

SWALLOW UNION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY, 2010

SCHOOL HOURS: 9:00-3:05

School Ph: 978-649-7281

School Ph: 978-649-9412

School Ph: 978-649-4190

Message Ph/Fax: 978-649-5078

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: The 15th of each month

SCHOOL WEB SITE: www.gdrsd.org

APT WEBSITE: <http://sites.google.com/site/swallowunionaptorg/apt-newsletter>

Drawing by
Stacy Li
Logo by
Katie Wogan



Spirit As Strong As A Tiger

A MESSAGE FROM MR. MYERSON

We have just reached the mid-year point as our second term came to a close this past Monday. You will be receiving your child's report card on Monday, February 8th. The staff is excited with the growth and progress their students have made during the first half of the school year, and they are looking forward to adding new and challenging learning experiences for them during the second half. I also commend our

students on their social growth, which is an integral part of our elementary education.

A prime example of our students' growth is their successful acquisition of basic math facts. We have been tracking their development in this area through monthly, timed, math facts assessments. Overall, our data has indicated a steady improvement in this math skill. Thank you, parents, for your help in this area. I am confident our students will continue to shine. We plan to share more information about math facts and our math program during our Math Night in March.

On the subject of curriculum, I want to share with you the work that is being done during our curriculum half-days. These afternoons have been dedicated to developing common assessments in the areas of Science and Social Studies. Grade level teams from our district elementary schools have been working together and sharing what assessments are currently being used and devising new ones that will be used at both schools. It is our goal for each grade level to have at least two common assessments in both subject matters by the end of the school year. The process of developing common assessments in all subjects will be on-going, as we want to make sure our students enter the middle school with common assessment data.

I am excited to announce that we have worked out all the kinks and this month's newsletter will be sent to your email address. It will also continue to be posted on the S/U Website (www.gdrsd.org). If you do not receive the newsletter in your e-mail and would like to, please email the office at PRandazzo@gdrsd.org.

Lastly, I have listed below the **MCAS testing dates**. If you foresee any conflicts with the dates, please let me know.

3rd Grade:

Reading: Wed., March 24 and Thursday, March 25

Math: Tues., May 18 and Wednesday, May 19

4th Grade:

Long Composition: Tues., March 23

(Make-Up Wednesday, April 7)

ELA: Wednesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 1

Math: Thursday, May 20 and Friday, May 21

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.

COUNSELOR'S



FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT-PATRICIA ASCIONE

By the time you are reading this Punxsutawney Phil will in all likelihood have seen his shadow, and as superstition has it, there will be 6 more weeks of winter. While many people enjoy these cold, snowy months, others report feeling lethargic, irritable, and that the darkness and subsequent excessive time spent indoors gives them “cabin fever.”

One way to combat the mid-winter blues is to implement Family Game Night in your house. Several students have reported that this new weekly event in their home is something that they look forward to and really enjoy.

Elementary school children love playing board games, and do not realize that they are learning life skills at the same time. Games such as: Scrabble Jr, Scattergories, Outburst Jr, Apples to Apples Jr and Boggle are perfect for enhancing verbal skills, while other games such as Yahtzee, Payday and Monopoly Jr involve a great deal of math.

Clue Jr, Guess Who?, and Battleship teach deductive reasoning; while Chess, Checkers, Jenga and Connect 4 improve logistic skills. Games geared toward younger children typically involve colors, counting, and turn taking. However, many games like Candyland, Sorry, Chutes and Ladders, Uno, and Trouble address dealing with frustration, since the players often end up going backwards or losing a turn through no fault of their own.

Does your child need help with fine motor skills? Pick up sticks, Legos, Light Bright, Perfection, and Jenga are great choices. If your child loves to draw, try Pictionary. Is your child in constant motion? How about a game of Twister or Hullabaloo? If your child has a flair for the dramatic, charades is always a big hit. Card games are still very popular. Even children as young as 5 can understand Go Fish, Slap Jack, or a simple matching game. How about Bingo with small prizes like a quarter or new pencil?

There is a board game out there for every family to enjoy. If you find one I have not mentioned or want to tell me about your version of family game night please send me an e-mail to pascione@gdrsd.org. I welcome feedback on any of my articles.

WISH LIST

Antibacterial Wipes - Guidance Office

Paper Clips - General Supplies

ART NEWS

May the New Year bring you lots of opportunities to enjoy time with your family. My students in Grades K-4 have been working on finishing up projects they recently started as well as creating a December piece of artwork. The students in Grades K-2 made beautiful Hand Wreaths that they decorated with a multitude of materials they could choose from to make their one-of-a-kind piece. Grades 3 and 4 made stained glass (special light sensitive paper) rose windows. My students learned about the history of stained glass windows and how architects brought about great changes in building design and the shape of windows within those designs. Hope you enjoy the wonderful creations they came up with.

I feel so fortunate being able to enjoy your children as I watch them grow in so many different ways in the art room.

Thank you for this opportunity....Cindy Goddard

“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that within me there lay an invincible summer”.....Albert Camus



COMPUTER LAB UPDATE

Many students enjoy the educational games that we use to enhance their curriculum in the lab. Should your student wish to continue to use or explore something we have done in the lab, navigate to:

<http://www.gdrsd.org/Schools/SwallowUnion/SUResources.html> Select your student's grade, and they should be able to find the activity they liked!



The computer lab continues helping students work on math skill building, writing projects, learning new science and social studies material, and increasing fine motor skills. In addition, students learn and interact with technology they will be using in their future academic and work careers!

Fourth Graders spent time exploring two websites learning about the rock cycle. They played the popular game of 'Rock Cycle Jeopardy' to review for their tests. They have been researching both Canada and Mexico, as well as building their understanding of the relationships of rectangles, angles, and perimeter.

Third Graders have spent time researching the Solar System. Some third graders wrote a 'Constellation Myth', while others published a multi-media report on the Solar System using an educational website called ed.voicethread.com. Check out their projects on our Swallow Union website at:

<http://www.gdrsd.org/Schools/SwallowUnion/SUResources3.html>.

Third graders have also learned about the Pilgrims and Thanksgiving utilizing several excellent websites. They are currently learning about the American Revolution, and will utilize games to enhance their understanding of the Bill of Rights.

Second Graders have spent their lab time increasing their understanding of symmetry using curriculum-designed programs. They have researched bats, and some classes produced a bat report using Inspiration. Second graders also learned about continents and oceans, wolves, and apostrophes!

First Graders spent their time in December enhancing their curriculum investigation of winter holidays and family traditions. They culminated this activity with an Inspiration project matching symbols with different traditions. They have been working with Starfall.com with word families, some of which they used in their classroom spelling work. They also learned why we honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a special holiday in January!

Kindergartners have been working very diligently on gaining fine motor skills with the mouse using websites that also work on academic topics such as identifying letters of the alphabet, identifying sounds of letters, and counting. It is a great bonus that both academic and motor skill enhancing practice can be found in engaging websites!

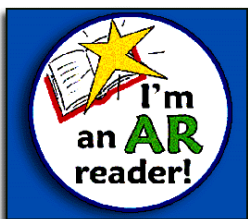
All grade levels (except Kindergarten) continue to work on their Math Fact skills, and 3rd and 4th grade also learn to keyboard utilizing our Type to Learn program.

Wipes, Wipes, Wipes! The flow of students in and out of the lab means that keyboards are washed after each use....up to 8 times a day! The parent community has been very generous in donating wipes for lab use. Thank you! We are still in the middle of cold and flu season, so any additional donations of wipes are greatly appreciated!

ACCELERATED READER IS AWARDED MINI GRANT

The Swallow Union Accelerated Reading (AR) program was recently awarded a mini-grant for "A World of Stories" by the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation (GDEF). The AR program is a student-motivated reading program for the 3rd and 4th graders that provides incentive rewards to students meeting their individualized reading goals. The program is a fun way to motivate developing readers.

The mini-grant was written by AR parent volunteer Sandy Freiter, and sponsored by the AR teacher coordinator, Mr. John Trainor, and will provide an end-of-the-year reward performance by story teller Mr. Jim LaChapelle. Mr. LaChapelle is a local storyteller who has been entertaining audiences with stories from around the world for over a decade. The performance will take place at Swallow Union in June. Thank you to GDEF for providing the students with this opportunity!



NEWS FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL:

The student council has a lot on its plate over the next couple of months. We have decided to designate February as Global Awareness Month. One of the goals of the student council is to increase awareness of community. We have sponsored many efforts to support both the school and local community. Now we intend to extend our awareness. In this effort, we plan to dedicate the first week in February to a fundraiser for the people of Haiti. We will be planning a week long campaign to raise money for the earthquake victims as well as our own awareness of Haiti. The last week of the month will be dedicated to the continent of Africa and other third world countries where malaria is an ever-present concern. During the last week in February we will be raising money for mosquito netting to help control the spread of malaria (especially among children) in Africa and other third world countries. Please look for more information about these fundraisers in February.



We have two upcoming Spirit Days. On Thursday, January 28 (half day) we will be celebrating Mismatch Day. Students and staff will be encouraged to throw style and color coordination to the wind. The fashion police will be astonished at our outrageous getups. On Mismatch Day try wearing one shoe and one sneaker, or different colored shoes. Try a striped shirt with polka dotted pants. Try mismatching colors or outfits for the day!

If all goes well and there are no snow days, the 100th day of school should be Tuesday, February 9. On the 100th day of school, Swallow Union celebrates "Wear Math Day" where students and staff can be seen sporting the best in math wear. The purpose is to bring awareness to the language and vocabulary of math. So be creative and wear a math symbol or be an algorithm for a day! Your classroom teacher may have suggestions or may plan a whole class theme. More information on both of these Spirit Days to come!

Nurse Notes**NURSES' NEWS**

We are planning on offering to 3rd grade students the opportunity to participate in a voluntary weekly fluoride mouth rinse program, which is offered free of charge through the Nashoba Board of Health. It is funded by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health Office of Oral Health. Information and permission slips will go home later this month.

As required by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health, heights and weights will be measured for students in the 1st and 4th grades, and their BMI will be calculated. We will mail results home for students in these grades when completed. This information is also provided to the Mass. DPH anonymously through year-end reports. Parents/guardians may request to the nurse, in writing, that their child not participate in this program. It will be done by the nurses during physical education class in February/March.

Thank you to parents/guardians of 4th graders who have sent in an updated physical. If you received a note requesting one and have not sent it in yet, please do so as soon as possible. The nurses will soon begin to get the 4th grade files ready for transfer to the Middle School, and the records need to be complete.

McNeil Consumer Healthcare, (Johnson and Johnson), is voluntarily recalling lots of OTC products. Products included in the recall: Motrin, Junior Strength Motrin, Benedryl, Tylenol, Children's Tylenol, St. Joseph's Aspirin, Tylenol PM and Roloids. Link to lot numbers: <http://www.fda.gov/downloads/Safety/Recalls/UCM197813.pdf>

PE NEWS

As the heart of the winter sets in, the gym becomes a very busy place. Fitness, volleyball, floor hockey, and jump rope activities are coming up quickly. Keep an eye out for forms being sent home. One form will be for the "Jump Rope for Heart". In the past we've raised an average of almost \$4000 per year. We hope to surpass that number this year. The other form will be for Enrichment Units of gymnastics and floor hockey. This year we will offer the after-school gymnastics to grades 1-4, and floor hockey to grades 2-4. We hope to have dates for the units soon.



Over the Christmas break, our custodians stripped and refinished the Gym floor. Please remind your child/children to have clean/dry sneakers for their PE day. Thank you!
Only 49 days until spring. Get outside and move around!



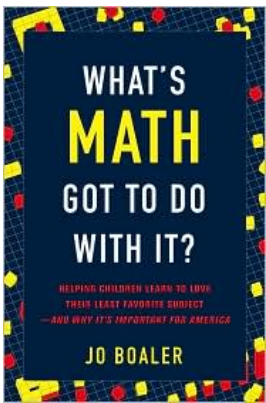
Making connections between home and school

Dear Families,

I'd like to begin by thanking the APT for funding supplemental math materials for our classrooms. Each grade level will receive a Think Tank box of 240 activities designed to develop students' ability to problem solve throughout all the math strands. Teachers will be able to use these cards flexibly, whole class, in small groups or as extensions to challenge students. It is important for all children to learn strategies for effective problem solving; it is one of the 5 core competencies in the Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Frameworks.

**Parent Math
Information
Night**
March 11th
6:30 – 7:30 PM

Usually I make book recommendations to read to your children. But this month, with problem solving as my focus the recommendation is for you! Jo Boaler's book "What's Math Got To Do With It?" is a must read for all parents, whether your child struggles or excels in math. In the book, Boaler describes her longitudinal study of children and their math learning in a compelling and straightforward manner. She underscores the importance of a problem solving approach in math classrooms, as it most closely reflects the math we use in real life.



*"The math of the world is so different from the math taught in most classrooms that young people often leave school ill-prepared for the demands of their work and lives. **Students who learn math through a problem solving approach did not regard the mathematics of school and the world as different and talked with ease about their use of the school-learned math in their jobs and in their lives.**"(p.10)*

Using our core curriculum *Investigations in Number, Data, and Space*, teachers prepare students for the future by presenting unfamiliar problems that require students to reason and make conjectures about solutions just as mathematicians do. Students focus on computational fluency and begin to develop algebraic ideas as they consider how numbers can be taken apart and put together under different operations. Most importantly, students are empowered to see themselves as capable of having mathematical ideas. Developing confidence in young learners is part of our mission here at Swallow Union.

Please come on March 11, 2010 to our Parent Math Information Night from 6:30 – 7:30 PM. Join us for a conversation about our core program and engage in the math your children do. Teachers will hold grade span conversations (K2, 3-4) and Ms. Smolka will be available in the computer lab if you'd like assistance accessing the Student Math Handbook from the Internet. We look forward to seeing you there!

Elaine C. Herzog, Swallow Union Math Coordinator

email: eherzog@gdrsd.org

NOTEWORTHY NEWS - Lisa Mitchell

Kindergarten-We are continuing to work on pitch/rhythm matching with “telephone” attendance games and solo singing. Students are starting a movement/rhythm unit using modes of travel to reinforce steady beat. We are starting to use the larger classroom instruments for introduction to more structured rhythm / beat songs and activities. In celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, we sang and signed the song “Sing About Martin”.

1st graders finished a unit on ABA form (3 sections-beginning and end are the same and the middle section is different). We talked about introduction and coda and where they occur in music. The students also created a B section to add to the song “North Winds Blow”. We accompanied the piece with Bass Xylophone, metallophone and glockenspiels. We also listened to some Native American flute music and Mrs. Mitchell gave a demonstration on Native American flute. We are now moving into rhythm reading games and steady beat activities starting with an African rock passing song, “Obwisana”.

2nd grade also continues to work on pitch matching with the “telephone” attendance game. We have been discussing introduction, coda, and ABA form (3 sections with the middle being different and the beginning and end being the same). They should be able to tell you where introduction and coda occur in music. Students have been playing classroom xylophones and rhythm instruments to accompany the piece “Frosty Weather”.

3rd grade is working on the recorder unit. We have 5 stations in the music room where they practice and test in “Recorder Karate”, play bean bag note toss (writing results on a staff), play “Melody Secret Mission”, and complete music reading activity sheets. I will soon work with students during recess on a voluntary basis to assist them with “Recorder Karate”. **Please remind your children that they need to practice every day to be successful.** We took a day off from recorder on January 14 for a Djembe (African Drum) demonstration given by Ian DeBay. Thank you, Ian-we enjoyed the demonstration and learned a lot.

4th grade has started working on music for their **concert on March 4th**. A reminder letter will go home close to that date. We have also been preparing for a **Field Trip** to see Boston Lyric Opera’s “The Barber of Seville” on February 23rd. On January 12, two musician’s from the Boston Lyric Opera came to school for a preview performance. Look for a permission slip for the field trip around Feb. 2nd. We’ll ask for chaperones at that time as well.

Swallow Union Concert Dates

4th grade-March 4
3rd grade-April 8
1st/2nd grade-May 6
K-TBA

Date Change

FROM THE READING SPECIALISTS

Children like word games. You can play them in the car or at the dinner table or in spare moments anywhere. Some are good for expanding vocabularies. Here's a popular one I have played with my students.

Question: How many cats were born this year?

Answer: None, but a lot of kittens were born.

Expand this question to all the animals and their young you can think of.

How many zebras were born this year?

None, but a lot of foals were born.

Did you know that alligators have hatchlings, ferrets have kits, flies have maggots, gorillas have infants, snakes have snakelets, and jellyfish ephyra?

Submitted by Catherine Dart

STUDENT DIRECTORY

This year's new Student Directory was distributed to families in mid-January through backpacks. If your family didn't receive a copy, please contact the school office to obtain one. A big thank you to Swallow Union parent volunteer Carmelina Johnson for her help with this project. Special thanks also to the local businesses that generously supported the directory with their advertising dollars, allowing the parent organizations to bring it to you at no cost.

GDSTEM ROCKET CAMP BLASTS OFF MARCH 17!

GDSTEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) is planning an afternoon Rocket Camp for grades K-8 on the curriculum half-day, Wed., March 17, 2010, at the Middle School North cafeteria. Students will have a chance to build and launch their own model rockets. Mark your calendar and stay tuned for details on registering your child. For information on GDSTEM, visit www.gdstem.org

DUNSTABLE PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS**Library Hours**

Tues. 5:00 – 8:00

Thurs. 10:00 – 8:00

Sat. 10:00 – 2:00

Wed. 10:00 – 2:00

Fri. 10:00 – 2:00

For more library information go to www.mvlc.org click on library, then Dunstable

National Library Lovers Month A month long celebration recognizing the value of all types of libraries and the groups that support them. This is a good time for you to join the Friends of the Dunstable Library.

Featured Display... The library will showcase a collection of over 50 different Mother Goose books and collectibles

Valentine Craft Times ...Drop in on Thursday February 4 from 3:30 – 4:30 or Saturday, Feb. 6 from 11 – noon. Come and make several Valentine themed crafts. For ages 6 and up accompanied by an adult or caregiver. Sign-up please.

Chocolate Lovers Tea Party...Drop in on Thursday, February 11 from 6:00 – 7:30. We will have a selection of hot cocoas, handcrafted chocolates and delicious desserts for you to sample.

SCHOOL VACATION WEEK EVENTS

Family Wii Night ...Tuesday February 16 from 6:00 – 7:30 family Wii night. Don't have your own Wii. Stop in and see what all the fun is about. We also have Deal or No Deal to play.

Movie and Lunch...Thursday, February 18, from noon – 2:00 we will be showing PG rated **Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs** and serving a lunch of assorted meatballs, crusty bread, drinks and dessert(sign up to bring a dessert). Reservations MUST be made by February 16.



Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc.

Post Office Box 322 Groton, Massachusetts 01450

www.gdefinc.org

Trivia Night Returns February 4!

Annual Giving Campaign accepting donations

Grants due April 2

GDEF's popular **Trivia Night for Education** returns to the Stagecoach Inn on **Thursday, February 4** and promises to be better than ever! Since taking a month off after the holiday break, GDEF has tweaked the format a bit, keeping the evening lively with lots of fast paced trivia fun hosted by a professional DJ, but we're moving the event into the Stagecoach's main dining room. You'll find a warm inviting atmosphere and more opportunity to mix with friends over drinks and food, chosen from a specially created [Trivia Night appetizer menu](#) or the full menu.

Hundreds of folks have already caught the Trivia Bug at this fall's events, and the excitement has been building. December's Trivia Night drew an enthusiastic crowd of over 50 folks who came out for a fun evening to support GDEF grants to all our district schools. See for yourself what all the buzz is about as you test your wits in a friendly team competition for great prizes. Come with your own team of 4-6 people, or come alone and we'll help you form a team. Tickets are just \$10 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the Trivia begins at 7 p.m. For more information on Trivia Night, visit our website at www.gdefinc.org.

GDEF's Spring Grants cycle is now open, and applications for school grants in any amount, as well as special Bruce J. Anderson foundation "Integration of the Arts" grants, are due April 2. Most of the funding for GDEF grants comes from your donations to our **Annual Giving Campaign (AGC)**. The 5th campaign kicked off in December, and support from our communities has been very encouraging. If you haven't made a donation recently, GDEF is counting on your support to continue to fund great enrichment programs and materials for your children and others in the district over the upcoming year. Visit www.gdefinc.org for a look at some of the grants in action at your child's school, and click on the "Donate Now" star to make an online donation.

GDAY

Building Family -on a budget

- Happy Valentine's Day! Valentine's Day is a wonderful opportunity for kids to learn how to show appreciation and love for the people they care about.
- Children learn best from modeling their parents- make the most of the holiday by showing kids how to give and receive love.
- Concerned about rampant commercialism? Encourage your child to make his valentines. Stock up on art supplies - and make sure that your child starts early - it can be pretty stressful if a child is trying to make 20-plus valentines in one sitting.
- By watching you give gifts of kindness, time, compassion, respect, and thoughtfulness to the people you love -- not just on holidays but throughout the year -- they will learn that "I love you" means so much more than three words inscribed on a candy heart.

Parent-to-Parent Network:

Have you always wanted to be invited to a progressive party? Why not organize one in your neighborhood? Knowing your neighbors is important for parents and children!

Based on the Search Institute's "40 Developmental Assets", neighbors play an important role in helping children make wise decisions, choose positive paths, and grow up to become competent, caring, responsible adults.

If you would like a free guide to hosting a progressive party with your neighbors, including sample invitations, please contact Michelle at mhutchins@g-day.org

THE SAFE HOMES PLEDGE:

- I will actively supervise parties or gatherings in my home.
- I welcome calls from other parents when my child is hosting a party or gathering at my home
- I will call the parents for a Safe Home confirmation when my child is attending a party or gathering.
- I will not serve minors or allow minors access to alcoholic beverages, tobacco or other drugs in my home or on my property.
- I give permission to include my name and phone number in a SAFE HOMES directory, so that other parents can contact me. I understand that only those that have signed the pledge will have access to this directory.

I pledge to support our teens by ensuring that teen gatherings in my home are supervised and alcohol and drug-free.

Parent Name: _____ Parent Name: _____

Parent Signature: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Address: _____

Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Grade Level of your Children _____

Return this pledge to: GDAY, P.O. Box 328 Groton, MA 01450 or email to mhutchins@g-day.org



Groton Dunstable Special Education Parent Advisory Council

www.gdspedpac.org

The GD SpedPAC's mission is to provide a network in which parents of children with special needs have access to relevant information, training and emotional support; and to encourage an atmosphere of effective open communication, understanding and mutual respect among all students, parents, educators and the community-at-large. In addition, the GD SpedPAC provides input to the District staff and administrators, working collaboratively with the District to plan and develop SPED initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY/MARCH: *All SpedPAC meetings and lectures are free and open to the public.*

GD SpedPAC Business Meeting

DATE:: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
 PLACE: Groton-Dunstable Middle School North, Library
 TIME: 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm, Dr. Moldover lecture immediately following

Executive Functioning in the Classroom: Middle School, High School and Beyond

Presenter: Dr. Joseph Moldover, Psy.D. <http://www.drmoldover.com>
 DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 2010
 PLACE: Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, Library (2nd Floor)
 TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

For children with any sort of learning or developmental challenge, the transitions from elementary school to middle school, from middle school to high school, and from high school to college and the vocational world often represent unique challenges. Why? Often, the answer may be found in relation to the concept of executive functioning. Growing demands for organization, planning and self-direction may serve to make transitions, which are stressful for most adolescents, particularly tumultuous for students with challenges in this area of development. This seminar will review the area of executive functioning, discuss the manner in which executive skills are stressed during these periods of transition, and provide ideas for supporting adolescents and young adults during these periods.

Dr. Moldover is a developmental neuropsychologist specializing in the evaluation of children, adolescents and young adults. His interests include the assessment and management of learning disabilities, ADHD, autism spectrum disorders, brain injury, and psychiatric disorder. He is also interested in counseling for children with these conditions and for their families.

MCAS Workshop – MCAS Accommodations and Alternate Assessments for Students With Learning Disabilities

Presenter: Helen Higgins – The Federation for Children With Special Needs, <http://fcsn.org/index.php>
 DATE: Tuesday, March 2, 2010
 PLACE: Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, Library (2nd Floor)
 TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

The Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) is a tool to measure progress in the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks or general curriculum. This workshop will help parents understand how their child with a disability can participate in MCAS to demonstrate in a meaningful way what they've learned. Discussion will include standard and non-standard accommodations and alternate assessments.

Building the Skills That Build Social Capital: Putting Your Best Foot Forward in the Real World

Presenter: Teresa Bolick, Ph.D.

DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 2010

TIME: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm

PLACE: Groton-Dunstable Regional High School, Library (2nd Floor)

Individuals with Asperger Syndrome and other Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) typically possess numerous talents and skills. Yet these strengths may be hidden by inadvertent violations of social expectations. In other words individuals with ASD may not be given the benefit of the doubt because they aren't perceived as contributing to the social capital of the community. This workshop will focus on the practical strategies that parents and professional can employ to assist individuals with ASD in building social capital. Teresa will touch upon appearance, hygiene, manners, volunteer work and making the most of their strengths. Teresa Bolick is a licensed psychologist with special interest in neurodevelopmental disorders, including Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

GD SpedPAC Officer Contacts:

Nancy Bugbee, President	ntbugbee@gdspedpac.org	978-448-9916
Maryanne Squeglia, VP and Treasurer	mvsquel@gdspedpac.org	978-448-0670
Cyndy Premru, Secretary	premru@gdspedpac.org	978-448-9788
Parent Liaison , Mary Slattery	mnslatt@yahoo.com	



Parent Resource Center at Prescott

978-448-5505, ext. 229

All parents and community members are welcome to come in to the Center to access SpedPAC's literature, education resource library, to ask questions, and to get guidance from a SpedPAC representative to help navigate the special education process.

Drop In Hours

Wednesdays
12:30 – 1:30pm*

Other days and times – call for an appointment

**Exception will be on half days in*

The Groton-Dunstable Regional School District approves only the distribution of this material and does not assume any liability for programs

GROTON SENIOR CENTER COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

One of our programs through the Outreach department is delivering home cooked meals to housebound seniors. Because of the increase of seniors in need of this service, we need to add new drivers who can commit to as little as one day a month, or one day a week if possible. Using your own car, you will be picking up meals here at the Senior Center, and bringing them to the homes of Seniors in Groton who are on the program. It takes about 1-1/2 hours of your time to complete the task. How can you apply? Come into the Senior Center and fill out a application and a CORI request form. Once all the paperwork is completed, you will be put on a regular schedule for deliveries. For more information contact Debbie Thompson @ 978-448-1170.