

Happy Easter



April

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From the Principal's Desk

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Dear GES Families,

THANK YOU to all those who voted in the referendum on March 27th! We as a staff are looking forward to the work that lay ahead of us to prepare for our new school! We all are extremely excited!

Progress reports will be going home Friday, April 27th. Now that spring is here, we're almost halfway into the third trimester! It's amazing how fast this year is going.

Our K-2 Math/Science Family Night was so successful last year that we want to continue it again.

We will have a Math/Science Night this April 24th starting at 6 pm. Please bring your family for some fun math/science hands-on fun and take part in an Investigations Math lesson.

Garland Elementary school raised \$392.32 in the Pennies for Patients program this year. Thank you to all of those who participated in this worthwhile fundraiser.

I wish to thank our Literacy Committee for putting together a very successful Family Author Night last month. Children's author Rebekah Raye came and visited with parents, staff, and children about her books.

On April 24th, we will have an Ocean Adventure in our school with a guest speaker to visit the children.

Please make note of the enclosed calendar. April vacation will be the week of the 16th. I hope you all will be able to enjoy some spring activities with your family!

Class placement lists for next year will be made later this spring. Teachers work very hard to create these lists to ensure they're balanced. Many factors are considered when putting classes together such as personalities, academic abilities and social dynamics. If you have information that you feel strongly about regarding your child's placement next year, you may pick up a request form in the front office. Forms must be turned in no later than Friday, May 11th. We will take any request into our consideration, but cannot guarantee that we can accommodate each one.

Currently enrolled students will be notified of next year's placement in their last report card. In-coming Kindergarten students will receive a letter in the mail prior to our K Open House in August.

I hope you enjoy this spring and the upcoming vacation with your family!

Timothy M. McCluskey
Principal

News from Mrs. Gay - Kindergarten

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Welcome Spring! We welcomed spring early last month with our Seed and Plant unit in our classroom. We learned about the life cycle of a seed through our science project called The Hungry Caterpillar Plants a Seed. We worked very hard with Miss Tondreau's Goobers to put together an amazing display for this year's Bangor Garden Show. We planted grass seed inside a nylon stocking and grew a "Very Hairy" caterpillar. Our caterpillar was 29 sections long as each child in kindergarten planted their own section. It was a fun, but very messy project!

For this display, we were inspired by Eric Carle's book The Very Hungry Caterpillar. All of our artwork was done in the style he uses for his own books. The kids had a great time painting, painting, and painting some more! We ended our unit of plants and seeds with a trip to the Garden Show. The kids had a great time this year as the theme of the show was Fairy Tales. We also went to McDonalds for lunch which was very exciting for the kiddos! Thank you to Garland PTF for providing the funding for this amazing trip!

We are now moving from plants and sliding right into our farm unit. In this unit we will learn about different kinds of farms and what each farms purpose is.

News from Miss Tondreau - Kindergarten

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This month we were VERY busy with preparing for the Bangor Garden Show. We grew a very hungry caterpillar out of grass and did lots of writing about it. Our display was AWESOME!!!! The kids worked very hard and it showed! We podcasted about our adventures with our very hairy caterpillar and you can listen to it by visiting our website, <http://tinyurl.com/2gkmog> To listen to our podcast visit the plant section.

The Goobers have also been hard at work with making books. We added a section to our Moodle called the Book Nook. In the Book Nook we are posting books we have published. So check it out at <http://tinyurl.com/2gkmog>

In math we have started recording information from our Everyday Calendar Counts math program into a math notebook. Students are making predictions, recording numbers and doing domino addition problems. Come to math night on April 24th to see all their hard work!

Check out our Moodle website to see what we are up to!
<http://tinyurl.com/2gkmog>

News from Mrs. Sands - First Grade

Email address: dsands@sad46.org



Happy Spring! Time just flies by - it is so nice to think of warmer weather and being outside! This is going to be yet another busy month in first grade! Our science unit is frogs. We will learn the life cycle of a frog - from egg to adult frog, the body parts of a frog, interesting facts about frogs, etc. This is a fun unit to cover this time of year! If anyone has access to frog eggs or tadpoles, we would LOVE to have some in our class. In addition to that, any books about frogs would be helpful as well.

We will also be covering nutrition this month! Students are being asked to be conscious about the snacks they are bringing to school. We will be learning about the food pyramid and how important each food group is to our health. In conjunction with this unit, we are fortunate to have some community volunteers coming in to do the first grade family nutrition program. This program will run for five weeks, every Thursday for the month of April. If any parents would like to volunteer their time and join us, we would love to have your help! Each week, students will make a food from each of the food groups and eat it. To end this program, there will be a family dinner held at the Garland Grange Hall on May 10th.

In math we are starting Quilt Squares and Block Towns. We will be talking about 2-D and 3-D shapes, exploring pattern blocks and their names, completing pattern block fill-ins (students are given a large shape and they have to use multiple pattern blocks to fill in the shape), etc. This is our first "taste" of geometry and students usually have fun with this math investigation!

Please make every effort to help your child with any homework that comes home with this unit, it really helps their math learning!

At writer's workshop we are writing some incredible stories! A lot of students have written their own version of different fairy tales since our unit. It is amazing to me to see their growth as writer's since the beginning of the year! We are using the language of the six traits in our conferences and sharing part of writer's workshop. We are working on the revising and editing steps to the writing process!

Thanks for your continued support! Have an amazing April!

News from Mrs. Michaud - First Grade

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In Science, we have been learning about the solar system. Each student has chosen a planet of their choice to learn about in more depth and to do a planet project on, which will be done in class. I would love to have a few volunteers on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, April 9 - 11 from 1:30 - 2:30 to help guide the students, as they put together their planet project. We will begin our study around the Life Cycle of the Frog after April vacation.

In Math, we have been learning about 2-dimensional shapes and using the mathematical vocabulary to describe and name shapes. We have been rotating hexagons, trapezoids, rhombuses, triangles and squares to fill shapes where students have made several discoveries. A few examples include two trapezoids make a hexagon, three rhombuses make a hexagon, three triangles make a trapezoid, etc.

Your child should be bringing a book home every evening. Reading for 10 to 20 minutes each evening is very important. Please complete the weekly reading log with your child each evening. Math homework will continue to be sent home on Monday and needs to be turned in by Thursday.

News from Mrs. Gudroe - Second Grade

Email address: amgudroe@sad46.org



Our classroom would like to thank all those friends and family members who were able to make it to our Science Fair! We had so much fun preparing for our presentation. I'm amazed at how students not only collected and record the information, but also applied their knowledge of the "Better Answers" framework to their research papers. We've been learning, practicing and applying this form of constructive responses all year long and they all showed a clear understanding of how to apply it to their learning! Bravo 2nd graders!!!!

The slideshow presentation will be available for viewing on our district website as soon as I receive consent forms from everyone. I'll send the details as to how to access the project home in your child's folder when the site is up and running!

Our next venture in science will be around the nature's "food chain." We had so much fun with the technology portion of our previous research project that we look forward to creating a classroom book that can also be viewed online! During this learning, students will be expected to work cooperatively on researching and writing a page around "who eats who?"

On April 24th, our school will host its annual Math Night! Our classroom will continue to work on deepening our understanding of comparing and separating situations. Last month, we moved into creating multiplication equations and story problems, this month, we'll move into division. We also took a close look at measuring amounts in the measurement portion of math. We calculated and converted ounces, cups, pints and quarts each day until we filled a 4 quart container.

In writing, we've been working with mentor texts to spring board our own ideas off from the thoughts of other authors. Our own classroom friends are often used as examples for other's writing. The process of publishing stories has been slow, as 2nd grade stories are rather lengthy and we dedicated much of last month to our research projects...we'll get there!

Reading groups have evolved into wonderful, smart, high level conversations amongst readers! We're practicing some of the 3rd grade format of Reader's Workshop, combined with spelling pattern and literacy centers. What fun!

As always, please feel free to stop by and be a part of our learning! Thanks to all who have had the opportunity to donate time to our classroom. Think warm weather, but don't forget to continue sending those hats, mittens and boots on those chilly spring days!

News from the Library - Mrs. Watson

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The book "borrowing" is going great!! I think the kids are really enjoying borrowing different kinds of books. They are doing a great job at remembering to bring back their books. However, our library could use some straightening up. If anyone has any spare time that they would like to volunteer to our library that would be great.

PTF News



Our family dance will be held Saturday, April 28th from 6-8 PM at the Garland Elementary School. Our theme this year will be "Under the Sea". Admission will be \$5.00 per family.

Photographer Alan Rabideau will be here at 5:30 PM to begin portraits if your family wishes to have them done. An order sheet and price list will be sent home and available on sight. Pictures will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

The staff and PTF members would like to send a special thanks to David Iverson who will be donating his business Critical Mass Entertainment to DJ the dance. We will also be asking for refreshment donations. Hope to see you there!

Odds & Ends



Thank you for contributing to our Pennies for Patients Drive. We raised \$392.32. Wow, that is the most we have ever raised!!

Winners have been chosen for the Dental Health Poster Contest.

Garland Elementary School Winners

Kindergarten

1st Place - Kalea Sweet

2nd Place - Tory Stone

1st & 2nd Grade

1st Place - William Strauch

2nd Place - Kyle Watson

District Winners

Kindergarten

1st Place - Kalea Sweet

1st & 2nd Grade

2nd Place Kyle Watson

Great job Kalea Sweet, your poster has been sent to Augusta for getting first place for our district. The winners received gift certificates to spend at our Friday morning book sale.