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Groton-Dunstable Regional High School

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Semester one is over and students are just beginning to get into the spirit of Semester II. I had the great pleasure of meeting those members of the senior class going out on internships for their second semester. These students will be spending time working at various locations in a wide range of businesses, educational and cultural institutions. Some students will come in for one block to complete a course while others will spend the majority of their time at a work site. All interns still maintain strong ties to GDRHS. Each week they are responsible for meeting with their faculty sponsor, maintaining journals and completing projects and papers associated with their internship. In June all interns are required to make a presentation to their class. Our students come before their class to share experiences, share their challenges and discuss the type and level of their learning. Having seen these presentations in the past, I can tell you that these students do a remarkable job. This year you will not have to take my word for it. Beginning this year we will host an Evening of Learning. Students will share with the community their presentations. Students may be honored for their work. During this evening, members of the community will be asked to adjudicate the presentations. A rubric for judges will be provided. The students will be judged on both style and substance.

As we move into the second semester, the School Council is busy reviewing and revising the Student Handbook. Each year the Handbook is reviewed and revised by a full range of stakeholders. The process begins with the School Council. The School Council members have been meeting as a group and in subcommittees to address key portions of the Handbook. This is Draft 1. The next step involves a volunteer committee of students, parents and teachers. This committee reviews the changes, additions and deletions recommended by the School Council. This committee meets each week for 4 to 6 weeks. When that phase is completed we have Draft 2. Draft 3 is developed by putting the Handbook out for general comment. Students, teachers and parents may review the draft and make their own comments, recommendations or suggestions for the Handbook. Finally, Draft 3 is given back to the Council for its final review before it goes to the School Committee for approval.

At the present time the School Council is busy researching all aspects of our Handbook. Council members have given a great deal of their time to review the laws and statutes, research common practice around the state as well as holding meaningful discussions as a group. While some aspects of the Handbook are mandated by law, much is not. It is around these issues that we seek to build consensus and to create an environment that supports teaching and learning as well as allows our students to feel safe and valued. If you would like to be part of the process please see next month's Newsletter for sign-up opportunities.

Once again, congratulations to our music department and vocalist Max I and instrumentalist Alina B. These talented students made it all the way to the finals for All State. Congratulations to Max, Alina and their families.

IMPORTANT DATES:

February

- 2 & 3 Biology MCAS
- 4 SpedPac Roundtable
- 10 NAEP Test /Gr. 12
- 10 Spedpac Basic Rights Wksh
- 11 Senior Cap & Gown Info Day
- 13 Women in Sports Night @ 7:00PM
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16-20 Winter Vacation
- 24 Spedpac Open House @ Prescott

March

- 6 Sports Physical
- 10 Progress Reports
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 17 Half day /Curriculum
- 19 Curriculum Open House @ 6:30PM
- 20 Jr/Sr Fashion Show
- 27 Coffee House @7:00PM
- 31 MCAS /ELA Composition

The GDSTEM_CORE mailing list is powered by L-Soft's renowned LISTSERV(R) list management software. For more information, go to:
<http://www.lsoft.com/LISTSERV-powered.html>

**New England Math League (NEML)
NEWS**

The fourth NEML (New England Math League) exam was administered on Tuesday, January 13th. Congratulations to our top scorers at GDRHS

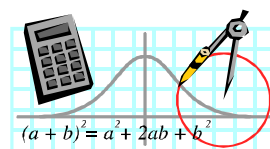
Grade 12	Chris B	6 points
	Millie D	6 points
	Andrea E	6 points
Grade 11	Esther Ed	2 points
Grade 10	Connor G	6 points
Grade 9	Jonathan E	4 points

The fifth NEML will be administered on Tuesday, February 24, 2009. If you would like to participate and are not currently in a math class second semester, please report to the Math Makeup Session at 2:00 pm that same day. There are six (6) NEML tests administered each school year.

Top cumulative scorers (out of 24 possible points) so far this school year are:

Grade 12:	Andrea E	21 points
Grade 11:	Esther E	16 points
Grade 10:	Connor G	22 points
Grade 9:	Benjamin I	13 points

The sixth and final NEML is scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, 2009.



An Evening of Science - Drug Discovery:

How New Cancer Drugs Are Found

GDSTEM (Groton-Dunstable Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is pleased to be sponsoring the following evening of science:

Drug Discovery: How New Cancer Drugs Are Found

Dr. Karen McGovern, Infinity Pharmaceuticals

When: 2/26/09 @ Middle School North Team Meeting Room, refreshments at 6:30pm, presentation 7:00-9:00pm

The evolution of cancer drug discovery will be presented, from the toxic compounds to recent discoveries in targeted drugs that are completely changing cancer treatment. How do you kill cancer cells and not harm the normal cells of your body? How do you design drugs to hit the right targets? Karen will present a brief review of the history leading to present-day examples of exciting new therapies. Along the way she will explain how chemists, biologists, engineers, regulatory managers and clinicians all work together to get promising new drugs to the patient.

Karen will also describe career paths in her field, and there will be ample time for open discussion.

Karen McGovern is Director of Cancer Biology at Infinity Pharmaceuticals in Cambridge, previously a scientist at Millennium Pharmaceuticals, and has been working on discovering new oncology and anti-infective drugs for over ten years. She received her B.S. at Boston College, was a laboratory technician at MIT, went on to earn her doctorate at Harvard Medical School, and did post-doctoral work in developmental biology at Harvard. She has taught courses in Cell Biology and Microbiology at the Marine Biological Laboratories in Woods Hole and at Harvard University. She has multiple publications on her work in various areas of biology and has presented her work at scientific conferences, such as meetings of the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR).

Visit us online at [HYPERLINK](http://www.gdstem.org/www.GDSTEM.org)

<http://www.gdstem.org/www.GDSTEM.org>

News from GDEF...

*Tickets Available for March 14 Benefit Auction
Spring Grant Applications due March 2nd*

Tickets are now on sale for GDEF's **Reach for the Stars Benefit Auction**, Saturday, March 14, 2009, from 6:30 - 11 p.m. at the Groton School. Join us for this fun adult evening out with friends, while helping to raise funds for enrichment grants to our district schools. Bid on dozens of exciting auction items like Red Sox and Celtics tickets, an iRobot Roomba vacuum, a fashionable Cole Haan handbag and an exclusive tour of the ESPN headquarters in Connecticut, as you enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres and desserts and great live music. Tickets are limited and are \$40 per person in advance, \$50 at the door (if still available). Order early so you don't miss out – online at www.gdefinc.org or by mailing in a form, coming home soon in backpacks and available in the schools or on our website.

If your family or your business has an auction item to donate, please contact auction chair Cheryl Scammell at cscammell@gdefinc.org or 978-448-0255. We also invite businesses to contact president Kerri Figueroa about becoming an event sponsor and receiving two complimentary event tickets and promotion of your business. Kerri can be reached at kfigueroa@gdefinc.org or at 978-449-9690.

GDEF's spring grant cycle is now open and **applications for grants will be accepted through March 2nd**. District staff, parents and community organizations are invited to apply for grants in any amount. For guidelines on applying for grants and application forms, please visit our website at www.gdefinc.org or contact Kristen Stone, Grants Director, at kstone@gdefinc.org.



Nurse's News

Physicals: A big thank you to all parents and students who have submitted physical exams and immunization records throughout the school year. This is the best way to make sure that your student has a current health record and is eligible for sports. These physicals are current for 13 months from the date of the exam by the MIAA. If you cannot obtain a current physical for sports, school sports physicals are offered as noted. Please call me with any questions.

Sports Physicals will be offered at the High School on Friday, 3/6/09 beginning at 7:30 AM. Students must pick up a form in advance from the nurse, have his/her parent complete and sign it, and return the form to the nurse with the \$5.00 fee by 2/27/09. Upon return of the form, students will be given a time for the physical. Please note last minute requests cannot be accommodated. In case of a snow day on 3/6/09, the make-up day will be Tuesday, 3/10/09.

Vision & Hearing Screenings for 10th graders were done on 1/13/09. Make-up screenings will be 2/12/09. Parents/guardians of students who did not pass these screenings will be notified by letter(s) that contain forms for a physician to complete. Please return the completed forms as soon as possible, and call me with any questions.

EpiPens may need to be replaced if they have expired. Please check to see that your students are carrying current EpiPens and that the Nurse's Office also has a current EpiPen. Despite the all the snow, bee season will be upon us soon!

Thank you for all your cooperation and please call me as needed. Barbara Closs, MSN, RN 978-448-6362 X1151

High School Robotics Competes for Sixth Year

GDRHS's Robotics club is once again participating in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition (FRC). FRC is an international design competition based on those typical of undergraduate mechanical and electrical engineering design courses. Every year, on the first Saturday of January, the details of the competition are released and students are given six weeks to design, build, program, and test a robot that will move and manipulate objects while competing in a game with teams from other schools. Each team is supplied with a kit of parts which they may supplement with other materials. They then build a remote-controlled robot that may be as much as five feet tall, weighing as much as one hundred twenty pounds. While always a majority of GDRHS students the team has had students from Lawrence Academy, the Groton School, and homeschoolers participating in the past. The team participates in FIRST as Team 1277, the Musketeers.

This year's game simulates remote control of robotic explorers of an icy moon or planet as all teams are required to use special, low-friction wheels. Alliances earn points by retrieving toy balls from this slippery surface and getting them into the trailers hitched to opposing teams' robots. Team 1277 will be one of forty-eight teams competing in the Granite State Regional FRC event in Manchester, NH's Verizon Center on Friday February 27th and Saturday February 28th. Each team plays in a series of seeding

matches in two alliances of three teams, with the top teams going on to an elimination tournament on Saturday afternoon. Each day's events run approximately from 9am-5:30pm.

Team 1227's participation in FIRST would not be possible without the time and effort of parent mentors who lend their knowledge of engineering, design, construction, programming, fundraising and organization to the students. The Musketeers also rely on the generous support of Brooks Automation Inc., Raytheon, Symphony Service Corporation, GDEF, and GD-STEM, who offset the costs of entry fees, parts and supplies. This year's team has been spending five days a week, two to four hours a day on evenings and weekends preparing for the competition. Come out to Manchester to support them the last weekend of February!

Directions and parking information can be found online here: <http://www.baesystemsfirst.org/regional/when.htm>



NEW PARENT RESOURCE CENTER - OPEN HOUSE

DATE: Tuesday, February 24, 2009 (snow date: Thursday, March 5th)

TIME: 1:00 – 4:00 PM and 6:30 – 8:30 PM

LOCATION: Prescott Building, Groton town center; bottom level

The GD SpedPAC has moved into the new space at Prescott. We are located on the lowest level (street side) and are set up with a variety of resource materials, meeting space and an activity corner for kids. The *Parent Resource Center* is a gathering place for parents to help them navigate the special education process, learn about their child's disability or simply inquire about a child's academic or social struggles. The *Parent Resource Center* will be the new home for many of our business meetings, workshops and support groups. We are looking forward to providing additional opportunities for parents of children with similar needs to gather and share their knowledge & experiences.

The Center is open to *all* parents and caregivers in the community who need access to educational resources, support, and guidance in the area of educating the "whole child." The GD SpedPAC is committed to helping *all* students achieve academic and social success in an emotionally supportive environment **DROP IN HOURS** (Beginning January 26, 2009): **Mondays 9:30-11:30am; Tuesdays 2:00-4:00pm; Wednesdays 1:15-2:30pm; Thursdays 9:30-11:30am.** *Other days and times available by appointment.*

FEBRUARY 2009: *Lectures are free and open to all!*

MIDDLE SCHOOL / SPEDPAC PARENT ROUNDTABLE

RESCHEDULED FROM DECEMBER

Discussion Topic: "Transition Meetings"

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2009

TIME: 9:00 am – 10:00 am

PLACE: Middle School North Conference Room

The GD SpedPAC, in conjunction with Steve Silverman, Middle School Principal, and Lynn Jarvis, Team Chair, are hosting a Parent Roundtable. We invite parents of current and soon-to-be Middle School students with special support needs to attend an open discussion group to learn more about transition meetings and what to expect when students move from elementary school to middle school and from middle school to high school. This Parent Roundtable will be particularly important to parents of students who are currently on an IEP or a 504 Plan. Refreshments will be served.

LECTURE: **BASIC RIGHTS WORKSHOP**

Presenter: The Federation of Children with Special Needs

(<http://fcsn.org>) **DATE:** Tuesday, February 10, 2009

TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

PLACE: ** NEW Location: The Parent Resource Center at Prescott (bottom level – see website for details)

Who should attend? Parents of children who are just beginning the IEP process or need to brush up on skills to advocate for their child with special needs. This workshop provides families with an introduction to their rights and responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Massachusetts Special Education Law and No Child Left Behind (NCLB). It is designed to help parents learn how to be effective partners with the school, to decide the child's eligibility for special education, to plan, make decisions and to monitor the educational progress of their child. This workshop will be presented by a staff member from The Federation for Children with Special Needs.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: *Daytime Meeting, Wednesday March 11, 2009; 1:15 – 2:45 PM; NEW Parent Resource Center at Prescott School.* *All meetings are open to the public.* For more information visit our website, www.gdspedpac.org.

CRUSADER ATHLETICS UPDATE!

As we progress through the winter season it is important to keep in mind the following information for student athletes for the **spring 2009 season and the end of this season.**

Spring Sports Sign-Up Day for Students – Wednesday March 4th During Break

This is a great chance to meet the coaches for each program and receive more information about schedules and participation.

Spring Sports Physicals- Friday March 6th 2009 7:30 am, Nurses Office

Students whose physicals are before February 17th, 2008 will need a new physical on file in the nurse's office in order to tryout and participate in high school spring sports. You must register with the nurse before Friday February 27th. Contact the nurses office for more information.

High School Spring Sports Registration- March 9th, 10th, 11th- During School Hours

All students who wish to participate in high school interscholastic athletics must register in advance with the athletics office before participation can began.

High School Spring Sports Start Monday March 16th

Even with two feet of snow on the ground we start practice this day for all high school sports. We will utilize all the GDRSD gyms as well as other local facilities until our fields are released. Practice schedules are entirely dependent on the weather.

- ***Spring Schedules***

Schedules are posted once they are almost complete. Please sign up with www.highschoolsports.net to receive text/email notification of any changes and cancellations.

- ***End of Season Surveys for Parents and Students- Winter Season***

The athletics webpage can be found by going to www.gdrsd.org and clicking on athletics. There you will find the end of season survey for students and parents. They surveys can also be found outside the athletics office.

- ***Upcoming Cheer Competitions!***

Varsity Cheerleaders will be competing at the following competitions:

- Shrewsbury High School Invitational, February 8th 1:00 pm
- Milford High School February 15th 1:00 pm
- Oakmont Regional HS February 22nd 1:00 pm.
- Mid Wach League Competition March 1st at Milford High School

GDRHS Girls and Women in Sports Student-Athlete Selections

Congratulations to Eva M, Sanda L and Heather H for being selected as the G.D.R.H.S. Girls and Women in Sports Honorees. These three students will attend the MIAA National Girls and Women in Sports Day Conference in Boston on Friday February 6th. They will also be recognized at GDRHS Athletic Department's 2009 Ceremony on Friday February 13th.

NHS News

Twenty- five new talented members were inducted to the National Honors Society in November. Congratulations to all who were inducted! The induction went well; it was a very dignified ceremony and everyone who attended had a great time. The National Honor Society at Groton-Dunstable has grown to great numbers that are sure to accomplish a lot this year. Meetings are going well. The organization meets every other Monday, and officers meet on the off Mondays. The officers are doing a great job planning service opportunities, projects, and setting up the agenda for each meeting. The first major task was to perfect the Homework Help Center, which is held every Tuesday and Thursday after school. The Homework Help Center provides help to any student who needs assistance in any class. The second task is the group service projects. The members of NHS have been working diligently in peer groups on selected and researched service projects that are important to them. They have been going through many organizational steps to prepare to do unique service projects and are very dedicated to seeing them through, not always an easy feat with school work requirements. From helping to better the environment, helping local pantries and shelters, to volunteering to help local firemen/ EMT's the NHS members have found new and exciting ways to make a difference. This year, the National Honor Society is holding a Candle Fundraiser! After the week(s) without power, it's time to replenish your candle supply! To collect money for senior scholarships, NHS members will be selling quality candles from a local company, Whiffle Tree Candle Co. Based in Billerica, the company is known for their "exactly like the real thing" scents, clean-burning wicks, high quality materials, and their local charm. Members will be selling candles starting the beginning of second semester until the 12th of February. Ask any NHS member for more information, or to purchase some!

Guidance News

Various corporations, memorials, and foundations periodically send scholarships' to the Guidance Department. Senior students are encouraged to take the applications and review the criteria and deadline date. Applications are available in the Guidance Department or on the scholarship website. Listed are a couple of the scholarships available.

- Middlesex Savings – A. James Lavoie Scholarship Visit www.middlesexbank.com/mscf
- Massachusetts Broadcasters Association Visit www.massbroadcasters.org
- The Rebekah Assembly of Massachusetts Memorial Scholarship
- Mark Bavis Leadership Foundation
- SAMMY 2009 – Visit bodybymilk.com

Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Statement of Non-Discrimination:

It is the policy of the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or homelessness in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Also, students will not be excluded for reasons of marriage or pregnancy. Requests for information about these laws and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Dr. Susan Rubel, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505.