



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



# GMS TIGER TIMES

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

JANUARY, 2013

Jennifer Brede, Editor  
Julie Green, Printer

## THE PRINCIPAL'S CORNER SUBMITTED BY: SCOTT THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Report cards will be sent home January 23
- Winter Fundraiser will be sent home January 25
- BINGO Night, February 8
- Winter Carnival will take place on March 7, 6:00 to 7:00 PM
- Mother/Son Movie night, March 15
- Grandparent/Special Friend Day, April 19

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Assistant Principal, Nurse's Notes & Guidance Perspectives	2
Library News, Tyson Project A+	3
4th Grade News, Art News	4
3rd Grade News, 2nd Grade News, 1st Grade News	5
Kindergarten News, Preschool News, PTO Minutes	6
PTO Fundraising, Box Tops Report	7
Destination Imagination, Enrichment Assemblies	8

*From the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire!.....* Today was a very special day at GMS. At 10:00, our entire school gathered in the gymnasium. Ms. Seiden and our new third grade group, *Kindness Counts Service Corps*, presented a stirring and important assembly, celebrating civil rights through the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. They also told the story of Rosa Parks and her quiet decision to fight injustice on a Birmingham bus. They held protest signs demanding, "Equality," "Inclusion," and "Justice." We sang "We Shall Overcome" with Mrs. LaBelle conducting the audience to join in the chorus. And in the end, we listened to and watched a multimedia presentation of Dr. King's "I Have A Dream" speech, listening carefully for the line about our state, "And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire....Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York...." It was inspiring to see a new generation of Americans keeping alive the vision of universal human rights.

Several other special events help give a more complete picture of what life is like at GMS. While we celebrate those things that are truly important, like civil rights, we also take time for simple fun. At 9:30, the students from Mrs. McGowan's second grade class, Mrs. Llewellyn's third grade class, and Mrs. Ashe's fourth

grade class gathered in the cafeteria for a pig race. These were the top three performing classes in the PTO's fall fundraiser, and they were racing their mechanical pigs for bragging rights and an ice cream social. The top spot went to Slow Poke, the pink pig from Mrs. Ashe's room. Second place went to Mrs. McGowan's green pig, sporting a red hat, Mr. Bacon. Mr. Piggy, representing Mrs. Llewellyn's class, squeaked by in third place. All the students got small gifts from the organizers. Thanks again to the PTO for their continued support of the school, and our students and families for all their support of the fundraiser. The PTO supports many important school events through their fundraising efforts.

At noon, I got to see the first round of Tournament of Readers. This voluntary club involves fourth graders, arranged into teams, competing to answer questions written by students and teachers about books the students have read for fun. The voluntary club has been meeting during recess time since early October, and now the teams have begun the actual competition. The eight teams are competing each Friday for four weeks. Points are tallied after each round, and teams are eliminated by losing twice. Ultimately, there will be one winning team. This is a very exciting process to watch, and it's great to



Scott Thompson  
Principal

see the team work involved, and to watch students so motivated by reading!

I would like to end by letting you know about an upcoming special event. We are very excited about our Winter Carnival. This Winter Carnival is not about skiing and skating, but instead focused on a different kind of winter games – indoor games that use math and reading skills. This event was the brainchild of our school improvement team, teachers, parents and administrators who met in the summer and fall to write our SINI (School In Need of Improvement) plan. Thanks to Ms. Llewellyn, Mrs. Johnstone and Ms. Tate for spearheading the Winter Carnival event. We anticipate a crowd. Mr. Lecklider has agreed to let us use the middle school parking lot for overflow parking, so think about carpooling! Our Winter Carnival for Reading and Math will take place on Thursday, March 7, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. We hope to see you there.

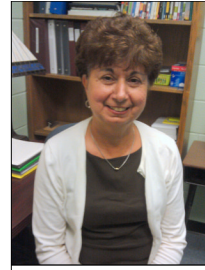
## NOTES FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

SUBMITTED BY: CONNIE FARO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

It's winter in New England and our students are having a great time at recess. During the winter break, we purchased several new pieces of playground equipment. If you ride by our school during recess you will see students sledding down the hill, playing basketball with our new balls. We have real rope jump ropes that the students are enjoying especially when they play double-dutch! They are getting lots of exercise using the "Skip Its". Thanks to the snow, there was a whole family of snowmen (and women) on the playground after first grade recess! Our students truly enjoy their time to relax and have fun. Just a reminder that one of our school rules is that for students to be able to play in the snow they need 5 pieces of clothing – boots, snow pants, gloves, a hat, and a jacket.

Our student council was chosen in December. Fourth grade students who were interested in being on the student council submitted their names to Mr. Thompson and me. From that group, 10 students – a boy and girl from each fourth grade classroom- were randomly chosen. Our student council members for the 2012-13 school year are:

- Mrs. Ashe's Class : Cassie Hemming, Charlie Dyac
- Mrs. Cohen's class: Cameron Feely, Lyndsey Brown
- Mrs. Cullen Kent's Class: Christopher Grondine, Haley Egan
- Mrs. Elliott's Class: Madeline Davis, Michael DeCarli
- Mrs. Leary's class: Miranda Fay, Kyle Wark



Connie Faro,  
Asst. Principal

The student council meets once a month during 4<sup>th</sup> grade lunch. These students were instrumental in running our food drive prior to the winter break. Daily, they collected and sorted over 400 food items that were donated to Litchfield's food pantry. We plan on electing officers at our February meeting. We hope to participate in other projects that will help others and our school during the remainder of this year.

## NURSE'S OFFICE

SUBMITTED BY: SUSAN SEABROOK, RNBS



We have completed a review of hand washing and cough, sneeze etiquette in GMS. Every class has come down to my office and learned how we as individuals can help avoid getting the Flu with the tools we learned. Ask your students if they haven't already talked about it at home. They have a poster to color and I will be posting these throughout the

school.

If your child had a case of the Flu, please report their symptoms on the absentee line so I can track these cases on the NH Dept of Health and Human Services web site. These reports remain anonymous of course, just numbers are tracked.

I would like to report that vision screening

and referrals were completed in late November. The Litchfield Lions Club comes in every year to screen vision and I personally review all results. I then rescreen any referrals and send a report if needed for follow up to parents.

In closing I would to ask parents to please call the absentee line for all absentee students.

## GUIDANCE PERSPECTIVES

SUBMITTED BY: FERN SIDEN, GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

By the time this gets published, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade *Kindness Counts Service Corps* will have created and produced the first annual Kindness Counts Peace Day Assembly, in honor of Martin Luther King., Jr. As I write this over the holiday break, I am unsure how we will ever get there...but get there we will! With the help of a generous parent volunteer, Stephanie Anderson, the support of the PTO, and the wonderful 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers who have supported this endeavor from the start, this assembly promises to be a wonderful event.

An educational leader, Craig Sellars, once said, "The School-Wide Assembly is the classroom for community." By this he meant that assemblies are a vehicle for creating and sustaining a school community's cultural identity. A school's values, beliefs,

and character are revealed by and through the use of whole school gatherings. By focusing on the legacy of a great American hero like Martin Luther King, Jr., and by enabling a dedicated group of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to lead us through the event, we prioritize peaceful problem solving, historical understanding, and student leadership.

In classroom guidance, I continue to work on problem solving strategies. In 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade I am trying something new. Students have developed grade level goals. A survey will be done to measure whether these goals are met through the year. When I visit classrooms, we will be working on strategies to achieve these goals. For instance, in 2<sup>nd</sup>



grade we are practicing, "tricky situations," when it comes to letting people join in your group, and in maintaining self-control. What is the "right thing to do?" When is it hard to do the "right thing?" What are all of your choices when faced with social challenges? These are questions we will be exploring through the year! This approach to classroom guidance is grounded in the work of Stan Davis, as outlined in his book, *Empowering Bystanders*.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, feel free to call or email me!

## LIBRARY NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: MELINA PREVEL-TURMEL, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

I hope that this note from the Griffin Memorial School Library finds you well and surviving this winter!

And the winner for the 2012 New Hampshire Ladybug Picture Book is Pete the Cat: I Love My White Shoes by Eric Litwin. This book won by a landslide in the state as well as in our school for the preschool through third grade students who can vote for this award. See the following link for the specific results: <http://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/documents/2012ladybugwinner.pdf>.

Fourth graders still have time to read the New Hampshire Great Stone Face Nominees to vote in April for their favorite.

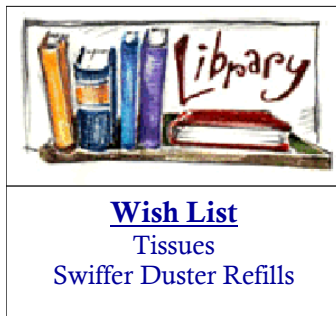
The kindergarten classes have been listening to stories of how animals prepare for and survive the winter. These stories coincide with the themes that are being studied in the classroom.

The first grade classes have been introduced to the wonders of nonfiction literature.

The students in these classes have been listening to various nonfiction selections while learning about red-eyed tree frogs, polar bears, whales and penguins and how to use a table of contents. We have also been comparing fiction and nonfiction books. Most recently, the first grade students at GMS have been learning about Dr. Seuss. We read a biography about him and continue to hear stories that the famous author and illustrator wrote before

his death in 1991. Be sure to ask your students about the three names that he used; Theodore Seuss Geisel, Dr. Seuss, and Theo. LeSieg.

Our second grade classes have been focusing on alphabetical order so that they can become more independent with finding books in the Everyone and Fiction sections of the library. This skill has also helped them with looking up words in a dictionary and will help them with our encyclopedia unit. Using an encyclopedia, each child will find information on a country that coincides with one of the countries that the second grade classes studied during their holidays around the world unit.



The third graders at GMS have been focusing a great deal on the nonfiction section of the library. All of the classes have been learning about the Dewey Decimal System of Classification and the man who created this system, Melvil Dewey. The classes listened to a book titled What

Marion Taught Willis by Brook Berg and illustrated by Nathan Alberg. In the story, Marion the hedgehog teaches Willis the anteater that the nonfiction area of the library is not as confusing as it may seem. Marion teaches Willis that once you get the hang of using the Dewey Decimal System, the nonfiction area can be a great place to explore and learn new information. She exposes Willis many of the exciting topics that can be found in the nonfiction area.

The third grade students have been working with partners to find titles of books in the nonfiction area of the library which coincide with the ten major classification areas of the Dewey Decimal System. They will then choose a nonfiction book to present to their classmates.

In the fourth grade, the students reviewed the fiction and nonfiction sections of the library. The fourth graders have played games such as "Dewey Go Fish" to help them become more familiar with the Dewey Decimal System of classification. Recently the students put actual book titles from the GMS library into one of the ten classes. They have been practicing ordering nonfiction call numbers.

Thank you to all of the people who volunteered to help out during the book fair. Some people worked more than one shift to make it happen! It is much appreciated! This fundraiser brought in slightly more than \$2,000 for the library to use to purchase materials and equipment for the students, parents and staff to use.

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. Thank you for your assistance!

## TYSON PROJECT A+

SUBMITTED BY: PATTI MEDINA, TYSON PROJECT COORDINATOR

We have an exciting opportunity to share with you. We are taking part in a national fundraising program sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. called **Tyson Project A+™**. Through this program, we can raise as much as \$12,000 for our school this year! The money we raise can go toward buying books or computers, making improvements to our buildings, or anything else that we want. All we have to do to participate is clip and save the entire **Project A+™** label from participating Tyson products. Each label we collect is worth 24¢ for our school. A collection site has been set up at the

school where you can drop off your redemption labels.

Let's support our school! Clip and save **Tyson Project A+™** labels today.



## 4TH GRADE NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: THE FOURTH GRADE TEAM

The students recently started the Granite State Fit Kids Program. This is a special, seven week program for fourth graders in New Hampshire. A presenter will be visiting each fourth grade class once a week to discuss topics such as nutrition, how our heart and lungs work, and how we digest the food we eat. The presentations are often interactive. Each student is also given an activity journal where they track their physical activity. Ask your fourth grader what they are learning this week in Fit Kids!

The fourth graders had a wonderful time on their field trip to Concord. Griffin students visited the New Hampshire History Museum and the State Capitol. At the museum, the students sat in a replica wigwam, saw an Abenaki dugout canoe that is about 500 years old, and viewed an actual Concord

Coach, which can seat about 14 passengers, plus luggage! The students also visited a general store that was set up like a store in the 1800's. They were given cards with common items from today pictured and were asked to find a similar item from the 1800's. A Wii turned out to be a board game! At the State House the students toured the Hall of Flags, Representatives Hall, and the Senate Chamber. Governor Lynch was out of the building for the day, so the students didn't get to meet him, however, they all got a chance to sit



*NH State Capital Building  
The Nation's oldest state capital  
in which the legislature still meets  
in it's original chambers.*

in his seat in the Executive Council's meeting room.

As we are in the midst of winter and "snow season" we would like to remind you that our Blizzard Bags, which were sent home, can also be found online through the school website. Also, each teacher will be available for questions via email from 10am-1pm.

Lastly, the fourth grade team would like to say *thank you* to the parents who sent in supplies to combat flu season!

## ART NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: ASHLEY DUTIL & HEIDI MILLER

In the months of November and December the art room had a student teacher from New Hampshire Institute of Art, Miss Ashley Dutil. Miss Ashley Dutil collaborated with Mrs. Heidi Miller in facilitating an art unit "Down Under."

All grade levels were heavily engaged in learning the various animals and habitats that are unique to Australia. Both, Mrs. Miller and Miss Ashley found aboriginal stories and video clips to show students. All grade levels had their very own unique Australian lesson to participate in.

Kindergarteners discovered the platypus and its Australian habitat by creating their very own platypus through paper based materials and paint. First graders explored their shapes by creating the Australian crocodile complete

with its pearly white teeth. The Second graders listened to an aboriginal story and created stick puppets of a Mother Kangaroo and her little Joey. Also, the Second

graders completed a painting of Australia's landscape as a backdrop for their kangaroo puppets to act in front of. The Third graders mimicked rock art in order to draw the portrait of the Kookaburra bird. The Fourth

through a great deal of respect that reflects in their wonderful Australian artwork. Miss Ashley felt fortunate and grateful to be accepted into the GMS community. She was delighted with the great attitudes and artwork that students displayed. She is looking forward to attending the district show to see the rest of the Australian artwork. Although Miss Ashley has completed her student teaching at GMS, Mrs. Miller has created another exciting set of Australian lessons to include in the "Down Under" unit. Expect to witness the wonders of Australia at the CHS District Show in March, and at the annual GMS Spring Arts Festival.



graders explored the largest coral reef in the world, the Great Barrier Reef by creating a crayon resist.

All GMS students emulated strong character

### 3RD GRADE NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: THE THIRD GRADE TEAM

The third grade students have been working hard and learning many new things. We have just finished learning about magnets and electricity in science. The activities and experiments have been both fun and educational. We will now be turning our attention to social studies with a unit on westward expansion and life on the Oregon Trail. The students will find out what it was like to travel across the prairie and desert over 100 years ago. In March, you will find us experimenting once again, as we begin our science unit on rocks and minerals.

We have read many different types of literature including historical fiction, realistic fiction, and fables. Reading skills have been focusing on narrative elements, sequencing, and following directions. As we move into the third quarter, we will begin to focus on

summarizing, as well as compare and contrast. Grammar lessons will look at many different types of adjectives. We will study adjectives for what kind, how many, and those that compare. Students should then be able to use these adjectives in their descriptive writing, so that the reader can really see and feel what they are writing about.

All the classes are finishing up the unit on multiplication and will be moving on to division. Please continue to help your child study their multiplication facts every night. Mastering these facts is one of the most important foundational skills of third grade. We will show how multiplication and division facts are related as a fact family. Division will be explained as

sharing equally and as repeated subtraction.

The third graders have just completed taking the MAPS test by the Northwest Education Association in reading and math. These tests are taken on a laptop computer. They help teachers see how each child is progressing in both subjects, and what skills still need to be worked on and taught next. We are looking forward to our upcoming field trip to the Museum of Science in Boston at the end of March.

Each class will be having a Valentine's Day party on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We hope you have a fantastic February vacation!

*Please continue to help your child study their multiplication facts every night.*

### 2ND GRADE NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: THE SECOND GRADE TEAM

The second grade classes have been busy working on place value and mental math. Thank you to our parents for their continued support in helping our students master the addition and subtraction facts to 20. It can be quite a challenge to solve each problem in three seconds!

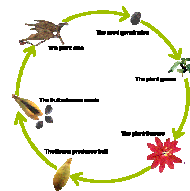
In reading, we are increasing our reading fluency and accuracy through daily practice. Remember it is a good idea to read aloud to your child to model fluency and good expression. We have just completed our third unit in reading titled, "Our World." Ask your child about the adventures of Johnny

Appleseed. Our students enjoyed learning about several Native American tribes from across the different regions of the United States during our mini unit at Thanksgiving. Our "Holidays Around the World" tour was a success. Students enjoyed stories, crafts, and facts from various countries. Did you see our picture in the Hudson/Litchfield News?

In Science, we began learning about plants. The nonfiction stories from our anthology helped us to identify the

parts of a plant and the resources that plants like trees provide to people.

We'd like to remind our students to wear their appropriate snow gear this winter season. Please label your child's snow pants and other items because they do get hung in the hall and could be confused with a classmate's.



Lastly, if you would like to donate tissues or wipes to your student's classroom, it is greatly appreciated!

### 1ST GRADE NEWS

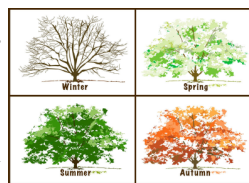
SUBMITTED BY: THE FIRST GRADE TEAM

All of our first graders continue to work hard each day! We are very proud of them! Our math classes are an exciting place to be. Each day, we practice our addition math facts. The children are beginning to learn their subtraction math facts too! Everyone is becoming more familiar with the Cuisenaire rods that we use in our classrooms during many of our math lessons. Geometry was our most recent unit of study. It was a big hit with all our first graders! The children loved learning all about plane and solid shapes.

During our Social Studies lessons, the children continued to learn about the different

holidays celebrated throughout the year. In November, we read many books about the first Thanksgiving. During December, the children studied the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa.

Everyone has enjoyed learning all about the four seasons during our Science lessons. Our first graders now know that as the seasons change, the trees also change. Each season lasts for a certain number of months during the year. We will continue to learn more about the four seasons throughout the rest of the school year.



During our reading lessons, the children have learned all the short vowel sounds and are now working on the long vowel sounds. We continue to work on word families with each new story. Everyone enjoys our making words activities. Many interesting stories have been read during the past few months. Both Fantasy and Non-fiction stories seem to be favorite ones for a lot of our first graders. Don't forget the GMS Reading Team's motto: The more you read for fun, the better reader you become!

*(continued, page 8)*

## KINDERGARTEN NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: THE KINDERGARTEN TEAM

The kindergarten classes took part in the Scholastic Great Bedtime Story Pajama Drive. A total of 39 pairs of pajamas were collected; which went to families in transition in the Manchester area. In math, we have been working on writing our numbers as well as counting to one hundred forwards and backwards.



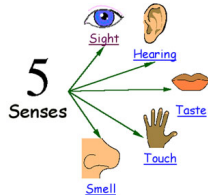
We will be exploring a unit on shapes this quarter as well as addition. We will be using our Cuisenaire Rods to help us learn our addition facts. In reading we are working on using the letter and sounds we have learned to sound out and write words. Please remember to read each night with your child!

**Home/School Connections:** Mrs. Adamos and Mrs. Sweetser have been working hard on creating our homework calendars that are aligned with the new Common Core Standards. We are challenging the kindergarten class to bring back their completed calendars, those who turn in a completed January homework calendars will get a prize.

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

SUBMITTED BY: THE PRESCHOOL TEAM

In November, all the classes worked hard to put together a Thanksgiving Feast for parents. We peeled and cut carrots and potatoes. We also made butter, apple pie, and pudding pie. Thank you to Mrs. McGarry for cooking the turkey.




our senses. We smelled different scents, listened to different environmental sounds and explored touching different textures. Some activities that we really liked were painting with mint extract and sand. We discussed that once sand dried it felt bumpy like sandpaper.

about winter. We have learned the difference between hot and cold. Dramatic play is turned into a winter wonderland with gloves and mittens and a snowman that we can rebuild. We are using snow blocks, ice, and arctic animals in block area. We have painted a hat with different colors and added cotton balls for the pom poms.

In December, we learned about

In January, we have begun learning



**Reasons to get involved:**

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Your child benefits</li> <li>2. We make a difference</li> <li>3. We're welcoming</li> <li>4. There's a lot to be done</li> <li>5. We have fun</li> <li>6. Meet nice people who</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. We can match jobs to your interest and abilities</li> <li>8. This work is very rewarding</li> </ol>
---	---

**Consider running for one of the following 2013/2014 positions:**

**President**  
**Vice President**  
**Treasurer**  
**Secretary**  
**Fundraising Coordinator**  
**Cultural Arts Coordinator**

## PTO MINUTES

SUBMITTED BY: BRIAN J. BOURQUE, PTO PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that half of the year has already gone by! Let me bring you up to speed on what has happened so far this year with the PTO. At the beginning of the school year, PTO member Bonnie Pennucci in coordination with Mr. Thompson sent a Survey Monkey out to all faculty at GMS to find out, in the educator's minds, how the PTO could further assist in enrichment programs. There was an overwhelming response by faculty as to what they saw as the biggest needs. The biggest areas of opportunity were around Math and Science. As such, the PTO helped to sponsor programs like Imagination Destination, Puzzle Pals and the Frontier Club. These extra-curricular activities are being run primarily by PTO volunteers and are proving to be hugely popular. The PTO will continue to work to explore additional ways in which

we can assist with enriching the students' educational experience. Currently, there is a committee of parents, teachers and administrators working together to further the work that has been done in this area. Should you have suggestions for additional enrichment opportunities or would like to volunteer with the current programs, please contact any member of the PTO board.

In addition, to this exciting news, the PTO also held a very successful Halloween Bash and will have more family fun in the coming months with our very popular Bingo Night as well as both the Mother/Son Movie Night and Father/Daughter Dance. All of this as well as wonderful enrichment programs like Marty Kelley and NH Hands at Work coming in February. As you will read in this issue of the Tiger Times, there is a need for

additional fundraising to help sponsor all of the events for the current school year. Also in this issue, is a listing of the pending open PTO board positions for the upcoming school year. Should you have an interest in any one of these positions, please contact me directly so that we can put you on an upcoming agenda at our monthly meetings. We appreciate your continued support of the PTO and welcome suggestions for improvement.



Help enrich the lives of GMS students....

**VOLUNTEER TODAY!**

## PTO FUNDRAISING INITIATIVES

SUBMITTED BY: JENNIFER BOURQUE, FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Thank you to all of those families who participated in the Fall Cherry Dale Fundraiser. While we were able to raise over \$9,000, we fell nearly 50% short to our fundraising goal for the year. The PTO is currently operating at a deficit and may need to cut programs should we not be able to raise sufficient funds in the next few months. But there is great news! You can help!!! We will be holding a WINTER FUNDRAISER starting on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup>. We will be participating in the Save Around 2013 (Manchester edition) fundraiser. This is a valuable coupon book with fantastic offerings from local retailers, establishments and restaurants that many families already visit. They include favorites like Papa Gino's, Dunkin Donuts and Burger King as well as more traditional restaurants TGI Friday's and Texas Roadhouse to name only a few. It also includes coupon savings for family friendly establishments like Cowabunga's in Hooksett, Mel's Funway Park and McIntyre

Ski area. This coupon book has over \$3000 in value and is sold for only \$20!! And the best part is that 50% of that goes directly back to the GMS PTO. If each student sells just TWO books, we will raise \$10,000 and cure our current deficit! As an added incentive, each student who sells FIVE books will receive the SIXTH book for free! WOW!! What a great deal!!! Please see your child's take home folder on Friday, January 25<sup>th</sup> for more information. The fundraiser will run until Friday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Books will be received just two weeks after leaving plenty of opportunity to utilize in 2013!

In addition to our Winter Fundraiser, we will also be holding a series of additional fundraising opportunities in the winter and spring. The GMS PTO will be coordinating eating



and shopping events at local retail shops and restaurants where the PTO will receive a portion of the sales back. Details and dates around these fundraisers will be provided in February and events will be held in February, March and April. Why not help out by eating and shopping at establishments that help support our school!

Being new to the fundraising position, I am very receptive to feedback that you may have on additional ways that we can raise funds for the 2013-2014 school year as well. Should you have any questions, ideas or suggestions, please contact me at [jennifer.bourque@toysrus.com](mailto:jennifer.bourque@toysrus.com). Thanks in advance for your support of our upcoming fundraising endeavors!!

## BOX TOPS REPORT

SUBMITTED BY: JENNIFER BOURQUE, FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Our progress with Box Tops continues through the Winter. Thank you so much to all of the families that participate in this program that helps to fund the PTO budget. So far in this school year, we have collected over 17,000 box tops. We are nearly half way to our goal of 50,000 box tops for the current year. I'd like to congratulate our November Box Top Winner, Abigail Buxton! Abigail won a \$50 Toys R Us Gift Card!! Our December contest was a participation contest where the classroom with the highest percent of students participating would receive a pizza party. I'm pleased to announce the winner of that contest is Mrs. Mic's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class!! With a participation rate of 43%, they will receive their party in February. Great job!! As a reminder, our January contest is a 4 pack of tickets to the Manchester Monarchs to the student with the HIGHEST TOTAL NUMBER OF BOX TOPS SUBMITTED. (Contest period January 2<sup>nd</sup>-February 1<sup>st</sup>). You still have plenty of time to get those box tops in!

The next submission date for box tops is March 1<sup>st</sup> so let's have a HUGE push in February and get those box tops in!



We will have the following contests going on for the months of February, March and April:

- February—(2/4 through 2/22)—For every 25 box tops submitted, be entered to win a family movie package!!
- March—(3/4 through 3/29)—For every 10 box tops submitted, be entered for a

chance to win a RAZOR SCOOTER!

- April—(4/1 through 4/19)—For every 25 box tops submitted, be entered to win a chance at a family four pack of tickets for the NH Fisher Cats!!

Some additional box top reminders for you: Box tops are most easily submitted utilizing the sheets of 10 sent home (please limit the number of box tops to only 10 per sheet) or by sending in via Ziploc bag in groups of 50. PLEASE BE SURE THAT ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE LABELED WITH YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AND LAST NAME AND TEACHER'S NAME.

Should you have any suggestions for other fun ways to drive the box top program, please feel free to contact me at [jennifer.bourque@toysrus.com](mailto:jennifer.bourque@toysrus.com). Thanks again 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)

## DESTINATION IMAGINATION

SUBMITTED BY: CLAIRE 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.

Currently, all teams are working hard toward the Destination Imagination competi-

tion on March 23, in Swanzy. One competitive team is building cars powered by different energy sources, while the other competitive team is working on their acting and improv skills. Both rising star teams are going to be participating in the ROY G BIV challenge. ROY G BIV stands for Red, Orange, Yellow, Green, Blue, Indigo, Violet.

Again, Maurissa and I would like to thank the PTO for their support of the teams. I would also like to thank the adults who have stepped up to help with the successful running of this program, especially Maurissa Fluet and her fellow team leaders.



## 1ST GRADE NEWS (CONTINUED)

SUBMITTED BY: THE FIRST GRADE TEAM

The Book Fair and the Holiday Store were both a big success. The children enjoyed the variety of books at the book fair and the many gift choices offered at the Holiday Store. Assemblies were plentiful in the past few months. We all enjoyed the Veteran's Day Assembly, the Holiday Concert and most recently, the wonderful assembly in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Next

month, local author Marty Kelley will be visiting the first graders.

All first graders will be taking the NWEA test at the end of January. This will be the second time this test is administered to our first graders this school year. The children are looking forward to completing this test on the computer!

The first grade team would like to thank the parents for the time they spent attending the November parent conferences. We would also like to thank all the families who have generously donated classroom supplies throughout the school year. They are very much appreciated!

## WINTER ENRICHMENT ASSEMBLIES

SUBMITTED BY: LIZ MACDONALD, PTO ENRICHMENT ASSEMBLY COORDINATOR

Grade 1	Marty Kelley, Author/Illustrator	February
Grade 2	Star Lab, Christa McAuliffe Discovery Dome	January
Grade 4	NH Hands at Work, Exploring Granite State Industries	February



*Labels for Education*® is a fun and easy program where families and members of the community work together towards a common goal — “Earn Free Stuff” for their school!

By collecting UPCs and beverage caps/sauce caps from over 2,500 participating products, our school earns points that help to supply equipment for the playground such as basketballs, jump ropes, footballs, sidewalk chalk and kick balls.

**Send in your LABELS FOR EDUCATION today!**