

**Grinnell Elementary School
January, 2012**



Dear Grinnell Families,

Another month has flown by. I hope everyone had a fabulous Holiday Recess. The new year has not slowed down the learning in our classrooms. The students came back ready to learn!

Our grades 2-5 students will be taking the Northwest Educational Assessment (NWEA). This is an assessment classroom teachers use for instructional purposes and for viewing student progress. This round of testing includes the reading and the math sections of the assessment for grades 2-5. Students will be able to monitor the progress of their goals they set in October and adjust as necessary. You will receive a parent report in the spring with detailed information, but feel free to talk to your child's classroom teacher if you have any questions about it in the mean time.

We have experienced some crazy weather this school year. Please be sure to send your child in layers to school. We try to get out each day, even if it is for an abbreviated amount of time. Don't forget that if there is a delayed opening, there is no a.m. Kindergarten or DEEP session.

Just a reminder that it is very important to send in a letter notifying your child's teacher of any change in the dismissal procedure. We have been getting many last minute calls in the office and our fear is that we won't get the messages to your children and their teacher before they hop on a bus or walk home. Thank you in advance for your help in this matter.

On January 10, students will be home, but the learning does not stop in the schools. The teachers across the district will be participating in professional development activities. All the activities support our goal of increasing student achievement.

The Fresh Fruits and Fresh Vegetables program has increased to two days a week. This grant supported program has proven to be quite successful. The students are tasting and liking a variety of the locally grown produce. For an overview of the program, check out the school board meeting video at:

<http://tinyurl.com/d4oc2op>



January Dates

- 1/4 Gr. 2-5 NWEA Testing Begins
- 1/6 Progress Reports Go Home
- 1/10 **No School (Teacher Workshop)**
- 1/16 **No School (MLK Day)**
- 1/17 PTA Meeting
7:00pm-8:00pm

February Dates

- 2/10 Progress Reports Go Home
- 2/27-3/2 Winter Recess

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.

Grinnell Elementary School

Jeff Haines 432-1238

District Coordinators

Mindy Schuman-Vye 432-1210

Serena Andrew Levine 432-1210



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO AT HOME TO HELP STUDENTS WITH READING

Reading is a key to success in school for students of all ages. Children who are good readers find it easier to do well in other subjects, because so much of learning depends on the ability to read. From history to science to geography to math and word problems, reading is an important part of learning in every school subject.

Parents know how important reading is, and they want to help their children. Following are suggestions for activities that you might like to try:

READ ALOUDS - The single most important way to encourage a love of reading in your child is to read aloud. Set aside 15 minutes or more to read books your child loves. Read funny poems, fairy tales, sports stories, or chapter books. Make the readings fun and share the joy of

reading with your child. Beginner readers, struggling readers, and proficient readers will all enjoy hearing you read to them. Use different voices and lots of expression to keep the children engaged.

TEACH YOUR CHILD TO ASK QUESTIONS -

Good readers are curious. They often stop to ask questions about what they're reading. Here are some ways you can help your child learn to ask questions: Talk about why characters do what they do. If you're reading Charlotte's Web, you might ask "Why do you think Charlotte decided to help Wilbur by writing words in her web?" Or think of how the book is or isn't like your child's life. Has your child ever felt like the character did? When? Have your child connect with the book. Ask your child how she/he would have handled the problem.

HELP YOUR CHILD PRACTICE READING ALOUD

Children are expected to read aloud frequently in school and for many children it's a skill they must practice to be good at. Suggestions: Take turns reading a book that is at your child's reading level (Not too hard and MAKE IT FUN!) This is a great activity to do in the car to help the trip seem shorter. Or invite family members to bring a book to the dinner table once a week to read a favorite section to the family - Joke books, riddles, and poems are a big hit!

READING IN BED IS A GREAT IDEA - Help your child develop the read-in-bed habit by allowing them to stay up 15 minutes later. I love to read-in-bed and I developed that habit early in life. It's a great way to train the brain to get ready for sleep too!

Did you know that girls in the U.S.A. usually score better than boys on reading tests and are less likely to need remedial reading classes? But the same is not true in other countries. Why? Some think the reason might be that U.S. mothers do most of the reading to their

children. One way to encourage boys to read is to have dads, grandfathers, older brothers, and friends read to and with boys. This provides an important role model for boys.

Reading experts say reading 15-30 minutes per day improves reading speed, stamina, and comprehension and will improve your child's reading.

Please take the time to read with your child. Every minute you spend will be well worth it. Our children are our pride, joy, and future!

HAVE FUN READING.



Nurse's Corner **Lucie Collins**

The cold winter weather doesn't have to bring an end to outdoor fun. Winter sports and sledding is a great way to exercise and have fun with your whole family. To help avoid injuries, the most important thing to remember is that supervision equals safety. Set reasonable time limits on outdoor play to prevent frostbite. Have children come inside periodically to warm up. The American Academy of Pediatrics also lists the following:

Sledding

- * Keep sledders away from motor vehicles.
- * Children should be supervised while sledding.
- * Keep young children separated from older children.
- * Sledding feet first or sitting up, instead of lying down headfirst, may prevent head injuries.

* Consider having your child wear a helmet while sledding.

* Use steerable sleds, not snow disks or inner tubes.

* Sleds should be structurally sound, free of sharp edges, splinters, and the steering mechanism should be well lubricated.

* Sled slopes should be free of obstructions like trees or fences, be covered in snow not ice, not be too steep (slope of less than 30 degrees), and end with a flat runoff.

* Avoid sledding in crowded areas.

May everyone enjoy some fun and safe winter activities!



Substitute Training Session

The Derry Cooperative School District is sponsoring a second evening training workshop for substitute teachers. Any individual interested in substitute teaching who is new to the substitute list, is home from college or was unable to attend the first session held in September, is strongly encouraged to attend this training session.

The workshop will be given by Dr. MaryAnn Connors-Krikorian, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Jane Simard, Business Administrator; Captain Vern Thomas of the Derry Police Department; Thomas Poliseno, Principal, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; and Joe Crawford, Assistant Principal, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 12th beginning at 7:00 pm at West Running Brook Middle School. Copies of the 2011-2012 substitute manual will be

available for participants. The substitute manual is also available online at www.derry.k12.nh.us.

For those new to substitute training, the Derry School District prefers that individuals hold either a two or four-year college degree. All new substitute teachers and nurses must complete an application which can be obtained at the Superintendent of Schools Office. In addition, the District performs all the required criminal checks for those working with school age children. Appointments for this screening need to be made in advance by calling 432-1210.

Please call the Superintendent's Office (432-1210) to register for the substitute workshop. You may also email lemus@derry.k12.nh.us to register. We look forward to seeing you on January 12th, at 7:00 pm in the West Running Brook Middle School Library.

