

GMS TIGER TIMES



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

We continue to have a busy year as students delve into learning activities to prepare them for life after GMS. Our students are actively engaged in hands on science this year. They are having fun as they learn about scientific inquiry and prove scientific concepts. It is quite an exciting sight to see teams of students using i-pads and other technology to prove or disprove their hypotheses. This is all done through the implementation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a new science program at GMS. Project Lead the Way Launch, which is the K-5 program is described fully at their website: "PLTW Launch's 24 interdisciplinary modules bring learning to life. The program empowers students to adopt a design-thinking mindset through compelling activities, projects, and problems that build upon each other and relate to the world around them. And as students engage in hands-on activities in computer science, engineering, and biomedical science, they become creative, collaborative problem solvers ready

to take on any challenge." We piloted PLTW in two classrooms in 2015-16, and those two teachers, Sandra Doucette and Paula Cullen Kent were trained as trainers for the program. Five more teachers were trained over the summer of 2016, and the remainder on November 8. All classrooms will be doing at least one PLTW unit this year, and full implementation will happen starting in the next school year.

Our Student Council is up and running once again. Under the advisement of Mrs. Robinson, our school Counselor, our student council has been involved in several projects to promote kindness and caring in our school. For example, they organized our canned food drive prior to Thanksgiving. They are school greeters in the morning. They are at the doors as our first and second graders enter the building in the morning and greet them with smiles and kind words. The students love this and look forward to it each day. They are currently working with Mrs. Robinson to organize our Kindness Counts

WINTER 2017

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Father Daughter Dance

Friday, February 10

PTO Meeting- Cafe

Monday, February 20 @ 6:30

No School- Winter Recess

February 22 – 26

PTO Meeting- Cafe

Monday, March 20 @ 6:30

No School- Teacher Development

Tuesday, March 14

District Choral Concert

Wednesday, March 15

A NOTE FROM SCOTT THOMPSON & CONNIE FARO CONTINUED

assembly. For the past couple of weeks the student council members have participated in our morning announcement offering kind words and ways for all of us to promote kindness where ever we are.

Our council members this year are:

Mrs. Cohen's Room:

Madden Ashe
Chloe Bremberg (PRESIDENT)
Anthony LaPlante

Mrs. Leary's Room:

Matthew Haley (SECRETARY)
Mary O'Neil
Sydney Hanscom

Mrs. Ashe's Room:

Abby Guerrette (VICE PRESIDENT)
Leah Bowen (TREASURER)

Mrs. Cullen Kent's Room:

Aiden Jensen
Violet Anctil

Our Math Dash Club for our third graders began the second week of January. This club is designed to help students improve their math skills while having fun with numbers. During one recess period a week for 6 weeks approximately 50 3rd graders work in teams to solve math problems. Ms. Faro along with Mrs. Parent, Mrs. Ferris, Mrs. Israel, and Mrs. Anctil, our Title I math teachers, coach the teams as they solve problems on a specific math topic such as reading graphs, working with fractions, a math scavenger hunt, and measurement. At the end of 4 weeks the two teams with the highest combined scores will compete in the semi-finals and finals to determine the Math Dash champions for 2017. Our teams this year are Math Kids, Math Wizards, Human Calculators, Mathematics, Dabbing Pizza Warriors, Math Dabbers, and Super Flying Math Stars. All seem to be enjoying the fun and competition.

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

NURSE NOTES

Hello Parent and Guardians of GMS students,

I would like to thank all the parents who call regarding contagious illness and also call regarding your children's injuries. I greatly appreciate these communications.

We all appreciate parents keeping their students home when they are ill as this helps keep our staff and students stay healthy.



I would like to remind all of students to bring water bottles to school everyday as it so important to remain hydrated to stay healthy. I am in need of extra water bottles for the health office if anyone would like to donate for our students who forget.

Please remember to send your children with all the five items for outdoor recess~hat, gloves, coat, snow pants and boots. Our playground gets wet as snow melts and it is always a good idea to send in dry pants and socks for your child to change into if they get wet while playing.

We have been fortunate to receive a generous donation of gloves, hats and scarves from Stage Crossing community members. If your children have come home with new items, please accept them from our wonderful community. If your prefer to return them, please wash prior to returning them.

I thank you for allowing me to care for your children while they are at GMS. Please call me with any questions or concerns.

Be Healthy,

Susan G Seabrook, RN
School Nurse, GMS

GUIDANCE PERSPECTIVES

MARIE POLICHRONOPOULOS, SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST

JOCELYN ROBINSON, SCHOOL COUNSELOR

REBEKAH SPOTTS, SCHOOL COUNSELING INTERN

RUDE VS. MEAN VS. BULLYING

At the beginning of the year, we began our annual bullying update with staff sharing an excellent article by Signe Whitson titled, Rude vs Mean vs Bullying: Defining the Differences. It is an equally good article for parents as they help their child(ren) deal with a variety of behaviors that they may encounter with others. When working with students, we will try to help them understand the differences among the three types of behaviors.

Rude:

Inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else

Mean:

Purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice)

Bullying:

Intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power

The main difference between rude and mean behavior is intent. Children will say or do things that are rude and can unintentionally hurt others. When this happens it is important to help them understand how others are perceiving their words or actions. One thing we teach students is to use 'I Messages' when someone has hurt their feelings. Helping a student say, "When you _____ (fill in the action), I feel _____ (fill in the feeling it evokes). Next time can you please _____ (fill in what you want them to do differently." For example, if one child tells another they cannot join a game at recess, the other student might say: "When you don't let me play with you at recess, I feel lonely and left-out. Next time can you please let me join the game."

When children say or do mean things to each other, adults need to intervene. It is important for us to hold children who are being mean accountable; and helpful for us to help children find a voice and stand-up to someone who is being mean.

With regard to bullying, the Litchfield School District, has clear policies and procedures in place. If you feel that your child is being bullied at school, please contact your child's teacher, school counselor or administration. The district policy can be found on the Litchfield School District website.

MARIE POLICHRONOPOULOS

Marie Polichronopoulos, known as Ms. P. or Ms. Poli to the students, joined the GMS team this year as their new school psychologist. She has an extensive history in working with school-aged children as she began her career teaching high school biology. She also has significant experience working in the mental health field, previously working for adolescent residential programs and most recently as a private counselor for children and adolescents. While working in private practice, she returned to school to complete coursework to earn her certification in School Psychology. She graduated from Rivier University in May 2008 with her Master's in Mental Health Counseling and again in May 2016 with her C.A.G.S. in School Psychology. She is extremely excited to be part of the GMS team and is looking forward to a great year!

REBEKAH SPOTTS

Rebekah Spotts is working at GMS this year as a School Counseling Intern. Mrs. Spotts is currently completing her Ed. S. in School Counseling at Rivier University. Mrs. Spotts has previously served in the US Coast Guard working in international affairs and then worked at the US Naval Academy at the Midshipman Development Center assisting students at the academy transition to life as a future naval officer. After taking time with her own children Mrs. Spotts has decided to return to the field of counseling, seeking her certification as a school counselor. In her spare time Mrs. Spotts loves to run and has completed five marathons.



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 also learning their subtraction math facts while making their fact families! We are continuing to use our Cuisenaire rods to help us learn our fact families. The children are also enjoying their Math Journals!

During our Social Studies lessons, the children continued to learn about the different holidays celebrated throughout the year. In November, we enjoyed our Veteran's Day assembly honoring our veterans. We also read many books about the first Thanksgiving. During the month of December, the children learned all about the holidays of Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa. Due to the cold

temperatures, our field trip to Noel's Tree Farm was cancelled. We would like to thank everyone at Noel's Tree Farm for sending all the children their own bag full of surprises!

In Science, we are working on our first Project Lead the Way unit. The children are enjoying all of the activities involved with the Light and Sound unit. We have also been learning many facts about the four seasons.

During our reading lessons, the children have learned all the short vowel sounds and will soon be working on the long vowel sounds. We continue to work on word families with each new story. Many interesting stories have been read during the past few months. Both Fantasy and Informational Text seem to be favorite ones for a lot of our first graders. Each month, we

look forward to the visits with our sixth grade reading buddies. They are wonderful role models for our first graders!

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. All the classes enjoyed their holiday parties! Thank you to all the volunteers who came in to make it such a memorable day!

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!

THIRD GRADE TEAM

The third grade students had a great time at their holiday parties. They really enjoyed making gingerbread houses and their creativity shined. A big thank you to all the parents for providing the gingerbread house materials and the snacks for our parties. Before you know it, our Valentine parties will be here. The students always enjoy sharing Valentines with their classmates. Just be sure to include a card for each student in the class.

Reading skills have been focusing on author's purpose, character qualities, and explaining the sequence of events in the story. We recently read a story about Ramona and Beezus, who had to make dinner one night for their family. Perhaps your child could help you make dinner one night for your family. The next unit's reading skills focus on story structure, drawing conclusions, and main idea and details. On a cold winter's night, as you cuddle up and read a good book together, you could ask your child questions about these topics.

Since the beginning of the year, math skills have focused on multiplication and division. Please continue to have your child work on memorizing the multiplication facts. We have now begun learning about using data and creating graphs. The students are learning to read and make their own bar graphs and picture graphs, and then solve problems using the data represented. Choosing the scale to be used based on the data has been a bit tricky for some students.

In science, the students have been learning that plants and animals have traits inherited from their parents. They learned about dominant and recessive traits to determine which trait an organism is likely to inherit. They also saw that traits can be influenced by the environment as well. The students discovered that many of these traits help the organism survive.

As you can see, there has been a great deal of learning taking place in third grade. As the winter cold season is upon us, we would really appreciate it if you could send in another box of tissues to keep us supplied throughout the winter.



LIBRARY NEWS,

MELINA PREVEL-TURMEL, LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST

Students from preschool through third grade voted on their favorite book from the ten NH Ladybug Picture Award nominees. The book that won the 2016 award is *It's Only Stanley* by Jon Agee. You can click on the following link if you would like to see how the students of New Hampshire voted. <https://www.nh.gov/nhsl/bookcenter/programs/documents/2016results.pdf>



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.

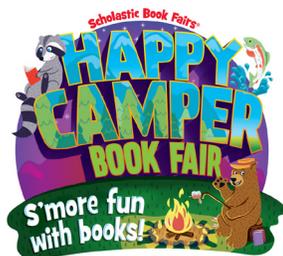
The first grade classes have been working on alphabetical order as it pertains to finding books in the library. Our second grade classes have been also been focusing on alphabetical order so that they can become more independent with finding books in the Everyone section of the library.

The third graders have also been working on a magazine assignment that includes how to use the Table of Contents. They are now focusing on understanding how the nonfiction section is organized using the Dewey Decimal Classification System.

The fourth graders are going to be spending a great deal of time on the nonfiction section (how it is organized and how to find books in numerical order.) They have moved on to working with using a

world almanac for kids, which is having them focus on using a Table of Contents, Index, and other research skills.

Thank you to all of the people who volunteered to help out during the book fair. Some individuals worked more than one shift to make it happen! It is much appreciated! This fundraiser earned close to \$5000 in



Scholastic books, which is mostly used for student prizes. The PTO had donated up to \$4.00 per kindergartener so that each of those students could walk away with a book, which was wonderful!

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. Thank you for your assistance!

Another way that you can assist your child is to make sure that he/she is using a plastic bag to place library books in, which can prevent spills from damaging books in backpacks. Plastic bags can develop holes so it is good to check them on occasion. Large

sealable bags would be even better! Other common ways that books are damaged are by dogs and younger siblings. Please help your child find a safe and consistent place to store the library books, which can also prevent them from being damaged or lost.

You can look up books with your child in advance to help him/her make good book choices during library time. The web site address is <http://library.litchfieldsd.org>. You might even find a book that you are interested in reading as a parent. Feel free to e-mail me with a request or send in a note with your child, and I can send the book home with your child or it can be picked up at the front office.

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**. 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

FOURTH GRADE TEAM

Second quarter is wrapping up here in 4th grade! Each class is hard at work exploring new topics and participating in fun, educational programs.

The fourth graders enjoyed their recent fieldtrip to Concord. We visited the State House and the New Hampshire History Museum. At the state house we sat in the oldest legislative meeting hall in the USA. Here our representatives make important decisions about NH laws. The NH History Museum was also exciting. We saw an Abenaki dugout canoe that had been buried in Lake Ossipee for over 450 years. We also explored artifacts from long ago. We had to guess what the artifacts may have been used for. We learned so much!

The fourth graders are looking forward to our next social studies presentation from the NH Historical Society on February 9th. We learned about the Abenaki in the fall and we will be learning about Old School Days next. We can't wait to compare school now to school then. When would you want to be learning?

The Tournament of Readers Program is well underway. We are so proud of the Tournament of Readers participants for giving their time

to read and compete in the program. We look forward to the final tournament in February!



The Granite State Fit Kids program has begun! This is a seven week program designed by a Nashua doctor to teach the students about how their body works as well as about being healthy and making healthy choices. Each week the students will engage in hands-on activities to help learn and motivate. Each student will keep a log of the daily exercise they do. We hope the program motivates our students to be active and make healthy choices throughout the entire year.

Finally, we would like to thank all the parents. We appreciate all you do in our partnership to make 4th grade a successful year for your child!



Fourth grader Anthony LaPlante with his grandfather, NH State Representative Rich Lascelles, at the State House.

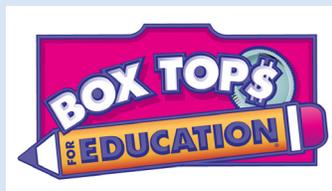
Donations:

tissues, disinfectant wipes, non-perishable snacks, pencils, pencil top erasers

BOX TOPS

Be on the lookout for the kids to be excited about collecting those box tops for some great prizes! Ask co-workers and family members to clip those box tops now! We are striving for \$2,500 for the next submission and we need your help. So far this year we have collected \$1243 in Box Tops! The lobby will have a thermometer showing our progress.

Clip Box Top coupons from a variety of participating products such as Yoplait, Pillsbury, Hefty, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Scott, 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. If you have any comments or questions feel free to email me at kellyasara@gmail.com

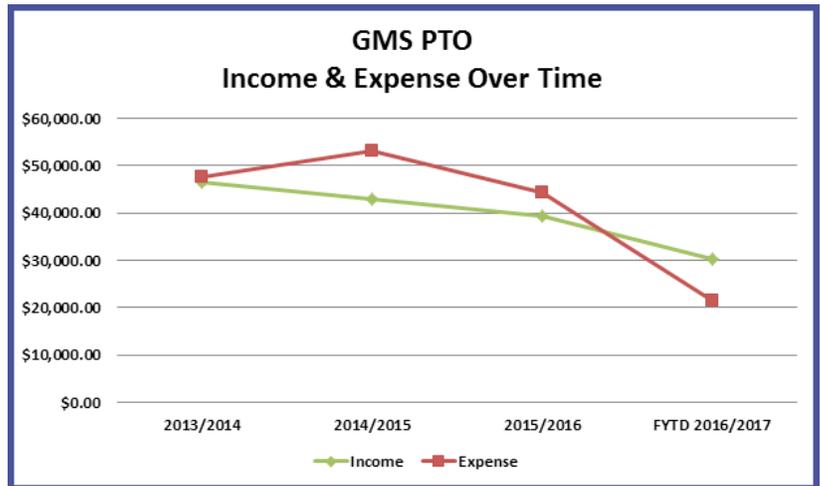


PTO NEWS

We can't thank our volunteers enough for all that they have done so far this year to make all the wonderful events such a great success! A HUGE "Thank You" to all our volunteers!

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.
- **Various Enrichment programs:** These programs help enhance our students learning.



All these events have been a great success and the teachers and parents have expressed their gratitude for everything our volunteers have done!

UPCOMING PTO SPONSORED EVENTS ARE:

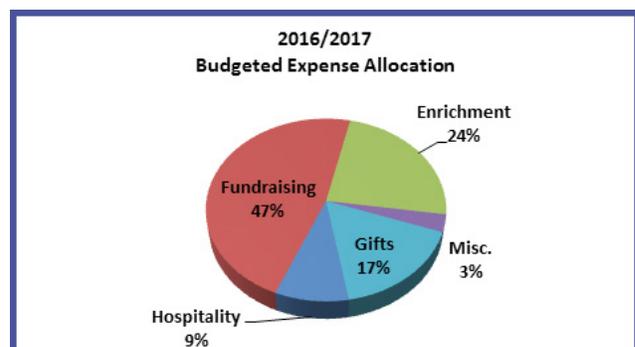
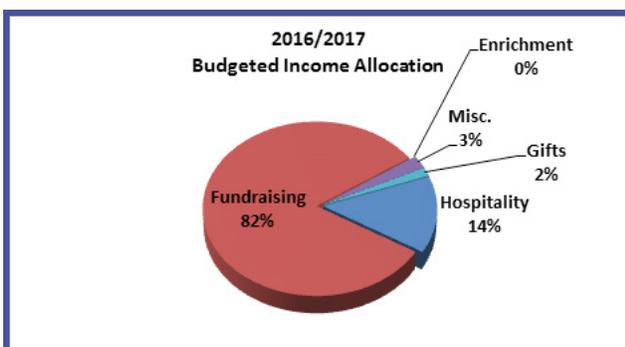
- **Father Daughter Dance**– February 10th
- **Bingo Night** - March 10th
- **Canvas & Kids** – March 21st & 22nd
- **Mother Son Movie Night** – April 14th
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** – May 8-12

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 (except when there is a holiday or end of year AND weather permitting, of course) from 6:30 pm and usually run 30 minutes to 45 minutes. Come hear about all the exciting things going on. The schedule for the rest of the year is February 20th, March 20st, April 17th, May 22nd, and June 12th.

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

THANK YOU!



We are looking for
VOLUNTEERS
To help us explore
NEW FRONTIERS



New Frontiers is a program of after-school clubs and activities for students in grades K-4 at Griffin Memorial School (GMS).

With the help of volunteers, kids get to explore and have fun learning new skills in a wide variety of topics and subject areas. If you have a talent or special interest to share, we can set you up with a group of learners ready to discover New Frontiers!

How do I sign up?



Stop by GMS and pick up a New Frontiers Volunteer application. You'll find them on the PTO Table just inside the front door.

OR

Scan the code above to fill out the form at <https://goo.gl/forms/iFgYupsRivIECmUT2>

What can I teach?

The most exciting part of New Frontiers is that the possibilities are endless! We are open to just about any topic or activity that kids might want to learn more about!

Here are just a few ideas:

- Gardening
- Lego
- Comic Books
- Drawing
- Martial Arts
- Meditation
- Puzzles
- Nature Walks
- Animal Care
- First Aid/CPR
- Cooking
- Sewing
- Knitting
- Graphic Design
- Computers
- Board Games
- Languages
- Wood working
- Creative Writing
- Poetry
- Pen Pals
- Helping Others
- Dance
- Ancient Civilizations
- Astronomy
- Holidays
- Physics
- Recycling
- Book Clubs
- Pop Culture
- Drama
- Snow Shoeing
- Music



How can I get more information?

Visit gms.litchfieldsd.org

Email at newfrontiersgms@gmail.com

Or call Tina at 423-0177

New Frontiers is not a school district sponsored activity

Who can lead a group?

Anyone with an interest in guiding exploration in a topic or teaching a skill with a group of children! Parents, teachers, business owners, friends, family, older students, retired seniors—all are welcome!

What do I need to volunteer?

All you need is a good idea and time to spend with our students! We provide the space at GMS, help you purchase supplies if needed, and can help you develop your club or activity. Volunteers will need to complete the Litchfield School District approval process to become a Designated Volunteer. Students and leaders under age 18 must have an adult Designated Volunteer present at each meeting.

When do we meet?

Most clubs will meet after school Mon.-Fri. from 2:45pm to 4:15pm. Some evening time slots are also available. You choose when you would like to meet, and how many meetings you'll have.

Where do we meet?

New Frontiers is held at Griffin Memorial School, in Litchfield NH.

How many kids will be in my group?

That's up to you! We can help you decide how many students can participate in your group based on your preference, interest, space available, and the best age level for your activity.

Father Daughter
Winter Wonderland Dance

Friday February 10th 2017, 6pm - 8pm

Griffin Memorial School Gymnasium

You are cordially invited to a fun filled evening of dancing

Light refreshments will be provided

Have your picture taken with your daughter for \$2.00

Family Fun Raffles

This Is Not A School Sponsored Event

SPECIAL EVENTS

PTO MEETING PTO Meeting- Cafe
Monday, February 20
@ 6:30

Bingo Night- Gym
March 10

PTO Meeting- Cafe **PTO MEETING**
Monday, March 20 @ **MEETING**
6:30

Canvas & Kids
March 21 & 22

Mother & Son Movie Night
April 14