

Grinnell Elementary School

September 2011

SCHOOL PHONE
432-1238

SCHOOL FAX
432-8717

SCHOOL NURSE
432-1254

CAFETERIA
421-9025

FIRST STUDENT
BUS COMPANY
432-7417

We're on the Web!

Check us out at:

www.derry.k12.nh.us

Welcome Back

We are off to an incredible start. As I walk through the building, I get so excited to hear all the learning going on! It was very exciting to see everyone that was able to attend our Parent Information Night. If you were unable to attend, do not hesitate to give your child's teacher a call and set up a time to meet with them!

Parents in grades 3-5 will need to keep a look out for a notice coming home with information about the New England Common Assessment Program. Beginning October 3, 2011 those students will be taking this state assessment. This assessment determines our school status in the state and determines Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). As you know, we are a School In Need of Improvement in the area of math. In order to be removed from the list, our school must make AYP in all subgroups two years in a row. We had to submit an improvement plan to the Department of Education and it was approved. A summary of the plan is attached to this newsletter for your review. If you have any questions or would like to see the plan in its entirety, please give me a call. I would be happy to explain the plan or send you a copy.

Nurse's Corner ~ Lucie Collins

As we begin the school year, we want to be proactive in informing you about health situations that may arise throughout the school year. This letter is one of the communication pieces between home and school that we hope will strengthen that positive relationship that is so important to all of us.

Head Lice

Each year, head lice affect 12 million children. An infestation has nothing to do with cleanliness or socioeconomic background. Once lice are discovered, they can be treated and eliminated. Lice spread by crawling from person to person or by sharing items such as combs, brushes, hats and other clothing, not by jumping.

Lice are tiny and usually light brown in color. They avoid light. Nits are tiny, plump, pearl grey, oval shaped specks FIRMLY attached to the hair shaft. The most widespread sign of an infestation is constant itching of the scalp.

If you suspect your child has lice, check with your health care provider, school nurse or pharmacist for instructions on how to treat an infestation. The school nurse will give ongoing support and rechecks and ensure student confidentiality. If you have treated your child for head lice, please call the school nurse so that the situation can be monitored.

We encourage parents to routinely check their children for the presence of lice. More information is available through the Department of Health and Human Services at their website www.dhhs.nh.gov

Lucie Collins, BSN, RN
School Nurse
432-1254



Measures of Academic Progress (MAP), NWEA

The students in grades 2-5 are taking the Measures of Academic Progress or MAP testing. You may also hear your children refer to it as NWEA. These tests determine your child's instructional level and measure academic growth from year to year in the areas of mathematics and reading.

MAP tests are unique in that they are adaptive tests your child takes on a computer. That means the test becomes more difficult when your child answers questions correctly. When your child incorrectly answers a question, the test becomes easier. Therefore, your child takes a test specifically created for his or her learning level. In addition, your child should have had the opportunity to learn the information presented on the test because the tests are aligned with the New Hampshire Grade Level Expectations (GLEs).

Your child's MAP results are reported in *RIT scores*. This is a different type of score than a typical test that provides a percentage correct. It is also different than many tests that provide results based on your child's score compared to others in his or her grade. Instead, the RIT score is an equal-interval scale, like feet and inches and it is independent of grade level. As a result, we can easily measure growth in learning. This type of score increases the value of the tests as a tool to improve student learning because it enables teachers to recognize where to focus attention for your child's learning.



Your child will be conferring with his or her teacher about their results and using the data to create a goal in both reading and math. This goal setting sheet will come home for your review and input. Please sign the sheet and send it back to school with your child. The next round of testing will be in January and new goals will be established as that data is reviewed. Please feel free to call your child's teacher with any questions you may have about your child's assessment.

Dates To Remember

9/13	PTA Information Night 6:00pm~7:00pm PTA Meeting 7:00pm-9:00pm
9/28	Picture Day Order forms will be sent home with your child
9/29	Early Release Day Dismissal @ 1:00 No PM Kindergarten
9/30	Progress Reports Sent Home
10/4	DEEP Tu/Th Picture Day

Grinnell's Gecko Goals

We appreciate the support you have given both your child and us in our building wide discipline plan. There is such a positive feeling throughout the building! Many of your children have been coming home with stickers and "Gecko Gotchas." When one comes home it is a great reason to celebrate. Your child was observed implementing one or more of our Gecko Goals. As soon as he or she has nine stickers a Gecko bracelet will be earned. The children are very motivated to achieve that goal and we are looking forward to awarding the first of many bracelets for the 2011/2012 school year.



Grinnell Elementary School's Vision Statement

The staff at Grinnell Elementary School has committed to live by and strive to achieve the true meaning and intent of our Vision Statement.

Gecko Goals

Grinnell Elementary School's Vision

Grinnell is a professional learning community, where the staff utilizes collaboration and research based best practices for instruction and intervention. Students learn and apply strategies and tools needed to succeed academically, socially, physically, and emotionally. The Grinnell Community provides a positive and nurturing environment by modeling respect, responsibility, and safety.

FYI

It's Never Too Late

If your financial situation changes at any point in the year, please call the school and get a free and reduced lunch application. After you fill it out, send it back to school, the Food Service Manger, Susan Boroskas, will review it. If you have any questions about the process, feel free to call Susan at 432-1231.

Grinnell Elementary School Improvement Plan Summary for 2011-2012

Believe ☆ Achieve ☆ Succeed



Raising Expectations

Goal: Math achievement scores will increase by raising expectations of students, families, teachers, and administrators.

Activities:

1. Goal Planning between Teachers and Students, with goals and goal strands explained to parents
2. Math Nights
3. Teacher Mentoring
4. Grade Level SMART Goals
5. Student Summer Math Camp and Summer Math Challenge
6. Maintenance of Improvement Plan



Differentiated Instruction

Goal: Continue to build teachers' understanding and application of Differentiated Instruction.

Activities:

1. Continue with professional development on Differentiated Instruction Practices
2. Continue with professional development on developing quality grade level common assessments
3. Create and implement a clearly articulated RTI model for math instruction



Meeting Needs of Students With IEPs

Goal: Continue to increase collaboration between general education and special education teachers to systematically monitor the progress of students with IEPs.

Activities:

1. Schedule time for special education and general education teachers to meet to discuss progress and plan lessons for students with IEPs



Evidence:

1. Team/Curriculum mtg. notes and Agendas
2. Diary Maps
3. Student Goal Sheets
4. Student Assessments
5. Attendance at Workshops
6. Student Data Reports
7. Evaluation Sheets
8. Grade Level SMART Goals
9. Grade Level Benchmark Assessments
10. Mapping Checklists at Benchmarks
11. RTI Model
12. Schedules

Grinnell Elementary School
Community Activities/Resources 2011-2012
Financial Assistance

Clothing

Thrift Store-Marion Gerrish Community Center, 39 W. Broadway -great deals!
Salvation Army-Clothing Room, 18 Folsom Road M & F 9-1 T & Th 9-2 Fill a bag for \$5

Community Action Program

(CAP) 893-9172 287 Lawrence Road, Salem

Provides security deposit loan program for income eligible residents. Emergency food pantry available to income eligible clients three times a year, open M-F from 9-11 and 1-4. Call for appointment.

Human Services Derry

Provides emergency assistance: mortgage, rent, shelter, electric, oil, life threatening medication and food. The office is open M-F 8-11 and 12-4. If in need of assistance, stop by for application. The office is located on the first floor of the Municipal Center on Manning Street. 432-6753. **State-State of NH**, Department of Health and Human Services, 3 Pine St. Extension, Suite Q, Nashua Residents encouraged to apply online nheasynh.gov or you may stop at this office anytime M-F from 8-4 in order to apply for TANF, APTD, Medicaid and Food Stamps. 883-7726

Derry Community Fund

Distributes gifts collected from the Derry Santa Fund to families in need during the holidays. Gift cards for groceries may be available during the year. Contact 548-6060.

Food Pantries /Dinners

First Baptist Church, food pantry 4 Crystal Avenue 421-1897 Open Thursdays from 9:30 - noon and Tuesdays from 3:30 -5 pm.

St. Thomas Aquinas Church, food pantry Crystal Avenue, 432-5000 Open M, W and F 1-3:30 .
Shepherd's Food Pantry, Windham Presbyterian Church, 1 Church Road, Windham 432-2150 open to all NH residents every Monday from 9-11

Please bring identification to food pantries.

First Baptist

Sonshine Soup Kitchen serves free meals Monday through Friday at 4:30 pm in Church, 4 Crystal Avenue. Call 437-2833 for information or for volunteer opportunities.

First Parish Church

Free Spaghetti Dinner for anyone! Join us the last Friday of the month from 5-6:30 47 E. Derry Rd. 434-0628

Salvation Army

Potluck Dinner/Family Game Night. Join us the first Friday of the month at 5:00 pm. 18 Folsom Drive 434-7790.

Fuel Assistance / Electric Assistance

Call Community Action Program 898-8435 /893-9172 Accepting calls as of 9/1/11.

Glasses

Lions Club will provide glasses for income eligible students. Contact school nurse for application

Health Insurance

Healthy Kids is a comprehensive health insurance program for children. Call toll free-1-877-464-2447. Program offers several plans, it is definitely worth calling to see if you meet eligibility requirements. Applications are also on line www.nhhealthykids.com
Community Health Services 41 Birch Street, Derry 425-2545. Provides access to medical, prescription and mental health services for income eligible adults who are unable to afford health insurance. Call to see if you meet income guidelines. Over 100 physicians participate- minimum \$10. co-pay. Children may have Healthy Kids while their parents are members of this program.

Phone Service

Safelink Wireless offers discounted or free cell phone and free minutes every month to income eligible consumers. If you receive food stamps, fuel assistance, medicaid, SSL,...you may be eligible for this program. Call 1-800-977-3768 or safelinkwireless.com

Transportation

CART-Shared ride service available to any resident- \$3. per way if traveling within Derry. Operates M-F 8 am-4 pm. Provides transportation to medical appointments, shopping, work etc. within 6 towns service area. Make reservation several days in advance. 434-3569

Community Activities

Boy Scouts

Contact 625-6431 to register. Troop meetings held in the community. Weekly meetings-hiking, survival skills, camping, weekend trips.

Girl Scouts

Contact Dee Dee Rice 627-4158 x172. Weekly meetings. Leadership skills, community service, trips

Boys & Girls Club

Hampstead Road 434-6695 Orientation and registration on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. Annual dues \$50. for the calendar year. Open Monday through Friday from 1 p.m.-9 p.m. Transportation provided from school for a fee. Recreational activities, arts and crafts, sports, computers.

Salvation Army

Free **Afterschool Program** for 4-8 and 9-12 year olds offered every Wednesday from 4 pm-6 pm. Family sit down dinner, life lessons, crafts, games and more.

Sunbeam and Boys Adventure Troops

(K-5) Creative Arts (Singing, Dance, Drama) Tuesdays 4-6, includes dinner at 5:30. Limited transportation available. 18 Folsom Road 434-7790

Derry Library

48 E Broadway 432-6140 No cost for library cards. Family passes for several museums. Many new programs! PAWS for Reading ... 6-12 year olds are invited to sign up for your 15 minutes with HAWKE, on 10/12 or 11/9 from 3:30-4:30. Call for details. Many activities offered during school vacations.

Derry Recreation

31 West Broadway 432-6136, Register for winter **basketball** www.derry-nh.org from October 3rd to November 18th. Fee \$40. The season starts in January. NEW! Zumbatomic for ages 4-7 or 8-12. These 5 week classes are offered throughout the year. Cost \$40.

Open gym for 1st through 8th graders Mondays and Thursdays from 2 pm-4 pm. No cost.

Fall Tennis for 4-8 and 9-14 years old. **T-ball** registration starts in February and season starts in May. Fee \$25. NEW!

Lil' Samurai 5-9 year olds.

Judo offered year round. Drop by or call many programs for all ages!

4-H Club

Are you interested in horses, science, agriculture, cooking, service projects, photography??? This is a small sample of the many great clubs available-some meetings held in Derry. Call 679-5616

Parent Resources

The Upper Room: A Family Resource Center, 36 Tsienneto Road 437-8477 or www.urteachers.org. Offers information, support and a range of parenting classes. Call Cynthia x16 for information on the following classes:

***Active Parenting of 5-12 year old**, offered five Mondays starting Sept. 26th from 6-9 pm \$40. fee.

***Active Parenting 1,2,3,4!** Three workshops, starts Monday, Sept. 19th from 6-8 pm Fee-\$30.

***1,2,3 Magic!** Effective discipline for children 2-12 Starts Monday Oct. 10th from 6-8 pm Fee-\$20.

NEW! FREE **Tween Parent Support Group**. If you have a child between the ages 9-12 this group is for you! Weekly discussion / different topics. Drop by any Monday from 6:30-7:30 pm Questions, call 437-8477 x22

Family Outreach offers free short term parenting education and counseling in your home. Sue x22

Center for Life Management, 10 Tsienneto Road 434-1577 offers comprehensive behavioral health services for children, adolescents and families. Anger Management Group for 10-13 year olds. You do not need to be a client of CLM to participate. Offered for 8 weeks starting October 13th. 8 week session also offered in January.

Preschool Activities

Head Start serves 3-5 year olds who meet income guidelines. Call 432-2715
FROG- Families Reaching Our Goals A support/play group for parents and children 0-6. We meet every Wednesday from 9:30-11 am Free Call Upper Room at 437-8477 x22 to register. Derry Library Please register at www.derryp1.org or call 432-6140

*Preschool Storytime 3-5 year olds will also include games and crafts. Offered 8 Mondays @ 10

*Fun-Time for Two's games, activities, music and movement, then parents and toddlers stay and play with a new collection of toys specific to this age group. 8 weeks starting 9/21 from 10-11.

*Mother Goose on the Loose Birth to 2 and their caregivers stories using music, props, rhymes, puppets. Offered 8 weeks starting Thursday 9/22 from 10-11 Call for additional programs, such as Music Time for 2-3 year olds, Music Time for 4-5 year olds, Drop-In Pajama Story time for 3-5 year olds.

Resources for Specific Concerns

Addictions

A.A.-1-800-593-3330 (24 hours) www.nhaa.net Al-Anon 645-9518 for local meetings Friendship Center 432-9794 Adult drop-in center located at 45 East Broadway in Derry. Offers many AA and NA meetings weekly and provides information on additional local meetings.

Adult Education

Adult Learner Services of Greater Derry, Contact Kathy Mercer 432-1907. Free program provides individual tutoring and help with basic skills in reading, writing, math, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and GED test preparation. Registration required. Volunteers always welcome!

Bereavement

Stepping Stones, A Bereavement Program for Children and Teens. Contact Mr. Johnson, VNA Hospice in Manchester at 663-4005 for their schedule. No cost. Grief Support Groups, Home Health and Hospice Care offers Spring and Fall sessions for children and adults at no charge. Please call Eleanor Owens 424-3822 for additional information.

Crisis Service

Y.W.C.A. Crisis Service Provides range of services including hospital and court advocacy and support groups for survivors of domestic violence, stalking and sexual assault. 625-5785 or call 24 hour hotline 668-2299. Emergency 911 cell phones available at no cost. Domestic Violence Support Group meets throughout the year at 72 Concord Street in Manchester. Mondays 6-7:30 childcare provided upon request.

Mentors

Big Brothers/ Big Sisters Call 434-4414 for an application Volunteers are always welcome!

Parenting-Special Education

Parent Information Center 1-800-232-0986 Information, referral and advocacy for parents with children receiving special education services. Call with questions or concerns about your child's development.

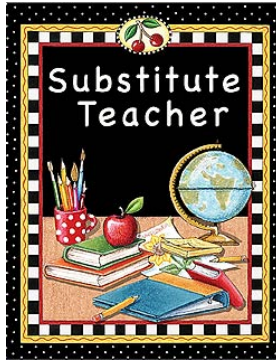
Need Additional Resources?

Info Link Comprehensive information & referral service for nonprofit social service agencies.

Call: 211 or www.211nh.org

ServiceLink Provides information, referral and support services for seniors, family caregivers, any adult living with a disability or chronic illness. Medicare counseling offered. 893-9769

Need additional information? Contact Maryanne Taylor, School Social Worker 234-8568.



Substitute Training Session

The Derry Cooperative School District is sponsoring its annual evening training workshop for substitute teachers. Any veteran or new substitute either on our call list or any individual interested in substitute teaching is strongly encouraged to attend this 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 Polisenno, Principal, East Derry Memorial Elementary School; and Joe Crawford, Assistant Principal, Gilbert H. Hood Middle School. The workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, beginning at 6:30 pm at West Running Brook Middle School. Copies of the updated substitute manual will be available for participants.

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 September 22, at 6:30 pm in the West Running Brook Middle School Cafeteria.