



October 2007

Happy Harvest!

Garland Elementary School

P.O. Box 129 108 Corinth Rd.
Garland, ME 04939
Tel: 207-924-6942
Fax: 207-924-8896
Website Address: www.sad46.org

From the Desk of the Principal

Email address: twood@sad46.org

Dear Families,

Thank you to all of those who could attend the Open House and Book Fair last month. The attendance was exceptional! I hope you found it informative and worth your time. Our staff worked hard in preparing for the night and I thank them as well. The children love having their parents come on such occasions to show you what they're doing in school. It was a pleasure visiting with all of you.

This year you will be receiving a progress report at the half-way mark of each trimester to give you an idea of how your child is progressing. Essentially, with the trimester reporting schedule, you will hear from your child's teacher about your child's progress six times over the course of the year (three report cards and three progress reports). If you have any questions on this, please feel free to contact myself or your child's teacher. I hope you find that this system increases the communication between home and school about your child's progress in their education! **Kindergarten parents** will not be getting a *progress report* for the 1st trimester. This is because they need a bit more time to get to know your child before they can report on them. You will get progress reports for the 2nd and 3rd trimesters. Kindergarten parents will get a report card at the end of the 1st trimester.

The PTF fundraiser is underway! It ends on October 1st. This fundraiser is the major source they use to create funds which support our students. Without the PTF, we would not

be able to send our students on all of the field trips they attend throughout the year. They also help bring in guest speakers and performances. Thank you to all who participate in the PTF fundraisers! The PTF is always looking for new members. They're a wonderful organization. If you'd like to help, please call us at school and we can direct you to them. Their next meeting will be October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Garland School Cafeteria.

October is a very busy month! Here are some upcoming events:

School Picture Day is Monday, October 1st. Please have your child dress in what you wish them to wear for their school photo.

Friday, October 5th will be an early release day. Expect your children getting home from school approximately 2 ½ hours earlier than their regular time. Our first bus will be picking up students at 12:20 rather than 2:50.

There will be no school on Monday, October 8th in recognition of Columbus Day. Fire Prevention Week begins October 9th. We will have Firemen visiting each classroom on Friday, October 5th.

We will be going on a field trip to Treworgy's Apple Orchard on Friday, October 12th. We will be leaving the school at 8:30 and returning at 11:30. Parents are welcome to attend but will have to provide their own transportation. Children do have to ride the bus to the field trips, parents can follow the bus with their own vehicles. Look for more details coming home with your children.

Bus Safety Week will be the 22nd through the 26th. Mr. Michael Keyte, our Transportation Supervisor, will be visiting each classroom to discuss bus safety on October 25th!

The PTF committee will be having their annual Halloween Party on Friday, October 26th at the Garland School from 6-8!! Hope to see you there!

Please call me at school whenever you have questions, comments or concerns. My office number is 924-7671. We strive to provide you and your child with the best possible educational experience.

October is a beautiful month! The foliage appears to be turning early this year! I love the colors! Please take some time to pick apples or carve pumpkins!

Sincerely,

Terry L. Wood

News from Miss Burnett - Kindergarten

Email address: hburnett@sad46.org

Hello! In kindergarten we have been working on learning letter sounds. Students are beginning to hear different letters in the words around them. They are beginning to recognize what letters look like! They are becoming wonderful letter detectives. In science we have just completed our unit on butterflies. From our chrysalises have emerged two butterflies. We released our butterflies and have all learned the life cycle of a

butterfly. Ask your child what the four stages are! In math we have been learning how to represent what we have counted by using dots, lines, or numbers to show how many objects there are with one to one correspondence. We have also been learning to use different attributes to describe how some objects are alike and some objects are different. We look at the different sizes, colors, thickness, and shapes of our blocks. We have really begun to get into the swing of things and the kids are doing a great job!

News from Miss Gibney - Kindergarten



Email address: agibney@sad46.org

It's hard to believe that a whole month has gone by already! Time sure flies when you're having fun, which we are having plenty of here in kindergarten! We are keeping very busy learning how to read and write some very important words like we, will, I, see, and can. We have also been hearing and practicing some really neat nursery rhymes like Humpty Dumpty, Jack and Jill, Baa Baa Black Sheep, Jack Be Nimble, and Hey Diddle Diddle. The kids really enjoy those rhymes! In math we have been exploring and using our math tools, comparing and sorting objects, building patterns, and learning about the counting jar. Our science unit about butterflies is just about finished so soon we will be talking about another lifecycle and that is of the pumpkin! As you can probably tell, there are no dull moments in our classroom. The children have learned and grown so much already. I am excited to see what the rest of the school year holds!

News from Mrs. Gay - 1st Grade



Email address: klyg@sad46.org

During the month of September we studied Oceans and the animals that inhabit the ocean. Obviously, there are SO many animals that we chose some of our favorites to learn and read about. We learned about Humpback Whales, starfish, lobsters, crabs, and the octopus! I learned as much as they did about the amazing sea creatures. Did you know that an octopus can shoot out black ink at a predator to blind the predator so the octopus can get to safety? Cooooool! We also turned all the interactive writing we had posted on the board into a really cool Non-fiction big book entitled Ocean Animal Facts. In the process of building this book, we learned and will continue learning throughout the year many of the features of non-fiction books.

In Investigations Math, we are still working on our first unit entitled How Many in All? We should be finishing it up the first or second week of October and moving onto Unit 2, a geometry unit, entitled Making Shapes and Designing Quilts. In our current unit we have learned many strategies for counting and recording what we know. It is very important for parents to realize that Counting isn't just 1, 2, 3... There is so much more to it than that. These kiddos are learning how to show "how they know" when they give me an answer to an addition problem. It's a lot more difficult than you might think. However, they have all learned lots in this unit and I'm anxious to start Unit 2.

We also began, this past week an Author Study of Laura Numeroff. She writes, *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and many books that are also written in that pattern. You will not be surprised to learn that many of my Rascals have already taken on the challenge of writing their own book in the style of Laura Numeroff. One of my favorite titles written by one of my Rascals is entitled *If You Give the Teacher a Chocolate*. I had to giggle when I read that one! He knows me quite well apparently! :)

Now that our ocean unit is over we have begun our unit on the life cycle of an apple. This unit will go along very nicely with our field trip in October to Treworgy's in Levant. Hope to see you there!

News from Mrs. Michaud - 1st Grade



Email address: vmichaud@sad46.org

We have finished our study around the ocean habitat and have begun to learn about the Life Cycle of the Apple Tree throughout the four seasons. We will look carefully at an apple in order to draw the apple and label the parts of the apple. We have begun our guided reading groups. The students are doing quite well with being responsible during their language arts centers while I am working with the reading groups. We are continuing to work on completing quality work rather than doing their work too quickly. We will complete the first Investigations Unit on How Many of Each this week and will begin the second Investigations Unit next week on Making Shapes and Designing Quilts where your child will learn how to describe, identify and compare 2 - D shapes. Each student has an Investigations Student Math Handbook that I will begin to send home next week. Prior to sending these home, I will send home a note for you to sign if you would like to have your child bring the book home. We are enjoying our Scholastic News and National Geographic Young Explorer which we keep in a binder. I will be sending home a note for you to sign if you would like to have your child bring this binder home if you would like to see what we are learning. We will use the Investigations Student Math Handbook and the Scholastic News and National Geographic Young Explorer binder throughout the year so it is very important for the binder and the Investigations Student Math Homework to be returned once you have had a chance to look it over with your child. Please be sure to help your child complete his / her homework assignment(s) each week and help them put the assignment(s) in their folder so the assignment(s) will be turned in by Friday. Homework will always include reading each evening as well as one or two additional assignments which will be sent home on Monday unless Monday is a holiday and should be returned by Friday.

News from Mrs. Gudroe & Mrs. Sands - 2nd Grade



Email address: amgudroe@sad46.org

dsands@sad46.org

We first want to thank all the parents and families who were able to attend the Open House. We really appreciate your support and the students love to share the "ins and outs" of our classroom. We hope some of you have had a chance to create a Moodle account and are exploring some of those links related to our learning. We look forward to adding to it as

we grow as learners!

We would like to remind families that although afternoons are warm and sun-shiny, the mornings are beginning to be quite brisk and sweatshirts or jackets are needed. We would also like to thank all of you for your patience and understanding with the "water issues" we have been having here at our school. We try to supply the classes with water bottles, but please feel free to send one in from home on a daily basis. Homework has been making it to and from school with smooth transitions. Thanks for your support and help with this home-school connection. We hope the Student Math Handbook has been helpful!

In writing, we are practicing writing to a prompt. Students are having a great time with this! Our first theme is around "courage" and courageous moments we've experienced. It would be great if you and your children could share some courageous moments that you have had.

In science, we will be learning about trees and the changing of the seasons. Mr. Bunn will be coming in Fridays to teach us about deciduous and conifer trees. He will be reading stories to us about trees and taking us on nature walks around the school to be leaf/tree detectives!

As always, we encourage you to read with your child. They should be bringing books home every day from their guided reading lesson and they are asked to make sure they read it at home. In addition to their reading, reading to them is very important!

Thanks for your continued help and support!

News from Mrs. Peakes-Stevens - Positive Action



Email address: mpeakes@sad46.org

Fall is swiftly approaching! The leaves are starting to turn color as we're again learning about Positive Actions! For those of you who don't know me, I am Melissa Peakes-Stevens, a school social worker (Positive Action/Student Assistant Team Coordinator) based at the Dexter Primary School. This year I am excited to provide Positive Action Class to Garland Elementary School students! Positive Action lessons are designed to promote total wellness, competency, and healthy lifestyles in students (and ideally the whole school community benefits). Throughout the lessons, students work on developing stronger social skills to deal more creatively with problems that may come up for them. Students examine their own self-concepts with the underlying theme that we feel good about ourselves when we act in positive ways. Each grade level has different lessons with similar overall themes and age-appropriate, interactive, and fun activities. These lessons are intended to help reinforce and enhance positive lessons being learned by students at home. Positive Action classes at Garland Elementary are 20 minutes per week of instruction for the first half of the year, with Kindergarten students receiving a full school year of Positive Action instruction. Positive Action curriculum is reinforced on a daily basis with children by school staff.

In each newsletter, I give an update on what we've been doing for the month in Positive Action so that you can reinforce the lessons at home.

In Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade we've been learning and reviewing what our self-concept is (how we see ourselves inside and out). We're learning who and what influence our self concepts and that our self concepts can be improved. Students are taught here to use Positive Actions everywhere they go - even at home, so please ask your child, "Is what you're doing right now a Positive Action?" and keep reinforcing the lessons at home. It's great to "catch" kids doing Positive Actions. This is what we've done by grade level so far this school year:

Kindergarten: In Positive Action Class in Miss Burnett and Miss Gibney's classes we've been reinforcing learning the rules here at school and learning why rules are important. We've been practicing being good school community members by walking quietly in line, raising our hands and taking turns, being polite, keeping our "hands off" each other and taking care of school property so that we will be able to use it safely for a long time. We talked about how sometimes it's hard to remember to use a certain rule, especially when we're having strong feelings - but the rules are still there to follow. We talked about our feelings, what they look like (using our own faces and fun feelings masks) and feel like to ourselves and others. We also talked about (and practiced) what to do with our feelings so that we can feel good about ourselves. We started on our imaginary journey through the Kingdom of Positive Action earning keys to Castle Self Concept so we can uncover what's hidden inside the castle at the end of our trip! Along the way we're meeting cool animals (like Nix-It the panda and Pix-It the Raccoon) that help teach us lessons. One of our lessons was how Abbot the Rabbit improved his self concept by taking the time out of his play to help a baby robin who'd fallen out of its nest. Abbot learned that even though it's fun to play, it makes you feel good to help others in need. Please talk with your child about how YOU combine work and play in your own life!

1st Grade: Along with Maurice the Mouse we're learning that Self-Concept is how we see ourselves. We helped Maurice's cousin (Montgomery) find his way through a mouse trap by making positive, instead of negative, actions. We learned to think about possible consequences before we act so we don't end up in a trap like Montgomery. Just like Montgomery learned with our help, we also learn positive actions at school and at home with help from family and friends. We did mini-plays and froze as our classmates helped us choose words and actions that are positive. What talented children you have! We learned that even though others can influence how we feel about ourselves, we, alone are responsible for making the choice to use positive actions towards ourselves and others.

2nd Grade: Eric the elephant is helping us to remember to use Positive Actions. We're talking about how we are all different and how cool that is. We designed our own paper "t-shirts" with our own personal messages (slogans) on them. You may have seen our t-shirts during your visit to Open House. We're talking about how friends and family influence how we feel about ourselves and that our self concept can be changed. We're making books about ourselves that we will be bringing home soon!

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at Dexter Primary School, 924-7671 ext 130!

Thankyou!

Melissa Peakes-Stevens, LCSW

News from Mrs. Watson - Library



Email address: lwatson@sad46.org

September has been a wonderful month. All the students are doing such a great job demonstrating good library manners. The listening center has been a big hit with the students. We have been learning each others names and how we act in the library this month.

The 1st and 2nd grade students have started borrowing books from the library. They can check out one book at a time. If they bring it back the next week, they can borrow a different book. Parents please try to help your child remember their library books weekly.

News from Mrs. Poland - School Nurse



Email address: epoland@sad46.org

Nurses' Notes



Sick Child?

Mary had a little lamb,
Who also had the flu.
And when she left school today,
the others had it too.



So anytime your child is sick,
please keep her home with you.
Then the other children in our school
Will be happier and healthier too!

Please remember to keep your child at home if he/she is ill. If sick children stay home we will have fewer illnesses passed around the entire class. I love to stress to everyone that the BEST way to keep yourself and children healthy is good hand washing. So, wash them often!

We will be starting the fluoride program the first week of October and I will be doing vision and hearing screenings for many of the students this year. If you ever have concerns about your child's eyesight, hearing, or other medical condition please feel free to give me a call.

Healthy children learn better!

Emily Poland, RN

PTF News



We would like to send out a HUGE thank you to those of you who came to Garland Days and filled out a survey for the Drive for the Kids Fundraiser. We raised \$600.00 on those surveys and \$130.50 from our 50/50 raffle. Cathy DeBuers was the winner for the 50/50 raffle!!

One more thank you to all of you who donated and/or bought yummy goodies from our bake sale at the Open House. Also, to those of you who helped run the bake and book sale. It was a great treat for all!!!

The October PTF meeting will be Tuesday, October 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at the Garland School. We will be planning our Halloween Party that will take place on October 26th for the kids and their families. If you were unable to attend the last meeting please try to make it to the next meeting, we will need a lot of help to make the Halloween party a good one!! Hope to see you all there!