

GILBERT H. HOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2012



Principal's message

Dear GHHMS Community,



Well, winter weather has definitely arrived. Not only the cold, but also the snow; both of which were not present much during the beginning of this season. Please make sure that all children come to school with warm coats, hats, and mittens or gloves. Many students get dropped off at the door, but you never know when we may have to go outside for an unplanned evacuation drill. Thank you for making sure your child is appropriately dressed for the weather.

Saturday the 4th is the School District Deliberative Session in the West Running Brook Middle School Gym at 10:00 a.m. Please come out and support the district school budget, which benefits all of our students here at GHHMS and throughout the district. For all of the parents of our 8th grade students, the kickoff meeting for the planning of the promotion activities will be held on Thursday the 2nd at 6:30 p.m. in the Library. We would love to hear your opinion. Please join in to help plan these exciting events for your child.

The Winter Sports Award Night will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Gym on Monday, February 13th. Valentine's Day is a very popular holiday in middle school, and the building fills up with all sorts of great tasting goodies. The PTSA meeting is Wednesday the 15th at 6:30 p.m. in the Library, so come and support this wonderful organization that does so much for our students. February is definitely a busy 3-week month that culminates with our winter recess from Monday the 27th - Friday the 2nd of March.

Remember to visit the school to see all of the fantastic things that the students are doing. Support all of our students and our school, because together we will continue to make GHHMS: A Great Place To Learn And Work.

Sincerely,

Austin Garofalo, Principal Joe Crawford, Assistant Principal Kim Hogan, Assistant Principal

Pinkerton Academy Program for Parents

Course Preview Night
Wednesday, February 1 (snow date 2/8)
5:30 to 8:00 p.m.



Yearbook Selling "Family" Ads

As is the tradition, the yearbook staff is inviting all parents/guardians/family members of eighth grade students to purchase a space in the 2011-2012 GHHMS Yearbook. This space can be used to send a simple message, or you may send a message with a favorite candid photo or baby picture.

The cost for 1/8th of a page without a photo is \$10. The cost for 1/8th of a page with a photo is \$12.

Often times, this simple gesture is kept as a surprise from students. If you choose to purchase a space, we request you keep it a secret so your student can be pleasantly surprised when looking through his/her yearbook.

The deadline for submissions will be February 10, 2012, and all submissions can be sent to the school:

GHHMS
Yearbook/Ms. Hedrick
5 Hood Road
Derry, NH 03038

Pinkerton Counselors to Meet with Eight Graders

Pinkerton Course selection sheets went home with eighth grade students on Friday, January 27th. The selection sheet has teacher recommended courses circled. Also distributed that day were instruction sheets for waiving a class when you are in disagreement with a recommended level. Please call your child's teacher and have a conversation before you waive a recommended class/level.

The course selection sheets should be returned back to school by February 15. Pinkerton counselors will be reviewing and finalizing the selection sheets individually with students on Monday, February 20. No changes will be made at this time.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's subject teacher or Guidance Counselor.

Husky Top Ten



Tyler Altenbach
Nick Spanos
Gary Frost
Evan Rodgers
Rachel Pepin

Keera Doolan
Tyler Adams
Sam Pierce
Gabrielle Guerard
Rebecca Mayotte

Students of the Month

Alexzander Arsenault

Colin Ball

Ibrahim Blaik

Tyler Boyle

Saryn Evans

Amber Falzarano

Brendan Fitzgerald

John Galusha

Hailey Godin

Matthew Hall

Sydney Hill

Noah Jacobs

Jillian Leonard

Alec Leone

Victoria Lonardo



Connor Lowe

Katelyn Lozowski-Aliberti

Joseph Lunetta

Victoria Lunetta

Angela Michaud

Michael Mottola

Sara Muller

Janessa Navarro

Brendan O'Neal

Ryan O'Neill

Dhartiben Patel

Jonathan Richard

Zachary Rioux

Jennifer Robinson

Lindsay Robinson



Jared Rose

Michael Russman

Lucas Sabin

AnnMarie San Antonio

Tyler Simmons

Courtney Sobolewski

Madison Steed

Adrianna Tenhagen

Elisabeth Tharp

Danielle Tompkins

Emily Trainor

Kodi Tufo

Rabia Uysal

Thomas Wood



Teens for Jeans!

Girls Respect is running a fundraiser with the store Aeropostale. We are collecting jeans for homeless children. Please donate all jeans that are no longer needed at your house to this great campaign. Jeans will be donated to homeless teens across the US. & Canada. In addition, Aeropostale will donate 10,000 brand new pairs of jeans.

All donations can be put in the labeled boxes in the front lobby. This campaign will run until Friday, February 10.

Thank you for all of your support. If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact Steph Smith.



Notice of Nondiscrimination

The Derry Cooperative School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex or disability in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its programs and activities.

Any student, parent on behalf of their child, or employee who believes that he or she has a disability and thinks that accommodations are necessary to afford an equal opportunity for success, should contact their school Section 504 coordinator listed below for further information. GHHMS 504 coordinator is Kim (432-1224)

Geography and Spelling Bees

Two great contests this January determined the Gilbert H. Hood Middle School Geography Bee and Spelling Bee champions. Thirteen students representing all of GHMS's teams met Wednesday, January 11 in the annual Geography Bee. In a hard-fought battle, seventh grader Joshua Barton (7-2) emerged victorious. Joshua will now take an exam to qualify for the state Bee in April.



On Thursday, January 26, thirty three competitors vied for the Spelling Bee championship. The first two rounds eliminated many of the students. The final three contestants, Lauren Klim (8-1), James Dooney (7-2) and Jasmine Cuenca (7-1) battled for several rounds. In the end, it was Jasmine Cuenca who emerged victorious. Jasmine was last year's winner also, so hopes are high as she progresses in the state competition.

Team Updates

6-1 In Math, we are finished with our fraction unit, but let's be honest, we are never finished with fractions! Cooking, carpentry, or really anything that involves measuring will include fractions! Next up we will talk about factors and multiples, as well as divisibility. How does one know if a number is divisible by 3? Well, if the digits add up to a number that is divisible by 3, the original number is too! After that, it's on to proportional reasoning, which relies on our knowledge of, you guessed it, fractions! WE LOVE MATHEMATICS!

In Literature, we are visiting Camp Half-Blood with Percy Jackson and will be traveling with Grover and Annabeth as they go along on Percy's quest. The students are really enjoying the novel and Ms. Parsons hopes that this will fuel the fire and love of learning for a lot of students. After this, we move on to some fantasy, folk tales and fables. Literature Rocks!

Science classes have just finished the topic of electricity and are starting Motion and Forces. We will learn the science behind roller coasters and skateboards. We are also practicing interpreting and creating graphs from our science labs.

In Composition, we have just finished writing our science fiction stories. In February, we will research the lives and writing styles of two contemporary writers. Students will then write a compare/contrast essay.

Social Studies classes will be finishing our time in Egypt and move steadfastly on to the Balkan Peninsula to meet the Greeks and the origins of democracy.

6-2 Since the new year, Team 6-2 students have been very busy in all of their classes. In Math, the next area of focus will be dealing with ratios, proportions and percents. In Literature, students have been reading Greek myths and have just started reading the novel *The Lightning Thief* together in class. Remember that the Booklet Project is due on March 7th!!! Social Studies classes have wrapped up the unit on Mesopotamia and have moved on to Ancient Egypt. Congratulations to Brendan Fitzgerald and Jon Cameron for being the team representatives in the school Geography Bee!! Lots of writing has been going on in Composition class!!!! Students should bring LOTS of pencils to class every day!!!! In Science, we have just finished our unit on electricity and magnetism. We will be transitioning to the next area of study very soon!!! Keep those kinetic brains in motion!!!!

7-1 A congratulations to our Husky Top Ten student, Gary Frost. We would also like to recognize our students of the month: Saryn Evans, Adrianna Tenhagen, Alec Leone, Danielle Tompkins, Kodi Tufo and Michael Mottola. Also a congratulations to the Team 7-1 representatives to the Spelling Bee: Antti Pihlajavesi, Ibrahim Blaik, Justice Murphy, Taylor Svenconis, and Jasmine Cuenca.

In Social Studies class, we continue to look at how each of the 13 colonies were established and how different the New England, Middle and Southern colonies were. When we finish the 13 colonies, we will begin discussing how the French and British began to fight over territory in the New World and how the Indians got caught in the middle. (French & Indian War).

In Literature class, we are reading the novel *Among the Hidden*. We are discussing propaganda and practicing reading skills that will be reenforced through literature circles later in the year. The students love the book so far and are interested to find out what will happen to Luke, a third child in a modern America where only two children are allowed per family.

Science classes have begun learning about all the different human body systems. We are creating a lapbook that will cover 8 of the 11 body systems (Skeletal, Muscular, Circulatory, Respiratory, Digestive, Excretory, Nervous and Immune). By the end of the unit, students should have a better understanding of their body and how it works.

Thank you to all of our students for showing excellent effort and impressive progress during the Winter NWEA testing.

7-2 Science classes have started investigating the human body - finding out about all of the systems in our bodies and how they work together. Integrating the ideas of each system and understanding how each works with others is our main focus. Homeostasis in our bodies depends on every system working together - happy, healthy humans. Students are compiling a booklet with information on each system as they learn about the inner workings of their bodies.

Students in Composition have started a Name Unit where they read stories from everyday people to celebrities about why they changed their names. Students also study and analyze various quotes about the importance of names. They will also find out what their own names mean in order to help them write a paper on where their name came from. Aside from this new unit, students also practice the day-to-day skills of spelling, grammar and ways to improve their writing.

(Team 7-2 continued)

In Math, we are working on our Data, Statistics, and Probability Unit. We have been using measures of central tendency to analyze data and will soon begin collecting data to display in various tables and graphs. We will spend time interpreting the data, answering questions and making conclusions based on the data and discussing what makes certain displays more appropriate and more accurate for a given set of data. We will then move into Probability and talk about theoretical versus experimental probability as well as combinations and permutations.

In Social Studies, we are taking a look at colonial settlement and the 13 English colonies. Concepts to Understand... what beliefs, ideas, and institutions the colonist brought to America, how different ways of life created cultural diversity in the colonies, and why conflicts arose between the Native Americans and the colonists.

Literature classes will be finishing up our novel *Among the Hidden* in the first few weeks of the month. Moving forward, we will be spending some time in the library and teaming up with Team 7-1 to reinforce our reading for research skills for an informational poster project. Classes will emphasize the importance of choosing appropriate sources, taking concise notes, and citing sources properly.

8-1 It began sinking in for Team 8-1 students that Pinkerton is right around the corner. Mrs. DiGirolamo went over the course catalogs, Pinkerton held course information nights, and the entire eighth grade took a trip to Pinkerton. The course selection process continued as students received their recommendations from the core teachers. Congratulations to Lauren Klim, Cassidy Pascucci, Sarah Rodgers, Lucas Sabin, and Mitchell Williams for representing team 8-1 in the school Spelling Bee. Another congratulations to Jonathan Harding and John DiPersio for representing team 8-1 in the school Geography Bee.

8-2 February in the eighth grade means: Pinkerton, Pinkerton, Pinkerton! Students have toured the academy and selected their courses for freshman year. Now it's time to focus on completing trimester two with a bang.

*The January Rotary Student of the Month
is Rebecca Mayotte. Congratulations Rebecca!*



**Check it out!
School safe treats**



<http://www.homefreetreats.com>



Community Connection Corner **(hosted by Pam Richard, GHHMS Social Worker)**

I just wanted to share some thoughts on morning routine and homework time as these seem to always be on my mind!

MORNING ROUTINE

It's February, and some days, it is just too hard to get out of bed at 6:00 a.m. If this is how we feel, just think about how our children feel!

Sometimes kids come downstairs in the morning, they watch TV, they get around to eating their breakfast, they get dressed, the process gets delayed, mom or dad get frustrated and angry, and maybe they make the bus and maybe they don't. Then, the silent car ride begins. This whole routine may start over again the next day. YIKES!

A thought.... Children should not come down and watch TV or play a video game first thing in the morning. It is like saying you get to have this fun experience before you get dressed, brush your teeth or do your work. Everyone has to take care of personal responsibilities first. Remember our academic instruction and school day starts at 7:15 a.m., and your child can arrive at 6:40 a.m. We are there , and breakfast is ready in the Dining Hall.

If you need some support, call me or call the Upper Room as they have wonderful parent support programs. Give them a call ...Upper Room 437-8477.

HOMEWORK TIME

It is still February, and some days are just too cold to go outside to play so that TV and those video games call your child's name - not their homework.

A thought.... There needs to be a reasonable structure for homework time that fits your family lifestyle. Consider saying to your child, "At 2:30, you are home and can play, but at 4:00, sit down and do homework." It is really important in most families that homework gets done before dinner. No student is too old to have homework checked over. Set your family homework plan in place so when students are older and have more activities, they know they still need to get homework done. It is their personal responsibility.

If you want our help, We have a free GHHMS Homework Club every Monday - Thursday from 2:00 - 3:00 p.m. GHHMS's teams will work with you if your child needs more specific subject area help or organization. Just call your child's advisor or team leader for more information.

We are lucky to have the Derry Boys and Girls Club in partnership with us as they can bus to the club at 1:50 or 3:20 and offer homework help as well!! Give them a call... Boys and Girls Club 434-6695.



Community Alliance for Teen Safety Safe Homes & Communities

Safe Homes is a nationally recognized parent/guardian network used in communities throughout the country to enhance the safety net for youth and parents, and reduce the toll of underage drinking, use of drugs and other risk taking behaviors.



Why?

Do you know who your child's friends are?

What are they doing when they "hang out" at someone else's house?

Do you know how to get in touch with other parents?

What do I need to do? *Things you are probably already doing.*

- Supervise youth in your home.
- Prohibit use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs in your home.
- Prevent access to alcohol, drugs and other hazardous items.
- Alert other parents if a problem arises.
- Establish expectations with other parents regarding youth social activities.
- Define expectations for youth regarding their social activities.
- Welcome communications and support from other parents!

Join the CATS network! Pledge to keep your home safe for teens (and 'tweens) by joining Safe Homes & Communities for Chester, Derry, and Hampstead.



Contact CATS to learn more!

Community Alliance for Teen Safety

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