



October 2009

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: nnelson@sad46.org

Our first month is now behind us! It's been a whirlwind few weeks for me. It must be my age that causes me to "feel" like time is moving so fast! Sometimes when students ask me how old I am, I tell them I sat behind George Washington in the third grade and I sometimes feel that old!

Thank you, thank you, and thank you! Your willingness to attend our Open House is appreciated by all of us. I was pleased to meet so many of you. I hope that you feel comfortable visiting our school and will make plans to be here for Parent Conferences in November. Simply by being here, you send the message to your children that you value education.

Progress Reports for students in grades 1 through 4 will be coming home soon. This report is one way for us to keep you updated on your child's progress. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher.

Kindergarten students will not be receiving Progress Reports during the first trimester. Because this is your child's first trimester at Dexter Primary, the teacher's need a bit more time to get to know your child. You will receive Progress Reports approximately half way through the 2nd and 3rd trimesters.

I would like to ask you to support the efforts of the PTF as we just finished the Yankee Candle fundraiser. This fundraiser helps the PTF in their efforts to supplement the needs of the teachers and students. A major part of what the PTF does centers around field trips.

Their willingness to fund off-campus excursions gives our students another perspective of the educational process. Whether it is a trip to the orchard or a trip to the symphony, we would not be able to have our students exposed to the richness of these experiences if it were not for the efforts of the PTF. Thank you PTF! We appreciate all you do for us!

Friday, October 9th is an early release day. We will begin dismissing students at noon on that day.

Columbus Day is October 12th. There will be no school that day. Hopefully there will still be some leaf peeping available!

As you may know, schools in the State of Maine are required to do 10 fire drills per year. We have already had several drills and I am pleased to let you know that our students perform very well when the drills occur. Every classroom has a designated route to leave the building and each class has a designated waiting area. We want our students to know what to do during a drill or an emergency so that they will remain safe.

Mr. Mike Keyte, SAD # 46 Transportation Director, will be visiting classrooms during Bus Safety Week. Mr. Keyte will reinforce the need for safety on district school busses.

The final week of October is the traditional Red Ribbon Week. This is a week where students are asked to take the Pledge to Be Drug Free. We will be holding celebrations all week. Some special theme days are planned as part of our celebration. Please be on the look out for more information to come home soon.

Again I want to thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received. I am pleased and proud to be part of the SAD #46/AOS #94 family. Go Tigers!!!

News from Mrs. Shank - Kindergarten



Email address: hshank@sad46.org

Hello! Have you noticed all the beautiful colors in the trees? We have here in Kindergarten. We have filled our doorway with colorful leaves that we cut out. Fall is a fun time of year. We have just taken our trip to the Rollin's Apple Orchard. We learned how to pick apples and got to sample them as well. We are even going to make apple pie with the apples we picked ourselves! You will have to ask your child how it tasted!

In math we have been learning strategies for accurately counting and keeping track of quantities up to 10, and representing these quantities with pictures and numbers and making connections between number words, numerals and quantities.

We have been exploring reader's theatre in our classroom. The students have read the big book "The Three Little Pigs" and have painted masks to go along with the story. They have been acting out the lines from the story exploring drama. This is a great way for the students to build fluency and expression for their reading. They also are learning a joy for

reading! We are going to perform this for the other classrooms to share what we are learning and to celebrate the work that we have done.

We are finishing up our study of butterflies and will revisit it in the spring due to lack of caterpillars. The students really need to see the life cycle first hand, it's a special part of Kindergarten. We will be beginning our unit on communities.

We are also finishing our author study of Eric Carle. We have learned about his "paint strokes" and some of the common traits his books share. We have really started to gain a love for his books here in Kindergarten!

News from Mrs. Gay - Kindergarten



Email address: kllyg@sad46.org

Happy Fall everyone! This is my favorite time of the year! It is so beautiful! We have been very busy as usual in kindergarten. We are still working on The Life Cycle of the Monarch Butterfly. However, this year it has been impossible to find a monarch caterpillar to bring into our classroom to watch grow and change into a butterfly. As a result of this, we will be moving on to our next unit shortly entitled Community. However, we will revisit the butterfly life cycle in the spring when we can order some Monarch caterpillars so we can watch them grow and change as that is most definitely the highlight of that unit.

During the kids independent writing, I have seen HUGE growth since the beginning of the year. The kids are able to draw more detailed pictures and tell their story using their own words. Some kiddos are even writing their stories with words!!! They are learning to say words slowly and write what they hear even if it's just the first letter of the word!!! This is harder than you might think! A common misconception for parents is they think their child knows their letters if they can recite their ABC's. However, there is so much more to it than that! The child not only needs to know the letters, but be able to recognize them, know what sounds they make and know how to write them. Learning to write in Kindergarten is quite a process and they are doing great!

In math we have started our second investigation called Counting and Comparing where the kids learn to count accurately and develop strategies for keeping track of what they have counted. Just like our letters, just because a child can count orally doesn't mean they know what the numbers represent or how to count a set of objects accurately! They are having fun with the learning and games in this unit! They especially enjoy playing Roll and Record. It's one of my personal favorites as well.

We have also begun work with our work board. This will be used during independent learning times while I teach guided reading. We have been learning how to use the work board to find out which centers to go to without asking as well as knowing what job to do when they get there. It is important that they master this skill before Guided Reading can begin so that I may teach reading groups without being interrupted! So far things are going GREAT! I'm in hopes to start guided reading groups next week or the week after depending on how things go this week!

News from Mrs. Vavro - 1st Grade



Email address: cvavro@sad46.org

First grade had a great time on our field trip to the apple orchard. We got to see how apples are sorted and bagged or boxed. We all got to pick an apple and see the cooler where they store the picked apples. It was a beautiful day and the kids had a nice time. Thank you PTF for making this trip possible.

In math, we will be working with patterns and shapes. We will find different ways to fill a given shape, identify and describe triangles, and sort shapes.

We have been busy making story books in writing workshop. The kids have been learning to write a story with a beginning, middle and ending. We have been talking about saying words slowly so we hear all the sounds to write. After a child completes a story book, they will publish it and then they read their story to the class. They can then put the book in our classroom library or take it home to share.

In science we are finishing up our apple unit and moving into a unit on fall. We will continue to talk about bears and hibernation. We will also learn about migration and animals that adapt. The kids will be paying close attention to the changes that are happening around us that tell it is autumn.

Have a great October!

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



Email address: hhall@sad46.org

dsands@sad46.org

Happy October! It is so hard to believe that the month of September has flown by and we are into fall! In second grade, we are off and running.

We have started our literacy block - Daily 5. Some students are familiar with this model from last year and for others it is a new routine, but similar to what they did and they are picking it up quickly! During this time, students have five literacy related activities that they complete - word work, read to self, work on writing, read to someone, and listen to reading. Each of these activities are helpful in working towards creating independent readers and writers.

In math we are finishing up Unit 1 - Counting, Coins, and Combinations. We will have our end of the unit assessment next week and we will be moving on to Unit 2 - Shapes, Blocks, and Symmetry. This is our first look at 2-D and 3-D geometry...a fun unit! Specific activities and benchmarks will be outlined in the family letter that comes home when we begin the unit. We are really working on showing our work and double checking for accuracy in math this year!

We will be starting a unit on trees - deciduous and coniferous. We will discuss the differences between the two, identifying, and classifying trees into these two categories. We will read some non-fiction texts to help guide our learning, go on some nature walks to identify and label trees, and some other fun activities.

Please continue to have your child read the books they bring home in their book bags every night and complete any homework that they may have! Thanks for your help! Have an outstanding October! Happy Halloween!

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. We have been learning each others names and how we act in the library this month.

All of the 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

Nurse's Notes

This year continues to bring public health concerns into the news in our area and around our country. I'd like to just give a few points on two that you have probably heard about recently.

H1N1 Flu Virus

- Symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, and sometimes nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- It is spread through coughing and sneezing of people infected with the virus
- It can also be spread by touching surfaces that have the flu virus on it and then touching your nose/mouth.
- It is NOT spread by eating pork or other foods
- Vaccination is essential to preventing the spread of H1N1 Virus

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)

- Is a serious viral infection transmitted to people from the bite of an infected mosquito
- No vaccine or effective treatment, prevention is critical
- Prevent mosquito bites: cover up with long sleeves and pants and use insect repellent
- Keep screens in windows and doors in good repair
- Get rid of standing water around your house (wading pools, buckets, barrels, tire swings) as they are good breeding places for mosquitoes

To help control the spread of all illnesses please keep your children home when they are ill. If your child has a fever over 100 degrees he/she needs to stay home for 24 hours AFTER the fever goes away.

For any comments and/or questions please feel free call 924-7671 ext 120.

Healthy children learn better!

Emily Poland, RN
School Nurse

PTF News

We would like to thank 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 sale. It was a great treat for all!!

Wow, the Yankee Candle fundraiser was another hit this year!! We rose over \$1000.00 to go towards our field trips. Thanks for all your support!!

The October PTF meeting will be Wednesday, October 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Garland School. We will be planning our Halloween Party 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!