

**GROTON-DUNSTABLE MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2009**

Dear Parents and Students:

Happy New Year! It is so nice to see everyone back with renewed commitment and energy! I hope you and your family had an enjoyable holiday season.

It is hard to believe that the school year is almost halfway over! This is the time of year for all of us to take a step back and spend time with our families, friends, and relatives. It is also a time to give thanks to the many people who make our school the special place it is. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my entire middle school faculty and staff for providing our students a quality education every day. I would also like to thank the parents and guardians of our students for taking an active role in their child's education. Finally, I would like to extend my appreciation to the MSPTO, GDAY, GDEF and SPEDPAC for their ongoing involvement in our school. I am very fortunate to be working with such a dedicated group of community members.

The old saying, "It takes a village to raise a child," is so true. As you are aware, middle level students are going through a rapid period of growth as they mature and develop! They are looking for autonomy, opportunities for self-expression, ways of developing leadership skills, and a clear understanding of who they are and where they fit in. Sometimes their decisions may not always be the best, but they are very lucky to have adults in their lives to provide safety nets when needed and to assist them when they stumble!

Throughout the school year, each of our curricular departments has been working on various initiatives to enhance teaching and learning. The Math Department has been working with our math coordinator in establishing and utilizing common formative assessments (mini bench-marks) to drive their instruction. In addition, many teachers have been supplementing their curriculum with a variety of materials as a means of differentiating their instruction to better meet the needs of our diverse learners. The English Language Arts Department continues to have ongoing discussions on how best to meet the standards in both Reading and Writing in relation to the alignment of their curriculum. The Science Department is continuing to give students common formative assessments (mini bench-marks) and open response questions at each grade level. Teachers will review and discuss the results of this data as a means to improve student learning. The Social Studies Department is continuing its process of identifying focus areas for curriculum development. The eighth grade teachers are continuing an in-depth comparison of three finalist texts for the new World History I curriculum beginning in September, 2009. Across all grade levels, teams of Social Studies teachers will be reviewing their current curriculum pacing guides to determine any revisions, as necessary. The Integrated Arts Department continues to engage students in a variety of hands on learning experiences. Curriculum based activities provide an array of opportunities for students to explore diverse subjects that are often related to core subject areas. The IA team is committed to making sure that students exercise all parts of their minds and bodies.

As we approach the second semester of the school year, please talk with your child(ren) about the importance of finishing the school year with a strong commitment to academic success, taking responsibility for their learning, being respectful to one another, attending school every day (unless they are absent due to medical reasons or family emergencies), and coming to school with a positive attitude. In return, we will continue to provide your child with multiple opportunities to learn relevant and interesting material as they proceed through the school year. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of our students!

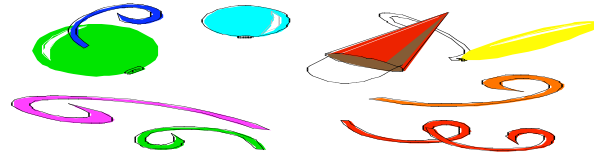
I hope that this New Year brings you and your loved ones good health, good spirit, and well being. The following is a list of upcoming happenings. If you have any questions, please call the school at 978-448-6155.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Silverman
Principal

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 Rübél, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505



CALENDAR

January 5-8	Gr. 5 Growth and Development Program
January 7	Grade 8 Parents Night at the High School – 6:30pm – High School
January 13	School Council Meeting – 4:00pm – MS North C/R
January 13	MSPTO Meeting – 5:30pm – MS North C/R
January 13	Middle School Chorus Concert 7:00pm – MS South PAC
January 14	GDSTEM Meeting – MS North Room 201
January 15	Middle School Band Concert 7:00pm – MS South PAC
January 16	Curriculum ½ Day – Early Release Day – 11:30 AM
January 19	No School – Martin Luther King Day
January 21	Geography Bee Assembly
January 22	Gr. 5 Field Trip to the State House (Klock/Kieda/Cronin Team)
January 23	Grade 6 Social – 2:30 – 4:00pm – MS South PAC
January 23	Grade 7/8 Dance – 7:00 – 9:00pm – MS South Gym

LOOKING AHEAD

February 5	End of Second Quarter
February 10	School Council Meeting – 4:00pm – MS North C/R
February 10	MSPTO Meeting – 5:30pm – MS North C/R
February 10	Nashoba Technical High School Interviews – Various Students
February 11	GDSTEM Meeting – 7:00pm – MS North Room 201
February 12	Second Quarter Report Cards Mailed
February 16-20	No School – Winter Break
February 27	High School Principals/Guidance meet with Grade 8 Students
February 27	Grade 7/8 Dance – 7:00 – 9:00pm – MS South Gym

MORNING ARRIVAL

As the weather begins to get colder, please remember that students may not enter the building until 7:45 AM (unless they have an appointment with a teacher). Please make a concerted effort not to have your child arrive to school much before this time to avoid having any student left in the cold or unattended by an adult.

Also, for safety reasons, when dropping your child off at the **North Building**, please come up the main driveway, let your child out in front of the main entrance, continue past the North Building and take a left to exit the parking lot. When dropping your child off at the **South Building**, please come up the main driveway, turn right into the lot between Florence Roche and the South Building, enter the small circle at the side door, let

PLEASE KEEP US UPDATED!

If you have moved or changed your phone number(s), please forward this information to the NORTH office. In the case of an emergency, it is very important that we have this updated information. Thank you for your cooperation.

PROJECT MITTEN UPDATE

Congratulations to all of the students, staff and parents who made this year's Project Mitten a great success! Our totals thus far show that Project Mitten donations have brought in \$ 10,210.97!! Project Mitten money will be used for middle school age children and their families who are in need of food and/or gifts during this holiday season. To date, Project Mitten has assisted fifteen families (twenty-five children).

A special thanks to all faculty, students and parents that helped put together and sell raffle tickets for the baskets.

A MESSAGE FROM THE NORTH/SOUTH OFFICE

To minimize classroom interruptions, messages and deliveries for students will be left in the office. For those students who need to report to the office to receive messages/deliveries, the office staff will write their names on a white board outside of each cafeteria. When arriving to lunch each day, students are encouraged to check the white board. If their name appears, they should report directly to the office to get their message/deliveries. If a student does not retrieve his/her message by the end of the day, he/she will be called down to the office at 2:20 PM.

SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our School Council is off to a great start this school year! Here is an update on how we are progressing with our 2008-2011 goals:

Goal 1

To explore becoming a *Turning Points* School – Turning Point coaches have been providing teachers with professional development related to effective teaming practices.

Goal 2

To research and develop a Standards-Based Report Card – A study group is being formed to examine the effectiveness of our present grading system (report card). Standards Based Report Cards will be examined as a means of better communicating to parents what students are expected to learn, their strengths and weaknesses specific to each subject matter, and how they are progressing toward meeting the standards and benchmarks set forth by the MA Curriculum Frameworks.

Goal 3

To evaluate and revise our current Mission Statement – A mission statement gives a brief description of a school's fundamental purpose. Best practices recommend that schools review/revise their Mission Statement every few years. As a result of this, the School Council will be researching exemplar middle school Mission Statements and creating a best practice list of what a quality Mission Statement should include (in accordance with middle school philosophy). These ideas will then be shared with the entire staff for their feedback/input.

Goal 4

To achieve AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) in mathematics and English/Language Arts – Mini Bench Marks (formative assessments) are being used in all of the core subjects as a means to assess students' mastery of the subject matter (data analysis) being taught.

Goal 5

To educate the whole child through the Integrated Arts curriculum, after school activities and athletic programs – Project based learning and interdisciplinary, thematic units are some examples of learning activities that continue to take place in many classrooms.

To continue to enhance the use of technology as an effective teaching and learning tool – Additional software and equipment have been purchased to give teachers more opportunities to integrate technology into their teaching subject areas.

KIDS HELPING KIDS

GDRMS is once again participating in the *Kids Helping Kids Program*. This program is open to any 8th grade student who is interested in volunteering his/her time as a tutor/mentor at the Florence Roche Elementary School. Thank you to 8th graders for their time and effort in organizing this wonderful program!

PROMOTION POLICY

As specified on page 32 in our 2008-2009 Parent/Student Handbook, students in the Groton-Dunstable Middle School must successfully complete their grade level program of studies before being promoted to the next grade level. Any student who fails **two or more core subjects** for the school year may not be promoted to the next grade level. In addition, Grade 8 students who fail two or more core subjects may not be permitted to participate in the June Promotion Ceremony. A Summer School Program will be available for students to make up failed courses, provided there is sufficient enrollment.

CONCERT DISMISSALS

In an effort to expedite our dismissal procedure after evening concerts, we have decided to hold band and chorus concerts on separate evenings. Furthermore, at the end of each concert, students will be dismissed by grade level to **designated areas**. Parents will be asked to report to these areas to meet and pick up their child(ren). We thank you in advance for your cooperation and are hoping that you will find this new dismissal procedure more beneficial.

UPDATED PROGRESS REPORT/REPORT CARD DATES

Due to the number of snow days we have had thus far this school year, please make note of the new dates for the distribution of Progress Reports and the mailing of Report Cards (*these dates are subject to change again in the event of additional snow days*).

Third Quarter Midterm Progress Reports – **Friday, March 20th**

Third Quarter Report Cards – Mailed on **Thursday, April 30th**

Fourth Quarter Midterm Progress Reports – **Friday, May 22nd**

Fourth Quarter Report Cards – Mailed on **Friday, June 26th**

EIGHT GRADE WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE

The 8th Grade Washington D.C. Trip registration process is underway. Confirmation packets with Medical Forms, Behavior Contracts, and Parent Chaperone Volunteer Request Forms are being sent home in Friday Folders each week. Each week we will get updated lists from Capital Tours with the names of those students whose registrations have been received by the previous Saturday. We will then send home materials in Friday Folders. Please contact us if it has been two weeks since you sent in your registration and no materials have been sent home with your child. Due to the very large number of parents who are likely to ask for a chance to volunteer as a chaperone, we will only be able to consider your request if your child was registered for this trip on or before December 31, 2008. If you have any questions about registration for the D. C. Trip, please contact the Trip Coordinator, Mr. Snodgrass at 978-448-6155. Please send all

STUDENT COUNCIL / SCHOOL STORE

The Student Council completed its organizing work on the Project Mitten Assembly in November. At our December meeting, we began a process of choosing which activities to organize for the Spring of 2009. One activity that we are looking into is a second annual Student Rock Band Concert. We will continue our work on this planning process at our next meeting after school on January 14, 2009. One of the projects that we hope to start up in January is the reopening of our school store. We have been very pleased to have four parents come forward to volunteer time to support the school store. There is always room for more help. We plan to have the School Store open on Tuesdays and Thursdays during lunch periods in each building starting on Tuesday, January 13. We need parent volunteers to work during the lunch periods in each building on these days to supervise the school store. If you are willing to be a parent volunteer to supervise the school store, please contact the Student Council Advisor, Mr. Snodgrass.

UPCOMING DANCES FOR GRADES 7 & 8

Since we had to miss our December dance because of the ice storm, students in grades 7 and 8 are waiting to hear about our next dance. So, you can let them know that our next dance is already set for January 23, from 7 to 9 pm. In fact, we have dances scheduled for each month this winter season with future dance dates set for February 27 and March 27. Please remember that each of our dances will start at 7:00pm and run until 9:00pm. Permission slips will not be required for these dances although attendance is taken for safety purposes. Only students from our school in grades 7 & 8 are allowed to attend. All dances have a \$5.00 charge per student at the door. All school rules apply at all times during our dances. These rules include our school dress code, as well as the restriction that no cellular phones may be used at any time during the dance. If you have any questions, please contact your child's class advisor. The grade 7 class advisor is Mrs. Schorn. For students in eighth grade, your class advisor is Mr. Snodgrass.

GDSTEM (Groton-Dunstable Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)

High Tech Research meets Home Depot:
The Rapidly Changing Technology of Light Bulbs
Dr. Darryl Williams, Cabot Corporation
15 January 2009, Middle School North Team Meeting Room, Groton MA
Refreshments at 6:30pm, Presentation 7:00-9:00pm

Who thinks about the light bulb? According to the US Department of Energy, 22% of all electrical energy used in the US is for lighting; ~\$55 billion per year. There are not many household items given less thought, and yet the light bulb is the subject of a great deal of government and scientific research, spanning multiple fields including chemistry, physics, nanotechnology, optics, mechanical and electrical engineering. The reason is that ~90% of the power consumed by a standard incandescent light bulb is completely wasted as heat. Compact fluorescent lamps are much more efficient while suffering from certain disadvantages. Current research in lighting revolves around the development of LED-based lighting. The efficiency of LED (light emitting diode) lighting has increased dramatically over the last decade, and white light sources, such as flashlights, are now available which use LEDs instead of incandescent lamps. These lighting sources are very bright and use little power compared to standard (old fashioned?) incandescent lighting sources. Switching 50% of all US lighting from incandescent or fluorescent lighting to new LED lighting (a ten-year goal) will save the US ~\$17 billion dollars per year in energy costs. This represents ~7% of total US electrical energy use. The stakes are very high, and it all depends on technology!

The operation and scientific principals behind these three types of light bulbs will be discussed by Dr. Darryl Williams. A portion of this presentation will focus on a specific research project in which the presenter was a part. He will also describe career paths in his field, and there will be ample time for open discussion.

Dr. Williams was educated at the University of Delaware and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he studied under the 2005 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry. He has authored 19 scientific articles and 10 US Patents in the fields of materials, catalysis, nanoparticles, lighting, and polymers. A focus of much of his work has been on the interaction of materials with light, using light as a probe of structure and using materials to generate light. His work in inorganic materials has particularly been focused on general lighting applications both at General Electric and Cabot Corporation.

GRADE-LEVEL SUPPORT TEAM REPORTS

5TH GRADE

Amid ice storms and the approaching winter break, fifth grade students are nevertheless moving forward in their pursuit of learning. In Math, they are investigating properties of two-dimensional geometric shapes. They are enthusiastically learning about the cultures of Mayas, Incas, and Aztecs in Social Studies. During December, two teams visited the Massachusetts Statehouse, but due to the recent storm, the Klock/Kieda/Cronin team has rescheduled this trip for January 22. Science classes are continuing to study the results of the earth's motion in our solar system and are keeping a log of the phases of the moon. Field trips to Beaver Brook in Hollis, NH will take place in January in support of animal adaptations. Students are reading biographies, historical fiction, and they are participating in Literature Circles in their Language Arts classes. As the new year begins, please remember to replenish school supplies!

6TH GRADE

Sixth grade math students will be starting Bits and Pieces II, a unit on understanding fraction operations. Developing ways to model sums, differences, products and quotients with areas, strips and number lines will be explored, as well as using estimates and exact solutions to make decisions. Using their knowledge of fractions students will develop algorithms to perform mathematical operations.

All Language Arts classes are wrapping up their study of the literary elements and moving towards a study of the fantasy genre as well as a study of dramatic literature through the play, *The Phantom Tollbooth*.

In Science, over the coming weeks students will continue to investigate the solar system. The planets, including Earth, moons and the seasons will all be topics of discussion through writing, Power Point presentations and lab experiments. Classes will also begin exploring the world of drafting as part of the Engineering and Technology standards of the Massachusetts Frameworks. The students will be working on a multi-view drawing and an oblique drawing. They will also become familiar with drafting instruments such as the t-square, drafting board, 30' 60' triangle, 45' triangle, erasing shield, triangular scale, and french curves. Finally, some students will be exploring the characteristics of living things to lead into an understanding of the scientific classification system.

Social Studies classes will be finishing up their study of ancient Mesopotamia and will begin to explore the ancient Israelites. Students will identify the ancient Israelites and trace their migrations from Mesopotamia to the land of Canaan. Time will also be spent comparing the monotheistic religion of the Israelites to polytheistic beliefs within other ancient civilizations.

7TH GRADE

Students have begun their Stretching and Shrinking unit. They started out by stretching a figure using an elastic. Next they discovered that they can enlarge, reduce, and move figures on a coordinate plane by writing an algebraic rule. Currently, and after vacation they are learning to write ratios to discover the relationship between similar figures. This learning will lead to solving proportions and using them to solve other types of problems.

Some Language Arts classes have just finished up a unit on The Christmas Carol, focusing on symbolism and theme. We are continuing to work on creative book projects outside of school. In January, we will be practicing our long composition

finished a unit review of nouns, short stories, and are now presenting their creative book reports to class. Personal narratives are in-store for some students next year.

Science classes are finishing up the study of the human body. Much has been learned. Students have completed a lot of work and hands-on activities to figure out how our bodies work. Did you know: one strand of hair has an average life span of 5 ½ years.

How do people adapt to living in a mountainous region? How do indigenous people preserve their traditional culture while adapting to modern life? How should the resources of rainforests be used and preserved? Students have been formulating answers to these questions while exploring South America in geography classes. In looking at the Andes Mountain and Amazon Rainforest regions, students began to compare and contrast physical and cultural geography. In addition, many students had an opportunity to research demographic data for a South American country of their choice and have just completed a mapping and graphing project to display the results.

In our fundraising endeavors, 7th graders raised \$2,865.30 to help with Project Mitten. This was from our raffle and the Read-a-Thon. We are very proud of our students and their parents in their generosity to help the children of our community.

8TH GRADE

Eighth Grade Science will begin studying chemistry after the December break. Students also will begin a long-term independent investigation.

In English Arts, we are wrapping up loose ends before the Winter break. These include, but are not limited to: Science Fiction exams; spelling/vocabulary quizzes; free read projects; and the Self Awareness Unit. We are beginning the *Flowers for Algernon* unit about a young man who struggles to stretch the limits of his mental challenges. (Some of you may remember the movie version of this novella titled *Charly*.) We look at the levels of thinking in Bloom's Taxonomy and how that relates to the book and work that is asked of us in school and life.

Students in United States History are involved in a variety of projects to deepen their understanding of the issues and events of early American History, ranging from applying the ideals of the Constitution, to modern applications of the Bill of Rights situations, to imagining the lives and discoveries of Lewis and Clark. Please check the eighth grade website (gdms8.wikispaces.com) for your child's (or children's) individual assignments. Reminder: students should be completing approximately one half hour of homework per night.

MSPTO UPDATE

Thank you to chair Becky Werner and all of the parent volunteers for a successful fall book fair. Profits were used for books for the MS Library and to fill teacher wish lists.

All classroom enrichment funds have been approved and are being dispersed to teachers. We will be funding a special request from Susan Daugherty of the art department for a cri-cit machine which will be available for all staff to use.

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Many thanks to those of you who sent in donations to the MSPTO this school year to fund these items. Donations are still being accepted.

Additional items that the MSPTO has allocated funds for are playground equipment, geography bee trophies, fitness room, NELMS scholarly dinner, and hospitality for teacher conferences and socials, dances.

Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time for the last Kids Night Out, 7th/8th grade dance and 6th grade social.

We are still looking for one team parent for the 6th grade Glinka/Lane team. Please contact Lynnette Fisher if you can help. Next MSPTO meeting is January 13, 2009 at 5:30 in MSN Conf Room. Happy Holidays to All!

Groton - Dunstable
SPEDPAC



www.gdspedpac.org

MYTH: LEARNING TO READ IS A NATURAL PROCESS

Learning to understand a spoken language is a natural process, but learning to read written text is not.

According to the National Institute for Literacy and the Center for Education Statistics, over 40 million adults in this country are functionally illiterate, and despite the best educational efforts, approximately 40 percent of fourth graders lack even the most basic reading skills. At the early grades, the "literacy gap" is relatively easy to close. Diagnostic, focused

the gap widens until the gap gets so wide that closing it requires extensive, intensive and expensive remedial instruction. Research has shown that if a child is not reading grade-appropriate materials by the time he or she is in the fourth grade, that child will have trouble developing good reading skills. It is still possible, but it is much more difficult, and the child's own motivation becomes the biggest obstacle to success.

This month the GD SpedPAC is offering a lecture on the topic of learning to read and research-based reading programs. Come learn about the critical components of successful reading instruction (*Phonemic Awareness; Phonics; Fluency; Vocabulary; and Comprehension*); core class instruction, supplemental instruction and intensive interventions; Response to Intervention (Rti); assessments and progress monitoring; and instructional needs of struggling readers. As a follow up to this lecture, the GD SpedPAC will also be holding a Parent Roundtable at Florence Roche to discuss the topic of reading and their recent initiatives to identify and support struggling readers.

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

LECTURE: READING PROGRAMS & RECENT DISTRICT INITIATIVES

Presenter: Sandy Jones, Ph.D

DATE: Thursday, January 8, 2009

TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

PLACE: Middle School North Library *(alternate location)

Who should attend? Parents of children who know or suspect their child is struggling with learning to read, reading fluency or reading comprehension. GDRSD Staff interested in learning more about the latest reading research and offerings.

This presentation will focus on instructional reading programs that are used in schools and how they are used to meet the needs of students who are struggling to reach benchmarks in reading. Dr. Jones will lead a discussion that provides attendees with information about a wide variety of programs as well as an understanding of how these programs are selected to meet the needs of struggling readers. Dr. Jones is currently reviewing the reading support programs at Florence Roche and staff from Florence Roche will be on hand to discuss their recent initiatives.

In addition to her operational responsibilities as Director of the Hanson Initiative for Language & Literacy (HILL), Dr. Jones is an Associate Professor in the Graduate Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the MGH Institute of Health Professionals in Boston. Dr. Jones served as the Professional Development Coordinator for the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Massachusetts Reading First Plan for six years. She was responsible for training the statewide regional Implementation Facilitators, consulted to the Office of Reading and provided statewide professional development to the 120 Reading First and John Silber schools' leaders.

FLORENCE ROCHE / SPEDPAC PARENT ROUNDTABLE

Discussion Topic: "Reading Programs & Recent Initiatives"

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2009

TIME: 9:30 am – 10:45 am

PLACE: Florence Roche Cafeteria *(new location)

The GD SpedPAC, in conjunction with Ruthann Goguen, Principal, Debra Diggins, Assistant Principal, and Nyola Vaillancourt, Team Chair, are hosting a Parent Roundtable. We invite Florence Roche parents to attend an open discussion group about the reading strategy currently being used in the classroom, new initiatives to identify struggling readers and the options being reviewed to support struggling readers both in the classroom and in pull-out sessions. We encourage parents to come with their questions on this topic, and others, and share their concerns. Refreshments will be served.

NEXT BUSINESS MEETING: *Evening Meeting, Tuesday, January 13, 2009; 7:00 – 9:00 PM; Groton-Dunstable Regional High School Library. All meetings are open to the public.*

For more information visit our website, www.gdspedpac.org.

Questions or concerns? Contact: Melissa Sweeny, GD SpedPAC President, 978-448-0082, msweeny@gdspedpac.org



Groton-Dunstable Alliance for Youth News Update

Volume 1

Issue 1

January 2009

Did you know....?

Our Newsletter has a new name and purpose...to inform and engage all interested people of the good work we do...and to invite you to join the Friends of GDAY. Together we are a community that cares!

The 2008 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results are in to the GDR school district? Keep an eye out for notices on upcoming community forums to discuss these important results. If you cannot attend a forum, check out the results on the district website in February '09!

GDAY has started a new committee...the GD Middle School Advisory Group. Joining a team of GDAY leaders are 25 middle school students and parents as we discuss current issues, ideas and concerns among middle school students and families. Our first sessions have focused on bullying and peer pressure. Our middle school advisory group would like you to know:

- ✓ Through student workshops and parent forums, this important topic is being discussed.
- ✓ Students would like parents and other concerned adults to talk MORE about bullying, developing strategies for dealing with bullies and internet/cyber-bullying. Discussion is important.
- ✓ Even though there are zero tolerance policies for bullying at school, bullying is still a problem at home, in your neighborhoods, on the playground, at the bus stop and on sports teams. Talk to kids about their experiences and don't hesitate to help out if you think someone is being bullied.

Community Reading Day...a long standing GDAY and elementary school tradition is set for February 3, 2009! The focus is all about respect, friendship and tolerance! If you would like to learn more or get involved, contact Becky Werner at bwerner@g-day.org.

Our Next GDAY Steering Committee Meeting is January 7, 2009 from 7-8:30pm in the GDRMS North Library.

Building Family and Saving \$\$! Winter is HERE!

- ✓ Check with your children's teachers about classroom temperatures and proper clothing requirements for outdoor winter recess! A spare pair of mittens or a sweatshirt can make recess more comfortable!
- ✓ Check with our local libraries for free passes to area museums and educational programs.
- ✓ Turn off the TV and have game night. Not only will you have lots of fun, you'll be saving energy. TVs and recording devices eat lots of electricity!
- ✓ Check on your neighbors...especially the elderly or those who live alone.
- ✓ Looking for an economical supper with a twist? Try having breakfast for dinner...French toast is a great way to use up day old bread!

From the GPD and DPD:

- ✓ Winter is here and so are icy roads. Drive cautiously. Visit www.weather.com for winter driving safety tips.
- ✓ Know the rules of the road and area speed limits...if you are pulled over, be attentive and listen to the officer. Cooperation counts!
- ✓ There have been a number of home and auto break-ins. Remember to lock your doors. Do not leave valuables in plain sight. Call the police if you notice suspicious activity in your neighborhood or parking lot.



Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc.

Post Office Box 322

Groton, Massachusetts 01450

www.gdefinc.org

Ed Foundation Announces Grant Awards

Annual Giving Campaign accepting donations

“Reach for the Stars” Fundraiser set for March 14

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation is pleased to announce it awarded 16 enrichment mini-grants totaling \$6,394 to district schools in December, including the final grant funded by the Bruce J. Anderson Foundation for programs supporting “Integration of the Arts.” The Ed Foundation had received 24 grant applications for its 11th cycle, totaling just over \$10,000 in funding requests from teachers and staff.

Middle School students will benefit from the following grants:

- “Chariot of the Sun” Performance (\$500) -- a dynamic, live presentation on the stories of ancient Greece, tying in with the 6th grade Greek mythology curriculum
- Audio Playaway Books (\$500) –to enable and motivate reluctant and struggling readers
- Art Games (\$200) – engaging artistic activities for students to work on independently, such as art games and puzzles
- Digi-Blocks Math Manipulatives (\$424) – additional components to help with Middle School math instruction

Over the past five years, the Education Foundation has funded over \$206,000 for 143 grants reaching students at all grade levels in all Groton-Dunstable schools. A larger spring grant cycle will close on March 1.

GDEF would like to thank all of you who have supported our efforts with your generous donations and by attending fundraisers. If you haven’t yet participated, we hope you’ll consider a donation to our **Annual Giving Campaign** which will allow us to fund more grants in the coming year. Just visit www.gdefinc.org and click on the “Donate Now!” star. Also stay tuned for more information on GDEF’s next major fundraiser, the “Reach for the Stars” Benefit Auction, March 14, at the Groton School. Tickets go on sale in early February. For more information on GDEF and for a complete listing of grants funded, please visit our website at www.gdefinc.org.