

GMS TIGER TIMES



A MOMENT TO REFLECT

SCOTT THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL

Griffin Memorial School is saying goodbye to a constant and devoted friend this June. Miss Faro is retiring from education after 42 years on the job. More amazing still, all 42 years of Miss Faro's long and distinguished career have been right here at Griffin Memorial School. Her positive influence on our school and its programs will make a lasting impression.



Connie Faro joined our faculty in September of 1975 as a Reading Instructor. She came to us fresh out of Northeastern University and did her student teaching in and around Boston. She personifies what we mean by lifelong learning. Over the

years, Miss Faro has added a Master's Degree in Education for Reading and Learning from U. Mass. Lowell, a SAIF

certification (Specialist in the Assessment of Intellectual Functioning) from New England College, and a Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in Education Administration, also from U Mass Lowell.

Miss Faro served with distinction as our Reading Specialist for 37 years, and retired from full time employment in 2012. That year, she became our part-time Assistant Principal. This June, she'll be leaving the school and the community she has loved for 42 years.

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SPRING 2017

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Spring Arts Festival
Wednesday - Friday
May 24-26
See page 8 for details

No School- Memorial Day
Monday, May 29

PTO Meeting- Cafe
Monday, June 12 @ 6:30

Field Day
Wednesday, June 21

Fourth Grade Recognition
Tuesday, June 20

A MOMENT TO REFLECT CONTINUED

Miss Faro is very energetic and creative, and looks for new ways to provide opportunities for our students. Miss Faro invented the acronym SERFA (Skills Enrichment Review For All) to describe our universal approach to reading support.



In the SERFA program, every student receives small group instruction in reading from their classroom teacher, tutors, or both depending on their ability level. SERFA benefits all students at GMS. She also created our Tournament of Readers, a fourth grade event which inspires the students to voluntarily read additional novels on their own time, and then compete to win the top spot in a competition which tests their comprehension, memory and understanding of the

works. In the early 1980s she was also a co-advisor for the GMS Olympics of the Mind team that went to the national competition in Maryland. Olympics of the Mind was a precursor to Odyssey of the Mind and Destination Imagination. More recently, as Assistant Principal, she created Math Dash Club to promote high level math work with our third graders. She also resurrected the fourth grade kickball tournament to give the students an exciting focus during their recess times.



Miss Faro's legacy at GMS is long and deep. We will all miss her greatly, and wish her the very best in her retirement from public service.



FIRST GRADE TEAM

We are so proud of how hard our first graders continue to work! In math, we continue to work on mastering all our addition math facts to 20 as well as working on our subtraction math facts. We are continuing to work on our units which teach our students how to show numbers as tens and ones. Math was plentiful in first grade on the 100th day of school! Many children brought in projects that were completed at home with a common theme of "100"! Everyone did a fantastic job on their projects!

During our reading lessons, the children are continuing to learn the different phonics rules to help them sound out unknown words. We are currently working on our fifth reading book. One more book to go before the end of the school

year! Everyone enjoyed the visit from local author Marty Kelley. Thank you PTO! The first graders LOVE when our LMS reading buddies come to visit. Please have your children READ, READ, READ over the summer.

In Science, we are continuing to work on our Project Lead the Way units. We completed our Light and Sound unit. The children are enjoying all the different activities involved with our Animal Adaptations unit. We are also learning all about our five senses. During our Social Studies lessons, the children have been working on their mapping skills. They are learning how to identify the different characteristics on a globe and a map (oceans, continents, states, to name a few).

Everyone had a great time at the Math and Reading Carnival Night! Both parents and children left with many new math and reading games to play at home. The children have been working really hard preparing for their Spring Arts performance to be held on May 25th. They are also looking forward to Grandparents and Special Friends Day which will be held on May 26th. We hope to see you there! On June 15th, we will be going on our field trip to Squam Lakes Natural Science Center! This will be a great connection with our Animal Adaptations unit!

The first grade team would like to thank the parents who have generously donated classroom supplies throughout the school year. They are very much appreciated!



LIBRARY NEWS,

MELINA PREVEL-TURMEL, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Happy spring! As always, we have been busy in the library!

Kindergartners learned had books read to them and songs sung to them about various subjects as they relate to what they are learning in their classrooms, such as Arctic animals and dinosaurs. They will be learning about insects and plants as well.

The first grades learned about many topics such as nonfiction, Dr. Seuss, fables, nursery rhymes, mysteries and animal adaptations.

Second graders used reference materials such as the dictionary and encyclopedia. They are learning about the children's author and illustrator, Tomie dePaola and some of his stories. They will learn about biographies, fairy tales, the Caldecott Medal as well as research animals.

The third grades are gaining practice with expanding their vocabulary with Thesauri as well as receiving help with understanding fiction call number order, which involves practicing alphabetical order.

Fourth graders have been working on poetry and atlas skills and then we will learn some myths and tall tales. Students who read any of the New Hampshire Great Stone Face Award Nominees for the 2016-2017 school year voted for which one is their favorite. The book that received the most votes among our fourth graders is Pugs of the Frozen North by Philip Reeve. We will find out soon which book actually won the award after all of the votes from 4-6th grade in N.H. are tallied.

shopwithscrip[®]  .com

Scrip fundraising is a no-selling program that enables families to raise money for their non-profit organization, GMS PTO. Scrip is just another way to pay for those everyday purchases using gift cards in place of cash, checks, and credit cards. You purchase gift cards from PTO at face value and your coordinator, Tiffeny Mackinnon, purchases them from Great Lakes Scrip Center at a reduced price. The difference is an instant rebate for the PTO. The GMS Enrollment code for the website is [4CCEELDA22168](https://shopwithscrip.com). You are welcome to share this with friends and family so they can shop for us too! If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact Tiffeny Mackinnon at tiffenymackinnon@yahoo.com

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

Fourth quarter is going by extremely quick. We are ending the year with units on different creatures, such as the animals of a pond, insects and animals of the ocean. We started May off with a visit from Michelle's Menagerie and her woodland animals. The students learned about flying squirrels, partridges and several other animals. Did you know there are more flying squirrels in this area than gray squirrels? We do not see them often as they are nocturnal. During our insect unit, we learned how to tell if a bug is an insect or not (insects have six legs, three body parts and

can have two or four wings). It has been a great year of learning in kindergarten.

SOME GREAT SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

- Playing number cards and dice games
- Writing your popcorn words in chalk outside
- Visit the library and check out a new book to read (don't forget to fill out your summer reading cards)
- Draw a picture and label the things in the picture
- Write a story about something you love



SECOND GRADE TEAM

The GMS second graders have been working hard and should be very proud of themselves! In math, we were very busy, learning how to use addition and subtraction skills to solve 1- and 2-step word problems. We also became experts in working with time and money. Of course, any reinforcement you can give at home in these two areas would be greatly appreciated! Adding groups of coins (using skip-counting) and telling time on a clock face are the two areas where any practice would be most helpful. Thank you, parents, for continuing to work on math fact memorization. You are helping us reach our goal of mastery of the addition and subtraction facts to 20 by 100% of our second graders!

In Reading, we have been hard at work learning comprehension skills and strategies for both fiction

and non-fiction reading. We have enjoyed reading biographies, learning about the lives of several famous Americans, including Helen Keller. We have learned about the life cycle of plants, how to make a Navajo rug from the wool of a goat, and the legend of how weather vanes came to be. We continued to practice the three types of writing (informational, opinion, and narrative), with a focus on using descriptive details in writing.

We had an amazing time visiting the SEE Museum in Manchester. We learned how to make Silly Putty by turning two liquids into a solid using heat and pressure. What a great way to kick off a science unit about MATTER! We look forward to a fun-filled last month of learning.

THIRD GRADE TEAM

It is hard to believe that the school year is coming to a close so quickly. The third grade team would like to thank all the parents for their support throughout the year. Your help with homework and teaching your children how to study for tests is invaluable. All the tissues, wipes, and other classroom supplies you sent in really helped our days go more smoothly. We would also like to thank the PTO for the many enrichment opportunities they provided for our students. Our final big event for the year will be a field trip to the Museum of Science on Monday, June 19th. Please watch for the permission form which will be coming home soon.

The third grade classes have just finished up our unit on immigration. The children learned a great deal about the millions of Europeans who immigrated

to the United States during the early 1900's. The students gained an understanding of why these people came and an appreciation for the many contributions the different cultural groups brought to the U.S. We studied what it was like to pass through Ellis Island, and how afraid the immigrants were of being sent back to their own country.

Our social studies topic in the fourth quarter will be economics. The children will learn the difference between needs and wants, as well as what it means to be a producer and a consumer. The culminating event for this unit will be a class job fair, where students can explore being a producer or offer a service, as well as be a consumer.

Our final science unit will be on forces and simple machines.

The students will work in groups to build simple and compound machines. They will be able to identify the attributes and components of the six simple machines, and the various forces at work. The teams will work together and apply scientific ideas about magnets and simple machines to solve a simple design problem.

End of the year math lessons will focus on geometry, time, and measurement. There will be plenty of hands on fun as we construct shapes and find perimeter, as well as explore time, capacity, weight, and mass.

We hope you have a wonderful, safe, and relaxing summer. Please remember to read and study those multiplication facts!



FOURTH GRADE TEAM

We continue to be hard at work in fourth grade. In math, we have tackled fractions and are moving on to decimals, measurement, and geometry. The fourth graders had a ball celebrating Read Across America Week! We loved seeing the creativity put into each spirit day. We especially liked when the whole school sat in the hall to pleasure read. What a neat experience! In social studies, we recently attended a New Hampshire Historical Society program called "Hands at Work". This program taught the students about the Industrial Revolution in New England. It gave the students a sneak peek at what they will be learning on their next field trip. We are looking forward to visiting the Lowell Boott Cotton Mill, on May 17. We will take a hands-on look at what it was like to work in the mills in the 1900s. The fourth graders recently enjoyed a series of interactive demonstrations on force and motion presented by a Boston Museum of Science teacher. The students successfully lifted Mrs. CullenKent off the ground using a simple machine! Spring assessments are underway! The 4th graders recently finished the NECAP Science Tests. Next, we will continue the Smarter Balanced testing in math at the end of May. Finally, the students will be assessed in reading and math using AIMSWeb Plus. During these testing times, please be sure to have your child get a good night's rest and eat a healthy breakfast. Finally, be on the lookout for a notice of special 4th grade events coming this spring. We have lots planned to celebrate the students' final days at GMS! Thank you for your continued support at home!

Welcome Donations: eraser toppers, pencils, tissues, cleaning wipes, paper towels

GMS'S ANNUAL SUMMER READING CHALLENGE READING ROCKS WITH A GOOD BOOK!

Again, this summer we urge each Griffin Memorial student to become involved in our Summer Reading Challenge! Studies have shown that

"The more you read for fun,
the better reader you become!"

We want every student to spend some free time reading for enjoyment!



STUDENTS ENTERING KINDERGARTEN OR FIRST GRADE:

Either READ, READ, READ or
have your parents read to you!

SECOND, THIRD OR FOURTH GRADE: READ, READ, READ

1. Complete a 3X5 card or piece of paper for EACH book you read or have read to you.
The card should contain:
 - a. Your name and new grade
 - b. The title and author of the book
 - c. Your parent's signature
2. During the first week of school, bring your cards to your teacher.

EVERYONE CAN BE A WINNER! IN SEPTEMBER.....

- If you submit at least 3 index cards of books you read, you will attend a make your own ice cream sundae party.
- Each card you bring in will be entered in a drawing for gift certificates to our Scholastic Book Fair which is held in our Media Center in the fall. The more books you read or listen to, the more chances you have to win a prize.

ABOUT ME

I joined the GMS Unified Arts Team this school year as the part-time Technology Teacher.



I earned an AS in Science Laboratory Technology from SUNY Canton, a BA in Human Development and a MS in Elementary Education (K-8) both from Rivier University. I worked at GMS for five years as a Substitute Teacher. I worked at the Litchfield Middle School for five years as well. In those years I worked as a Substitute teacher, Title 1 Math Tutor, Summer School Math Teacher, and Girls Soccer Coach. I worked for the Hudson School District for five years before returning here to teach in Litchfield. I am passionate about Math, Science, and Technology.

My husband and I have lived in Litchfield for 27 years. Our three children grew up here and attended the wonderful public schools in Litchfield. I was active in the Women's Club, a Girl Scout Leader, and Youth Soccer Coach for many years. Litchfield is a great place to get involved in the community and raise children. I have really enjoyed teaching and getting to know your wonderful children.

Follow me on twitter [@tplanty1](https://twitter.com/tplanty1)

COMPUTER LAB NEWS,

TERESA PLANTY M.ED., TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

The 2016-2017 school year has been very exciting for me as the Griffin Memorial School Technology Teacher. The computer lab here at GMS provides for an excellent environment for students to learn about technology. I enjoy coming to work every day and teaching the students all about using the computer. The students seem to enjoy computer class and learning about new technology.

This year I see students in Grade 2 - Grade 4 on the regular Specialists schedule. I also see each class in Grade 1 for one quarter of the year. Only Grade 4 had computer lab experience so I knew right away we had a lot of learning to do.

The fourth-grade classes started right in on keyboarding skills using TypingPal. They have created authentic projects using MS Paint, MS Word, and MS Excel. The students also learned about several Google Apps and how they can transfer the skills learned in Microsoft to these apps. Students learned how to use the virtual flashcard app called Quizlet and learned how to code on Code.org. We also spent a few class periods learning technology skills needed for online testing. We will wrap up the year learning about digital portfolios and digital citizenship.

The third and second grade classes started out learning some basic technology skills. The Mouse program we used right away to build mouse skills. The students used an interactive whiteboard activity to "Find the Technology" and the Quizlet app to learn technology terms and digital citizenship terms. We use Dance Mat Typing to learn basic keyboarding skills before accessing Typing Pal. Students created authentic projects in MS Paint. We spent several weeks on Digital Citizenship lessons. The students learned a little bit about coding in Code.org. Grade 3 also worked on learning technology skills needed for online testing. The students will finish up the year working with Chromebooks and digital portfolios.

I have links to several of the resources we have learned about this year on the GMS Technology homepage. Your children know how to access and use most of these links!

Please feel free to contact me anytime at tplanty@litchfieldsd.org

BOX TOPS

We are striving for \$2,500 for the next submission and we need your help. So far this year we have collected over half that amount in Box Tops! Ask co-workers and family members to clip those box tops now!

Clip Box Top coupons from a variety of participating products such as Pillsbury, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, etc., then send them in with your child. You can use the collection sheets that are periodically sent home or place the Box Tops in a sealed baggie with your child's name on it.

More information can be found at www.boxtops4education.com



Thank you for your support.

Spring Arts Festival 2017

The Art of Disney



PERFORMANCES IN THE GMS GYMNASIUM

WEDNESDAY, MAY 24TH

Grade Two @ 9:30AM

THURSDAY, MAY 25TH

Grade Three @ 9:30AM

Grade One @ 1PM

FRIDAY, MAY 26TH

Grade One- *Special Friend Day* @ 9:30AM

TIGERS DEN

The Tiger's Den is GMS's school store, also known as Griffy Store. It's a fun and exciting stop for the kids. They enjoy seeing new inventory and we love to see familiar faces. Tiger's Den has various items. Anything from pencils and erasers to water bottles and tote bags. Cost wise, most items range from as little as \$.05 to \$1.00. Occasionally there will be speciality items that can be more than \$1, in which case we will send home info.

This little cart helps raise money for our PTO. Which in turn provides funds for events like the father/daughter dance and mother/son movie night.

We are always looking for volunteers to help run Tiger's Den. It is open on Fridays 10:30-1:30pm (during recess). The time is separated into 2 shifts 1 ½ hours each. Please consider volunteering, the students really enjoy and look forward to Tiger's Den. It's a great way for student to begin to learn value of money and simple math skills for currency values.



PTO NEWS

As another wonderful year comes to an end we can't help but look back at all the great things our Parent Teacher Organization does to help enhance GMS. This year we were lucky to have a group of dedicated volunteers who helped to get these programs started and even more fortunate to have an amazing community who help make these events a reality. We can't thank our volunteers enough for all that they have done this year to make all the wonderful events such a great success!

A HUGE "Thank You" to all our GMS community!

It has been very busy since the school year has started. The events we have sponsored or assisted in thus far are:

- **Yahoo/Boohoo Parent Breakfast:** A wonderful way to meet and support our parents who were both happy and sad to have their kiddos back to school!
- **Welcome Back Teacher Breakfast:** Was a great way to say welcome back to our awesome teachers!
- **Halloween Bash:** Was filled with lots of fun for the kids from costume parades, guessing games, touch tables and dancing!
- **Veteran's Day Assembly:** The Veterans who attended were very thankful for the amazing show of patriotism by our students and staff.
- **Teacher Dinner for Conferences:** The teachers and staff could not say enough about the amazing soups, salads and desserts.
- **One Stop Holiday Shop:** Had a great turnout and raised over \$1,900 for GMS Enrichment programs!
- **Holiday Cheer:** Let our teachers & support staff know how much they are appreciated!
- **Griffy Holiday Store:** Was a fun way for the kids to do their shopping and raised \$1,600.
- **Trivia Night:** Had a great showing from all three Litchfield schools and raised over \$650 for GMS Enrichment programs.
- **Father Daughter Dance:** The Winter Wonderland was a perfect evening for our GMS princesses and their fathers!
- **Bingo Night:** Such a great night for our GMS families, everyone had a fabulous time.
- **Canvas & Kids:** Creative masterpieces were produced by our very own GMS artists in two fun filled afternoons!
- **Mother Son Movie Night:** Our GMS princes treated their mothers to a night at the movies where they enjoyed the movie Sing!
- **Teacher Appreciation Week:** Was a fun and relaxing time for the teachers. Most importantly it was a great way to show our teachers how much we appreciate all that they do for our students!
- **Tigers Den:** Had a great year once again providing students with a weekly opportunity to purchase small items that are a dollar or less!
- **Various Enrichment programs:** These programs help enhance our students learning.

Thank you to all our volunteers who help bring these programs and family fun nights to our GMS families!!!! All these events have been a great success and the teachers and parents have expressed their gratitude for everything our volunteers have done!

If you would like to help out in any way, please let us know! Email us, post on the **GMS PTO NH 2016** Facebook page or come to a meeting!

Come and check out our PTO meetings. They are held on the 3rd Monday of each month @ 6:30 pm and usually run 30 minutes to 45 minutes. Come hear about all the exciting things going on. Our final meeting of the year is June 12th.

Visit our [webpage](#) to get additional information!

THANK YOU!

SPECIAL EVENTS

PTO Meeting- Cafe

Monday, June 12 @ 6:30

Fourth Grade Picnic

Tuesday, June 20

Fourth Grade Recognition

Tuesday, June 20 @ 1

Field Day

Wednesday, June 21

Fourth Grade Yearbook Signing

Wednesday, June 21

