

Happy Summer!



Garland Elementary School
P.O. Box 129
108 Corinth Rd.
Garland, ME 04939
Tel: 924-6942
Fax: 924-8896
www.msad46.org

Garland School News JUNE 2005

From the Principal's Desk

Email address: tmcluskey@msad46.org



Dear Families,

I hope this letter finds you in good spirits despite the weather we've had from last month. Here's to a new month that hopefully brings new weather patterns!

Speaking of a new month, it is our last month of school for the year! It doesn't seem possible that it has passed so quickly! I'd like to take a moment and thank the PTF, families and the community for all of their efforts and support this year. They are the backbone of many things that our students at Garland School did this year. Through their fundraising efforts, our students were able to attend many enrichment events. These include most of our field trips taken this year - Rollins Apple Orchard, The Hampstead Players, Bangor Garden Show (K) just to name a few! They are funding our trips in June to Boothbay to visit the Aquarium and Peakes-Kenny. The PTF was also responsible for putting together the Family Dance, which had a terrific turn out. As well as sponsoring a Halloween party in October, Family Movie Night and a barbecue during March Madness. They installed the wonderful cubbies in our hall and also helped paint the school restrooms. PTF has also purchased many items too numerous to list for the school which has enhanced our students' educational experiences this year. As you can see, these events, donations and field trips have been tremendous opportunities for our students and they would not be possible without the efforts of the PTF. Please consider joining the PTF next fall as they appreciate new members and they make our school very special.

Speaking of field trips, we have many special trips and activities planned throughout the remainder of school. Please keep checking your child's backpack carefully and daily for any announcements/reminders. **The last day of school this year is Tuesday, June 21st and it will be a half-day! Students will be dismissed at 12:15 PM that day! The PTF will be providing a free barbecue lunch for all students on the 21st.**

Our Lost and Found bin is full! If your child is missing clothing, feel free after school, to stop and look through it. Anything left over will be donated to local charities the day after school is dismissed!

As the month winds down, it will be more difficult to keep the students on task academically. Please help us by keeping routines at home as close to normal as possible, including meal and bedtimes. We still have a lot of academics left to teach even though the year is close to ending.

Please take the time over the summer to enjoy your opportunities with your entire family, including some reading time with your children. Read to your child or have him/her read to you to keep your child interested in school and make it fun. Writing activities are a great idea too, such as writing about summer activities and trips. A little bit of this each week is a great way to keep students' skills from getting too rusty!

I wish you all a very happy and safe summer vacation! It has been an absolute pleasure in working with all of you and your children. I'll be in the office during the summer, so please feel free to contact me with any questions and/or concerns. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Timothy M. McCluskey

News from Mrs. Gay - Kindergarten

Email address: kilyg@msad46.org



I can't believe it is June already. I honestly don't know where the year has gone. I have had so much fun with these kiddos this year that the time has literally slipped by. It seems like we just met each other at our Teddy Bear Picnic last June and here it is time for them to greet next year's kindergartners as the "Big kids" at this year's picnic. They have changed in so many ways over the school year and it has been a joy and a privilege for me to teach them and watch them learn and grow.

We are currently finishing up our unit on Farms. In this unit we have learned about the different kinds of farms, the animals on the farms and what they give to us as well as different crop farms etc. We have had fun writing about farm stories and retelling stories such as Mrs. Wishy Washy and The Three Little Pigs using puppets, plays, and bulletin boards.

We also had the birth of two BEAUTIFUL butterflies in our classroom this month. We had both a female and a male butterfly. The kiddos named the girl Sarafina Angelina Butterfly and the male Phillip Jonnie Butterfly (after one of our favorite Junie B. Jones characters). We enjoyed them in our classroom for over a week, as we were unable to let them go due to the cool temperatures. We let them fly around the classroom a couple times a day which was COOL to say the least. It was amazing to watch these caterpillars go through the stages of becoming a monarch butterfly right before our eyes.

We are preparing several stories for our classroom Author's Night coming up on June 15. I look forward to seeing many of you there as we celebrate the amazing achievements of these little people as they complete their first year of school.

Enjoy your summer!

News from Mrs. Howard - First Grade

Email address: showard@msad46.org



May was another eventful month in first grade. Our class spent time reviewing the seasons and weather in preparation for an assessment. The students created their own "Seasons Book" and reflected upon the activities they enjoy doing throughout the year. We discussed how fortunate we are to live in a state where the four seasons are so prevalent!

We also wrapped up our unit on frogs and have enjoyed observing tadpoles over the course of the past month. A special thanks to Mr. Thomas who graciously brought the tadpoles in for our class to enjoy! This month we will focus our attention on our "Oceans" unit. First graders will explore sea life and select one ocean animal to research for a special ocean animal project!

In Math, we are continuing our unit on shapes and have been classifying and comparing 3-D shapes such as cubes, triangular prisms and pyramids. This month we will design and create block towns and learn how to draw 3-D shapes. With all the fieldtrips, guest speakers and end of the year activities it looks like another fun-filled month at Garland Elementary! Have a SUPER summer everyone!!!

News from Mrs. Sands - Second Grade

Email address: dsands@msad46.org



Welcome June! It's hard to believe that we are into our last month of school and these kids will be moving on to third grade - boy are they ever ready!

Reader's Workshop has been such an amazing learning adventure for all of us! We have learned so much about ourselves as readers - ways we choose books, how to make a good book choice (a just right book), how to be a good "buzzer" (discuss our thinking of our reading), why readers abandon books, how to write about our thinking in a letter, how to write book recommendations, and more! Most of all, we have learned that **READING IS THINKING!** As good readers, we have to do a lot of thinking when we read! Everyone has a reader's notebook that they do all their writing in. They have a reading list, a reading interests/books to read list, and a section for letter writing. Each student is responsible for writing a letter a week to Mrs. Sands in which they discuss their reading. They have been working on letters that are more than a retelling of the story. Their letters contain their thoughts and feelings, predictions and confirmations, why they like/dislike the book, thoughts on the author's craft, what genre the book is, etc. They are doing an amazing job with this "third" grade task! We are having so much fun reading and thinking at reader's workshop! A big thank you to everyone who sent in books to help us get started with reader's workshop - we will make sure they all get returned to you! A special thanks to Mrs. Withee and Mrs. Imbert at Dexter Primary School - they gave us money to buy books to add to our classroom library especially for reader's workshop!

In Writer's Workshop we are busily trying to get our "special" pieces of writing ready for author's night (June 15th at 6pm)! Each student is selecting a piece of writing that is important to him or her. They are responsible for writing a first draft, editing for capitalization, punctuation, and spelling, writing a dedication page, an about the author page, and some are choosing to write "grippers"! They have become such imaginative authors! We are continuing to work on the six traits of writing - ideas, organization, voice, sentence fluency, conventions, and word choice. We are getting really good at using the language of each trait during our conferences with Mrs. Sands and at our group share time!

As the year comes to a close, I would like to thank everyone for a super year! I have had an amazing year (in some cases two years) with these kids and I am going to miss them with all my heart! I have enjoyed and been blessed by having such wonderful students and support from parents! Have a safe and wonderful summer and don't forget to visit Garland Elementary School (especially Mrs. Sands)!

News from Mrs. Smith/Ms. Doak - Second Grade

Email address: esmith@msad46.org



This has been a very busy month for your Second Graders! In math we finished up the Investigations unit *Putting Together and Taking Apart*, and I am happy to report they all did very well on the end-of-unit assessment. We have begun the *Timelines and Rhythm Patterns* unit. If you have not done so, check out your child's *Timeline of my Life* that he/she should have brought home recently. In Science we finished up the *Balance and Motion* unit which was lots of fun. You've probably all heard that our chicken hatching endeavor wasn't successful, but we will try again! We've begun a Social Studies unit from the National Geographic Society entitled *Discovering Our Past*. We will also look into patriotic places of interest in the US and focus in-depth on the Statue of Liberty. Pray for sunshine!

News from Mrs. Gudroe - Head Teacher

Email address: amgudroe@msad46.org



Thanks to all who were able to make it to our spring concert at the grange hall during the month of May. We had the largest turnout ever! The students did a wonderful job at the rehearsal and performance. It took a lot of patience, courage and cooperation on their part to pull it all together! Great job!

We were also fortunate to have Mr. Law and his wife, the coordinators of the "Kids and Trees Growing Together" program, at our school another year to plant and transplant pine tree seedlings. It is a program that will follow the students through their years of education.

The month of June will be busy...busy...busy! Please refer to the attached calendar for all the special events and programs we'll have this month. Many of the events involve parent volunteering and attendance if you wish to join us. We'd love to have you be part of our day! On Wednesday, June 8th join us for an assembly with a storyteller from the Penobscot Indian Nation at 12:30 p.m. Friday, June 10th we'll make our way to Boothbay Harbor to visit the US Coast Guard and Marine Resource Aquarium. Please note that this will be an extended school day! Wednesday, June 15th will be our annual Author's Night at 6 p.m. You can't miss it! The students really take pride in their work and yearlong accomplishments as writers and readers. It's a very special celebration! And lastly, on Thursday, June 16th, we'll venture to Peaks-Kenny State Park for a day of picnicking, hiking and water fun. Wish for sun!

Because of this month's hectic schedule, please be sure to check your child's backpack nightly for important updates, permission slips and information regarding this month's events. Think summer!

News from the Library - Mrs. Brown

Email address: brownj@msad46.org



This month we continued our "trip across the country." We stopped in North Carolina, Georgia, then took in a show at Sea World in Florida, and even learned some Indian sign language in Wyoming. Our students especially enjoyed a visit from a guest speaker who used to live in Georgia, our own Mr. Thompson. Our library students had many questions about Georgia and Mr. Thompson answered each one of them! Thank you Mr. Thompson for sharing with us. We will continue to visit a few more states before heading back to Maine (Vacationland) for the summer.

On Wednesday, June 15th, each class will be visiting the Garland Library. It should be a fun and educational "end-of-year" event for students. We really had a great time in library this year. I would like to thank Mrs. McCourt for helping in the library all year and Mrs. McLain for filing our library books. Through Mrs. McLain's volunteer work, Wal-Mart made two generous monetary donations to the school this year. We are truly grateful to Mrs. McLain and Wal-Mart for these donations. I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy a few good books this summer!

Volunteer News



A special "thank you" to each person who donated their time to the school this year through various avenues: the PTF, Friday Morning Book Sale, classroom volunteers, field trip chaperones, etc. We appreciate each and every one of you!

PTF News



Hello Everyone!

It's June! Hopefully we will see some sun this month!

The PTF would like to start by saying **THANK YOU**. Without your participation in fundraisers we wouldn't be able to do some of the things we do or even have some of the things we have.

For the month of June there are a couple of field trips planned and we are going to put on a barbecue the last day of school.

There will **NOT** be a meeting this month.

Have a safe and wonderful summer and thank you again for all of your support.

News from the School Nurse

Email address: nhoskins@msad46.org



According to the calendar summer will just be starting when we finish this school year so I want to wish every one a great summer and share the following information and advice.

Heart Disease affects every one of all ages and according to the American Heart Association heart disease is the number two killer of children under the age of 15. By staying active while awake, getting plenty of rest during night time hours, and eating a well balanced meal with low fats and carbohydrates we can all help prevent heart disease from becoming a health problem. Also, don't forget to wear sunscreen, sunglasses and hats when out doors this summer. Please feel free to use the following web site for more information about heart www.americanheart.org.

Parents/guardians please continue to check your children's hair through the school break and treat if you find evidence of lice. Head lice does not take a vacation and the pests are really becoming immune to most treatments items available except constant checking followed by picking the eggs and live lice out of the hair. We will be doing head checks during the first week of school in the fall and each week following every school break. When children are found with any evidence of lice eggs and/or live lice we will be calling you to come get your children to take home for treatment and return to school the next day.

A special "thank you" to Mrs. Watson for her volunteer work with our fluoride program this year. This is a service that will benefit our students for years to come!

I hope we have a healthy remaining school year and again wish all of you a healthy summer and look forward to seeing all of you again in August when school resumes.

Nancy Hoskins, RN