many different things we like to do in the fall. Everyone has been enjoying the many classroom activities associated with our science units!

During our Social Studies lessons, the children have been learning about holidays. We have read stories about and discussed the journey Christopher Columbus took many years ago. In the upcoming weeks, the children will be learning all about the significance of Veteran's Day. Rules and responsibilities have been a major focus during the first quarter. Everyone

enjoyed the very first Career Day held at GMS. We hope it is the first of many more to come!

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 our Cuisenaire rods as one of our strategies to help us during our math lessons. Keep practicing those math facts at home!

The children have been working very hard on their correct letter and number formation. Keep practicing your printing at home. We have all seen a tremendous improvement since the children walked into first grade at the end of August! Keep up the wonderful work!

All of the children are enjoying our reading series. The students

have been learning about different genres such as informational texts, realistic fiction, and fantasy. Everyone is also working hard distinguishing between the different vowel sounds and letter sounds.

Our Halloween parties were enjoyed by all! Thank you to all the volunteers who came in to make it such a memorable day!

All of our first graders belong to the "Go-Pher" 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, or be read to, 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, and read!

SECOND GRADE TEAM

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

All of our students know that in order to become better readers 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 addition and subtraction facts to 20 is another important part of Grade 2. At home, we encourage you to practice math flash cards 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 apps that you can download to practice facts as well.

Thank you to the PTO for organizing an enrichment program for Grade 2. We enjoyed singing with and listening to storyteller Alicia Quintano.

October is Fire Safety Month and we welcomed the Litchfield Fire Department. Does your family have a meeting spot in case of a fire?

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 for them to change their shoes and dress independently.

Have a Wonderful Fall Season



NURSE NOTES

Happy Fall/Winter from the GMS Health Office.

I would like to remind our families that our playground gets very cold with the wind and cold temperatures setting in. Please have your children dress appropriately for recess. I would also like to suggest proper footwear for school and recess.

Please remember to keep your student home if they have had a fever, vomiting or severe head colds to avoid getting other students or our staff ill.

If you have any questions about sending your child to school, you may call me @ 424 5931 ext. 1108.

I encourage our GMS students to drink plenty of water during the school day. I do have a limited supply of water bottles in my office should anyone forget theirs at home.

Thank you and have a healthy happy cold weather season.

Susan G Seabrook, RN
School Nurse, GMS



BOX TOPS



Last year we raised about \$4,000. This year we hope to raise about \$6,000 in Box Tops! Each Box Top is worth \$0.10 so that is a total of 60,000 Box Tops!! There will be a chart in the main entrance of the school to keep track of the Box Tops collected. Keep an eye out for monthly collection sheets being sent home as well as each month's incentives.

Thank you in advance for your support. If you have any comments or questions feel free to email me at kellyasara@gmail.com

THIRD GRADE TEAM

The third grade classes have been very busy learning many new things this fall. In reading they have been working on identifying the characters, setting, and plot of the story. They have also been hard at work comparing and contrasting two stories on the same topic, determining cause and effect relationships, and identifying the main idea and details of a selection. Students 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.

The third grade students have been having a lot of fun learning about multiplication and division. The children have learned how to think of multiplication as groups

of, how to draw arrays and bar diagrams to represent a problem, and how to break larger facts into smaller facts that they already know. Please keep working with your child at home to help them master the multiplication facts. You can play games together or have them practice their facts on the computer, as well as use flash cards to work on mastery.

Science lessons are focusing on the water cycle and what causes changes in the weather. The students are learning about the various clouds, different types of precipitation, and how to use the clouds to predict the weather. They have become engineers and figured out ways to protect a structure from a flood. We have also studied the different climates around the world, and how climate effects

peoples' lives. The students are using their inquiry skills while performing various experiments.

Our next social studies unit will be on the early colonies, the American Revolution, some of our Founding Fathers, the documents that created our democracy and the foundation of our new country's government. We will be going to see a play called, "We the People," at the Capital Center for the Arts to learn more about this important topic.

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 math facts. Your partnership is very important to their success. It was great to meet many of you at our curriculum night.

WHAT ARE WE ALL TWEETING ABOUT?

This school year, our school and district began using something new as an additional communication tool – Twitter. Twitter is an online social networking service designed to get messages out to followers of our accounts quickly. A great advantage for busy people is that messages on Twitter (called Tweets) are short and therefore must get to the point quickly. They are limited to no more than 140 characters, which is about 20 or 30 words. You can choose who to follow, and change your preferences at any time.

This was a voluntary program for teachers, but many GMS teachers and administrators have established Twitter accounts. You can search for our messages by looking us up in the search tool at Twitter.com – but please be sure that you’re getting the right person. If you search for my name, which is common, pages of responses come up, and many of them also work in schools. To help avoid confusion, we have specific and unique ‘handles’ that will help you find us on Twitter. To find us, enter our handle into the search engine, then start following. Here is a list of current GMS Twitter accounts. Please follow us!

Scott Thompson	Principal	@sthomp_GMS
Constance Faro	Assistant Principal	@cfarogms
Marie Polichronopoulos & Jocelyn Robinson	Counseling	@gms20162017
Kristin Adamakos	Kindergarten	@AdamakosKristin
Tina Sweetser	Kindergarten	@tsweetser_gms
Erin Beach	1st Grade Teacher	@BeachAdventure7
Sandy Doucette	1st Grade Teacher	@MrsDoucetteGMS
Sarah Quimby	1st Grade Teacher	@MrsQsCrew
Lisa Webster	1st Grade Teacher	@LittleWebsters6
Tracy Allen	2nd Grade Teacher	@MrsAllen_GMS
Angela LaPlante	3rd Grade Teacher	@GMSLaPlante
Kristen Patten	3rd Grade Teacher	@Kpatten_GMS
Jessica Sibona	3rd Grade Teacher	@jsibona_gms
Amy Ashe	4th Grade teacher	@AmyAshe76
Julie Cohen	4th Grade teacher	@MrsCohenGMS
Paula CullenKent	4th Grade teacher	@MrsCK_GMS
Stacey Leary	4th Grade teacher	@learnwithleary
Kristin Starrett	Art	@GMSArtClass
Teresa Planty	Technology	@tplanty1
Rebecca Goldfarb	Speech & Language	@MissGSpeech
Virginia Hennighausen	ELL teacher	@ell_litchfield
Sue Jozitis	Reading Team	@Reading_GMS
Sandra MacMullin	Enrichment Tutor	@MrsMacGMS
Christine Tate	Reading Specialist	@GMSTateReading
Math tutors	Math	@GMSmathtutors

PTO NEWS

Please join us for our monthly meetings, out next one is November 14 at 6:30pm in the School Cafeteria. We have lots of exciting things planned including the upcoming One-Stop Holiday Shopping night on December 2nd from from 6-9pm.

If you are interested in volunteering for one of our events, please stop by the PTO bulletin board at the entrance of the school, to sign up and see what exciting things we have planned for the year.

Thank you to all who participated in the Meadow Farms fundraiser or did a straight donation. Scrip Gift Cards are also available to purchase, a portion of the purchase price comes back to the school at no extra cost to you. These fundraisers help raise money to assist activities for the children such as field trips, cultural arts activities, Fun Family nights, and teacher appreciation.

