



GMS TIGER TIMES

SPRING 2015

JULIE GREEN, EDITOR

A NOTE FROM SCOTT THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL AND CONNIE FARO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

We welcome you all to a wonderful spring – warm weather, sunny days, and most of all no snow!!!! We have had a terrific school year with a variety of new events. This was our first year that our third and fourth graders were tested using the Smarter Balanced Test which is New Hampshire's state assessment. Our students were actively engaged throughout their 5 days of testing. They worked their hardest to answer math and language arts questions. Some students commented that they found the experiencing challenging and even fun! During each week of testing our Kindergarten, first and second graders sent notes to a third or fourth grade class wishing them luck and telling them how proud they were of what they knew. To celebrate our third and fourth graders' achievement Ms. Faro and Mr. Thompson sponsored a dance for them the Thursday before April vacation. Each grade danced the chicken dance

with Mr. Thompson and the Macarena with Ms. Faro! They had a great time during their half hour dance that ended with drinks and Oreo cookies. We can't say enough about how proud we are of our third and fourth graders – the best in the state!

This spring we started a new club for our third graders. Ms. Faro organized the Math Dash, a club designed to help students improve their math skills while having fun with numbers. During one recess period a week for 6 weeks sixty four 3rd graders worked in teams to solve math problems. Ms. Faro along with Mrs. Parent and Mrs. Miloro, our Title I math teachers, coached The Smarties, The Winners, The Purple Stars, Math Magic, Math Smarties, Multiplication Madness, Digit Dashers, and Fluffy Mustaches. Each week the students solved problems on a specific math topic such as reading graphs, working with

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Principals' Note	1-2
Kindergarten Team	2
First Grade Team	3
Second Grade Team	4
Third Grade Team	3
Fourth Grade Team	5
Guidance Perspectives	6
Library News	4
Nurse's Corner	6
PTO News	6

DATES TO REMEMBER

Great East Music Festival
May 29

Fourth Grade visit to LMS
June 11

Fourth Grade recognition
Monday, June 22

Field Day
Tuesday, June 23

Last Day of School
Wednesday, June 24- Half Day

First Day of School
Monday, August 31

KINDERGARTEN TEAM

It has been a busy third and fourth quarter in kindergarten. Our classes had a great time cleaning up the school grounds on Earth Day. We enjoyed yogurt donated by Stoneyfield yogurt! We are ending the year with units on different creatures, such as the animals of a pond, insects and animals of the ocean. We recently had a visit from Michelle's Menagerie and her woodland animals.



The students learned about flying squirrels, opossums and several other animals. During our insect unit, we will be learning 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:

- Summer Reading Program at Aaron Cutler Memorial Library
- 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 three summer reading cards for GMS
- Draw a picture and label the things in the picture
- Write a story about something you love

A NOTE FROM SCOTT THOMPSON, PRINCIPAL AND CONNIE FARO, ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (CONT.)

fractions, a math scavenger hunt, and measurement. The Smarties, Purple Stars, Math Magic and Math Smarties competed in the semi-finals. At the end of 5 weeks the two teams with the highest combined scores competed in the finals. Our first place team was the Math Magic and second place was The Smarties. All students had a great time participating in our annual Math Dash. They even commented about how fun math can be!

Our Student Council has been very busy this year acting as positive role models for all our students. In December the council managed our annual food drive for the Litchfield Food Bank. They sponsored a T-shirt sale to raise money for local charities. They organized, planned, and presented what staff called "One of the best assemblies of the year!" This assembly was on kindness and with Mrs. Robinson our school counselor, as their advisor they created a video of themselves demonstrating acts of kindness. Students from other grades read essays they wrote about being kind to others. Our Student Council is currently in the process of planning our annual Relay Recess to raise money for cancer research.

We have many upcoming events in the school, some of which you can read about in this issue of the Tiger Times. Our third annual Fourth Grade Spelling Bee will be held on Thursday, June 4. The Spring Arts Festival will be held next week. Information on specific dates and times will be sent to students in each grade level. We are working with the middle school to plan transition activities for next year's fifth graders. And of course, we will be having our field day and our third Recess Relay in the last days of the school year.

Every day we look forward to working with your children and watching them grow into kind, respectful, and responsible young ladies and gentlemen. A great big "Thank you" to all of our parents for their wonderful support throughout the year. Together we make GMS a wonderful school!

FIRST GRADE TEAM

We are so proud of how hard our first graders continue to work! In math, we are continuing to work on mastering all our addition math facts to 20. 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 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). In Science, we are learning all about our five senses. The children have also enjoyed working on their living and non-living unit.

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 fourth reading book. When book four is completed, there will be only one more to go before the end of the school year! Everyone enjoyed the visit from local author Marty Kelley. The first graders LOVE when our LMS reading buddies come to visit. We will be meeting our buddies one more time before the school year ends! Please have your children READ, READ, READ over the summer.

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 21st. They are also looking forward to Grandparents and Special Friends Day which will be held on May 22nd. We hope to see you there!

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!

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 event for the year will be a visit in June by Techsploration. That will be an exciting presentation on magnets and electricity.

The third grade classes have just finished up our unit on immigration. The children learned a great deal about the millions of Europeans who emigrated 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 final science unit will be on heat, light, and sound. The students will conduct many experiments to

learn more about all three types of energy. They will discover that heat moves from a warm object to a cool one, that light travels in a straight line, and that vibrations are the source of sound.

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

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

SHOP WITH SCRIPT

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. It's really that simple! To start shopping click on the link below for a printed list, or on the link to the web site. The GMS Enrollment code for the website is [4CCEELDA22168](#). 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

 shopwithscrip.com
A Service of Great Lakes Scrip Center®

BOX TOPS

We've collected about 40,000 Box Tops! That \$4,000 for the school, just from clipping!

Don't forget over the summer to continue clipping Box Top Coupons from a variety of participating products such as Yoplait, Pillsbury, Betty Crocker, Scott, Kleenex, Hefty, etc. Then send them in with your child. You may use the collection sheets that are periodically sent home or put them in a sealed baggie with your child's name on it. Last year, we raised \$2300 thanks to parents sending in their box tops!



LIBRARY NEWS,

MELINA PREVEL-TURMEL, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

The students have been busy over the last several weeks in the library! Kindergarteners have been learning many facts about dinosaurs and plants. First graders read about various animals' life cycles and shared facts about those animals with their classmates. This came after units about nursery rhymes, the mystery genre, books about and by Dr. Seuss and fables. Second graders learned about people who have made a difference through biographies, including Hans Christian Anderson who wrote many famous fairy tales, some of which I read to them. They also learned about the Caldecott Medal, which is given to one picture book each year throughout the United States. Third graders have practiced using a thesaurus, which hopefully they will use in their writing. We will be reading various genres of books authored by Jane Yolen. Lastly, fourth graders have been learning how to look up information in almanacs and atlases.

Thank you for your continued support with helping your children keep their library books protected and brought back on time.

As always, you can access the library catalog on-line from the library page, which is connected to the school web site.

SECOND GRADE TEAM

It has been a busy time in second grade! In Math, the students learned all about money. They worked with the coins, their values, and counting change and dollar bills to \$1.00 and beyond. They have done a wonderful job memorizing the addition facts, but the subtraction facts need continued practice! Please remember to continue practicing the subtraction facts at home. The goal is to answer a fact (in writing) in 3 seconds or less!

We completed our fourth reading unit, titled "Imagine That!" In this theme, the students learned how imagination and creativity can help characters solve problems and express ideas. Please remember to read each

night. This practice will increase fluency, which is assessed every six weeks. During this quick assessment, the teachers take a measure of how many words a student can read correctly in one minute.

We're sure your child told you about our visit from the Blue Hill Planetarium. Thank you so much to the PTO for organizing this event! It was a great way to teach the students about the planets and stars, as well as the constellations in the sky.

Our Social Studies units this spring has taught the students all about early immigration, as well as how today's immigrants become citizens. Ask your child

to share with you some of the interesting information he or she has learned about The Statue of Liberty, and how this American symbol relates to immigration.

We recently took a field trip to The Palace Theater in Manchester to see a presentation of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown!" The students enjoyed the performance, and learned the importance of being happy with you and who you are.

DONATIONS: With allergies upon us, the second grade teachers would greatly appreciate tissues to be sent in for the classroom. Thank you in advance, and Happy Spring!

FOURTH GRADE TEAM

We continue to be hard at work in fourth grade. In math, we have tackled both multi-step multiplication and long division. The students have worked hard to grasp these difficult skills. On to fractions! In science, the students are learning about matter and its properties. They are using the scientific method to conduct hands-on experiments. We had a wonderful program from the Boston Museum of Science come and show us many exciting experiments on solids, liquids, and gases. Recently we attended a New Hampshire History program called Hands at Work. We also had so much fun visiting the Lowell Boott Cotton Mill, on May 20th. These program enhanced our economics unit and taught the students what mills were like in the past.



There are many exciting summer activities right here in New Hampshire. The following is a list of places to visit over the summer. The programs from these museums and parks enhance the 4th grade Social Studies curriculum, which focused on New Hampshire.

- **Strawbery Banke** - Portsmouth
- **McAuliffe – Shepard Discovery Center** - Concord
- **Fort No. 4** - Charlestown
- **SEE Science Center** - Manchester
- **Squam Lakes Natural Science Center** - Holderness
- **Odiorne Point State Park/Seacoast Science Center** - Rye
- **Polar Caves Park** - Rumney
- **Ruggles Mine** - Grafton
- **Mt. Kearsarge Indian Museum** - Warner
- **Albacore Museum** - Portsmouth
- **Boott Cotton Mill (Go back for more...a canal ride, a trolley ride!)** – Lowell
- **Amoskeag Millyard Museum** - Manchester

The fourth grade team would like to thank the parents for all their help and support for a successful year at GMS! Also, we would like to thank the PTO for all the wonderful things they've done to enhance our school year. We have greatly appreciated the enrichment programs, the yearbook, and end of the year activities. The students and staff at GMS are lucky to have such a caring PTO.

IMPORTANT END OF YEAR DATES:

Friday, May 29

Great East Music Festival (Chorus)

Thursday, June 4

Fourth Grade Spelling Bee

Tuesday, June 9

Lynne Ellis, guidance counselor from LMS, visiting 4th grade classes

Thursday, June 11

Move-Up Day to LMS (morning)

Monday, June 22

Recognition Day (4th grade picnic & certificate program)

Tuesday, June 23

Field Day

GUIDANCE PERSPECTIVE

JOCELYN ROBINSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

TARI SELIG, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

JAMES PHILLIPS, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST INTERN

Throughout this year, we have been talking about the concepts of 'Strive, Grow, Thrive' and how setting goals and striving to achieve will help students thrive. A second component for student success is importance of feeling connected to a community. Children feel accepted and socially connected when they are part of a community. Our students are part of their classroom community and a part of the larger community that is GMS.

On April 22, Earth Day, students celebrated their community of GMS by participating in a school-wide clean-up all around the school. The fourth grade students from the Green Team (recycling club) prepared and distributed bags and gloves to all classrooms. Several Green Team members created a presented a PowerPoint to the kindergarten teaching them about Earth Day and the importance of recycling and reusing. Stoneyfield Farm joined us that morning and provided a yogurt treat to all students and staff.



NURSE'S CORNER

SUSAN SEABROOK, RNBS

I would like to remind parents to apply any sunscreen prior to the school day. Please remember the children are on the playground during the sunny part of the day.

Hydration with water is a very important part of a body's needs. Please send in those bottles of H₂O and encourage your children to drink plenty of water to remain healthy at school and at home.

If your child has new physicals with additional immunizations, please send those to the health office.

Please remember all incoming kindergarten and new first graders will need up to date physicals and immunizations prior to the first day of school.

Have a glorious summer and I will see all returning students on the first day of school.

Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of caring for your children.

Stay healthy and safe

PTO NEWS

As we come to the end of another school year the PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who made the year a success. Our Cultural Arts program once again brought our children wonderful activities that enhanced their classroom learning such as the Pioneer Living and the Star Lab. Even as the year comes to the end there are still additional activities that our students will get to experience thanks to this wonderful program.

With your support, we were able to provide several fun events for our families, including the Halloween Bash, Bingo Night, Mother-Son Movie

Night and the Father-Daughter Dance. The PTO was able to utilize funds raised over the year to purchase new pedometers for the Physical Education classes and help fund many new programs such as dance lessons for the Spring Arts festival.

The PTO helped to fund two great enrichment programs: Destination Imagination and the Lego Club. Destination Imagination had a great year with it's largest group and had two teams place first and move on in the competition. Lego club also had a great year and was run by fabulous volunteers.

Teacher Appreciation Week was the first week of May and the PTO along with the parent volunteers hosted a "Tailgating Party" for the teachers during their lunch. It 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!

We are grateful for all our parents and volunteers that help to support all these wonderful programs. We look forward to the summer and an exciting 2015-2016 school year. Please join us for our last meeting on June 8th @ 6:30 in the GMS Cafeteria.