

Tiger Times

Spring 2016



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

Mr. Thompson and I welcome you all to a wonderful spring – interesting weather this year since it feels like winter had a tough time establishing itself in New Hampshire! To all of us who got snow shoes or ski equipment for Christmas, we'll just have to put them away until next year when without a doubt, the snow will arrive and this unusual winter will just be a memory!

Our students are getting ready for the 2nd year of testing with the Smarter Balanced Assessment. Our 3rd and 4th graders have been working diligently in math and English/ language arts learning lots of new skills, strategies, and information in preparation for showcasing their knowledge through their performance on this state-wide assessment. We are so very proud of our students and teachers and their diligent work during the school year.

Our third grade Math Dash math club ended March 2 when the finals competition was held. We had 59 students join our club this year and participate for 5 weeks with their team in solving a variety of math challenges. Our hope was that this club would help students develop a love for math while practicing their math skills. Coaches were Mrs. Anctil, Mrs. Parent, and Ms. Faro. We had 9 teams this year. They were the Math Money Bones, Math Superstars, Black Warriors, Pink Fluffy Panda Unicorns, Math Masters, Math Digits, Pink Rainbow Unicorns, Math Magicians, and Mustache Warriors. The 4 teams that competed in the semi-finals this year were the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3
JULIE GREEN- EDITOR

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Kindergarten Team	5
First Grade Team	9
Second Grade Team	3
Third Grade Team	9
Fourth Grade Team	4
Library News	5
Destination Imagination	6-7
PTO News	10
Spring Arts Festival	8

DATES TO REMEMBER

2 Hour Delayed Opening

Wednesday, April 6

Spring Recess – No School

April 25 – 29

Memorial Day –

No School

May 30

A NOTE FROM SCOTT THOMPSON & CONNIE FARO CONTINUED

Math Superstars, Black Warriors, Math Magicians, and the Mustache Warriors. Our first place team was the Mustache Warriors and second place was the Black Warriors. All students had a great time participating and commented on how much fun math can be!

Once again this year we had several teams participate in Destination Imagination. The regional competition was held Saturday, March 12 in Kingston, NH. We are thrilled to announce that TWO Litchfield Teams took 1st and 2nd place in the Elementary Division at this regional tournament. First place went to the Fast Thinking French Fries team which was made up of 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. The second place team was the Destination Futuristic Adventurers made up of 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. They all did an outstanding job and once again made all of us at GMS so very proud. A great big shout out to the parents who coached all our Destination Imagination teams. The two winning teams will be going on to the State championships in April. Good luck to all our students.

Our Student Council is having a very busy 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 once again called “One of the best assemblies of the year!” This assembly was about accepting everyone and highlighted that we all are special even though we have differences. Mrs. Robinson our school



counselor, directed a play the student councilors performed based on the book, One. Students from other grades read essays they wrote or drew pictures about someone who made a difference in their lives. These were very touching since some students described their teachers either past or present! The students who wrote essays or drew pictures were entered into a drawing where the prize was lunch with Mrs. Thompson and Ms. Faro, and ice cream



sundaes for dessert. We enjoyed eating with the students, and they real did have fun! A great big “Thank You” to Mrs. Robinson who met often with the student council at 7:30 A.M. in preparation for this wonderful event. Thanks also go to our terrific parents who made the effort to get their child to school at the early time! To increase the “friendliness” of our school, our student councilors have recently established a routine where they greet our first and second graders as they enter the building each morning. They love doing this and it is amazing to see the smiles it puts on the face of our younger students.

Some future events we are looking forward to here at GMS as our school year comes to a close are our 4th grade spelling bee in June, Field Day, and our spring arts festival.

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!



SECOND GRADE TEAM

The GMS second graders have been working hard and should be very proud of themselves! In math, we were very busy, using addition and subtraction skills to solve 1- and 2-step word problems. We are currently working on Topic 8, learning about time and money. 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. Our focus has been on fiction (both realistic and fantasy), where we have worked on identifying the plot of a story: characters, setting, problem, steps to solving the problem, solution, and ending. We have also enjoyed reading biographies, learning about the lives of several famous Americans, including Helen Keller. We have continued to practice the three types of writing (informational, opinion, and narrative), with a focus on using descriptive details in writing.

We had a special visit in February from the traveling planetarium! Thank you PTO! We learned about our place in space, the constellations, and the changes we see in the sky over a day, month, and year. March was a busy month, as well! We learned about dental hygiene with a presentation from our local dentist's office.

We are in need of tissues in the classroom, and would greatly appreciate any donations! Thank you very much in advance!

-The Grade Two Team

SHOP WITH SCRIP

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®



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!

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 “Going

to School”. This program taught the students what school was like in the 1700s-1800s. Ask your child why students had to bring their own wood to school during colonial times! Our next NH History program is called “Hands at Work”. This program enhances our economics unit and will give the students a sneak peek before their next field trip. We are looking forward to visiting the Lowell Boott Cotton Mill, on May 2nd.

The fourth graders have many assessments coming up this spring. We will soon be starting Smarter Balanced testing at the end of March. During the month of May, the fourth graders will

take the state NECAP Science test. The students will also be assessed in reading and math through AIMS Web and NWEA. 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. Thank you for your continued support at home!

DONATIONS:

Non-perishable snacks, glue sticks, eraser toppers, pencils, tissues, wipes



KINDERGARTEN TEAM

It has been a busy quarter in kindergarten. We celebrated the 100th day of Kindergarten. The classes were very creative with their 100th day collections. We celebrated the 100th day with many activities, including making a 100th day snack. Read Across America week was a great success in kindergarten.



Each day we had a wonderful turn out of creative and enthusiastic participation. The kindergarten classes had a fun time working with Mrs. Benoit, Mrs. Ashe and Mrs. Leary's classes to buddy read. The Math and Reading Night was a fantastic success. Lots of kids played math and reading games to improve their skills. We had a few kindergarteners win prizes.

In math, we continue to work on adding two numbers and using the commutative property ($3+2=5$ and $2+3=5$). We have begun working on our subtraction unit. In reading, we have been working hard on "popcorn" words and have been using them to create simple sentences. The children are doing more independent writing. Please remember to read each night with your child!

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION:

The children have also been using playing number cards and dice to help them recognize the way numbers are arranged on the cards or dice (visual clusters). Please work with your child on these addition facts (making 10, adding one and adding ten to a number) and recognizing the visual clusters on playing cards and dice. This can be done by playing card games and dice games such as War, Go Fish and Yahtzee.

LIBRARY NEWS,

MELINA PREVEL-TURMEL, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Kindergarteners have been hearing winter and Arctic animal books read to them, which reinforced the subjects that they were studying in their classrooms.

First graders learned about Dr. Seuss and heard several of his stories and well as fables. We have begun learning about the mystery genre.



The second grade students researched a country with a partner using encyclopedias to complete facts on a bookmark. The facts were presented to their classmates, and we located these countries on a globe. They are now are learning about Tomie DePaola and several of his stories that he wrote and illustrated.

The third grade classes have been focusing on the fiction and nonfiction sections and how they are organized. They had to pick a book from the nonfiction section to write

a report and present it to their classmates.

After reviewing the nonfiction section with the fourth graders, they have been working on skills such as using a Table of Contents and Index and scanning a page for key words while using World Almanacs for Kids.

Thank you for helping your children to keep their library books in a safe and consistent place as well as reminding them when it is their library day.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION- RISING STARS

WHAT IS DESTINATION IMAGINATION..... It is a program dedicated to teaching participants the essential skills of creativity, teamwork, and problem solving.

This year Litchfield had 3 Rising Star teams, 4 Elementary level teams and 1 Middle School level team for a total of 59 participants!

Rising Star teams took a journey where they learned about maps in their Challenge **Change in Direction**.

Elementary level had two teams compete in **Get a Clue** and two teams compete in **Pace of Change** challenges.

The Fast Thinking French Fries won first place and *Destination Futuristic Adventurers* took second place in the elementary level for their challenge and will represent Litchfield at the state tournament on April 2nd.

SEE PAGE 10 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE STATE TOURNAMENT

THE \$900 DOLLAR TEAM

Santa and his reindeer are on their way to deliver Christmas presents in Disney World when their sleigh crashes in a storm of poisonous gummy worms. Will Santa and his reindeer get to deliver their presents to Disney or will they have to change direction? You will soon find out!



ALIENS & ASTRONAUTS

Aliens on the planet Awesome are causing trouble for Earth. Our explorers go on a mission to help the aliens understand why they need to behave. Along the way the explorers run into some bumps in the road.

FEARLESS FLYING HOTDOGS

Astronauts are on Titan, one of Saturn's moons and bad aliens are coming after them. The pink unicorn is the only one that can save them. At the end there's an epic battle and the unicorn wins.



DESTINATION IMAGINATION- ELEMENTARY LEVEL

DESTINATION FUTURISTIC ADVENTURERS

Professor Pivo and PPJ have created a prototype vehicle that changes, it drives, sails and flies across America and the Pacific Ocean to Hawaii competing in a race to win prize money and a new lab to continue building new prototypes. The toxic uranium refueling causes Professor Pivo and PPJ to make an interesting change into jaguar-like creatures that once the fumes dissipate, they change back to themselves. The question is, will they win the race?



THE AWESOME RAINBOW PEAGUSES

The Zoo keeper at Benson's Zoo has lost her keys to the animal cages. The detectives at Detectives Incorporated are working to solve the case and find out which one of the three suspects took the keys.

THE FAST THINKING FRENCH FRIES

Ahoy Matty - join us as Captain Alex travels with his crew to Skull Rock in search of treasure. On their journey they will encounter rough travel and will become ship-wrecked. Will Pirate Bella share her treasure and help the crew get back to Pokeo? Watch and find out! Arrrrrr you ready?



THE ZEBRA KITTY PICKLES

The captain of the Titanic has been kidnapped. Come along as the detective discovers clues as to which one of the three suspects are responsible for the mysterious disappearance.

READ ACROSS AMERICA



LITCHFIELD DISTRICT ARTS & MUSIC FESTIVAL

The Litchfield District Art & Music Festival wrapped up on Thursday March 17th with a wonderful performance by the combined Festival Choir. The three district schools combined to sing “Gloria in Excelsis Deo” by Antonio Vivaldi and arranged by Victor Johnson.

The halls of Campbell High School were filled with Music and Art during the Annual Art & Music Festival. Earlier in the week at the Festival a group of fourth graders performed on their recorders and Orff instruments during the District Band Concert. Visiting parents, family and friends were also able to see the beautiful pieces of art that our talented students have created this year.

The GMS 3rd & 4th Grade grade chorus performed “God Bless America” as one of their three songs at the festival. The Chorus had previously sung this at the Manchester Monarchs game and once again did a spectacular job showing off their talent.

Mrs. Labelle and the Chorus will now prepare for the Great East Festival, which is in June. The Chorus will utilize the feedback from the judges at the Large Group Festival, that Litchfield hosted earlier this month, along with a digital recording of their performance to fine-tune 2 of their pieces. They are also adding a 3rd piece, and Mrs. Noreen LaBatt is choreographing the medley of pioneer tunes they sang for District Festival.



THIRD GRADE TEAM

Lots of learning and fun activities are happening in third grade!

We just completed our Oregon Trail and Immigration unit in Social Studies. Our classes had the opportunity to have a wonderful hands on assembly about Pioneer Life which allowed the students to get a better grasp on what pioneer life was like. The students are excited to have our first field trip coming up on March 28th to Strawberry Banke, which will allow them to continue their understanding of this Social Studies unit.

We have also wrapped up our multiplication and division units, but it will be extremely important for your child to continue to study these facts for the remainder of the year.

Over the next two months, we will be taking the Smarter Balanced test for English/Language Arts and Math. We have been working very hard in our classrooms to be prepared for this test. There will be no homework on the days your child is taking the test, except for getting a good night's sleep and bringing in a pleasure book to read.

BOX TOPS

Clip 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 \$4,200 thanks to parents sending in their box tops!

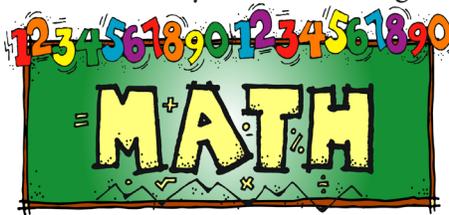


FIRST GRADE TEAM

We are so proud of how hard our first graders continue to work! During our reading lessons, the children are continuing to learn the different letter combinations that make the long vowel sounds. We are currently working on our fourth reading book. When book four is completed, there will be only two more to go before the end of the school year! The first graders are enjoying the many visits from our LMS 6th grade reading buddies. Read Across America week was a huge success! Many children participated in the themed activities!

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). This quarter in Science, everyone is learning all about their five senses.

Everyone had a great time at the Math and Reading Literacy Night! Both parents and children left with many new math and reading games to play at home.

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!

PTO NEWS

As the seasons change and Winter turns into Spring, the PTO would like to thank all the volunteers who continue to make our sponsored programs and events happen. Over the Winter months, we have had some busy times. Destination Imagination teams have been hard at work throughout the winter and competed in the Kingston Regional Tournament on Saturday, March 12th. Two Elementary teams will be moving on to the States Tournament on Saturday, April 2nd in Nashua.

The Lego Education Club will be starting up which now will include Kindergarten. Two sessions are being offered for Grades 1-4 and Session 1 for Kindergarten.



With all your support, Bingo Night was a ton of fun! Our next event is Mother-Son Movie Night, April 15th. Look for the flyers coming home soon.

Thank you to all our volunteers who help bring these programs and family fun nights to our GMS families!!!! Please come join us at our next PTO meeting to find out more about some new exciting things coming your way!

SPECIAL EVENTS

Mother Son Movie Night

Friday, April 15 @ 6



Adult Trivia Night- Talent Hall

April 16th @ 7pm

Teams up to 8

Questions and registration can go to Janctil@litchfieldsd.org

Teacher Appreciation Week

May 9-13

Screen Free Week

May 15-21

Kid Paint Workshop

During Screen Free Week

Father Daughter Dance

Friday, May 20 @ 6

PTO
MEETING

PTO Meeting- Cafe

Monday, April 18 @ 6:30

PTO Meeting- Cafe

Monday, May 23 @ 6:30



DESTINATION IMAGINATION 2016 NH STATE TOURNAMENT

Saturday, April 2, 2016 at Nashua High School North

Come cheer on our **two** Litchfield teams as they compete in the **Technical Challenge: Pace of Change**. They will be competing against over 100 teams from all over New Hampshire. The highest scoring teams will advance to compete with over 1,300 other teams from around the world at the Destination Imagination Global Finals.

