



# CGS PTO Newsletter March 2011

## Coventry Grammar School

3453 Main Street  
Coventry, CT 06238

Phone: 860-742-7313

Website: [www.coventryps.org](http://www.coventryps.org)

CGS PTO Newsletter

March 2011

## A Memo From Marybeth Moyer, Principal

Communication, collaboration and classroom instruction are the keys to our success at Coventry Grammar School.

In our day-to-day work with students and their families, we find that we learn so much from our daily conversations. These meaningful exchanges continue to be the catalyst that drives our mission at CGS. By providing open lines of communication between our staff and all members of our school community, we can work together in a manner that benefits both students and families.

I am pleased to work in a district and to represent a staff which recognizes that communication to students, parents and caregivers is extremely necessary. We continue to update and refine a number of tools to insure that you are always able to access the news at CGS. Please take time to explore or revisit the options available which will keep you informed of both building and community issues that have a direct impact on your children.

**Coventry Public Schools Webpage ([www.coventrypublicschool.org](http://www.coventrypublicschool.org)):** The district web page has been designed to continually provide parents, families and staff updates. This valuable site offers information on the current school-calendar revisions as well as the approved calendar for the 2011-2012 school year, updates on the current status of district facilities, links to the ABC curriculum site and to the superintendent's goals and objectives for the year.

As many of you know, the planning and preparation for the 2011-2012 school budget is well underway. In the current economic climate this is a long and difficult process. The district website offers residents valuable budget information for each school throughout the district and can help to answer any questions you may have.

Coventry Grammar School is extremely proud of its award-winning website. This site can be accessed by clicking on <http://www.coventryps.org/cgs/cgs.html>. Our very own webmaster, Mr. Bruce Gale of Grade 1, continuously updates the site with teacher and classroom information, PTO highlights, the monthly newsletter, current lunch menus, the CGS handbook, and important parent communication forms.

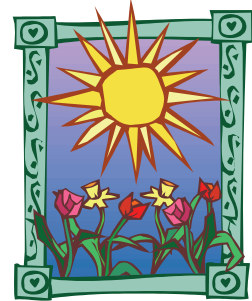
The CGS site also offers families the opportunity to connect with classroom teachers and staff members by simply clicking onto the *staff directory*. This will allow the opportunity for two-way communication that can further enhance our working partnership. Why not plan to add this site to your favorites!

**Kindergarten Registration:** We are looking forward to kindergarten registration that will be held this year during the weeks of March 7 and March 14. If you have a child who will be five-years-old by December 31, please plan to call the school office at 742-7313 for an information packet and to make an appointment to register your child for the upcoming school year.

Many exciting events will be occurring in our school community during the upcoming month thanks to the collaboration of teachers and parents. Two of our students' favorites include the school-wide celebration of *Read Across America Day* and the *CGS Talent Show*. On March 2, the students and staff will come together to hear special guest readers share a Dr. Seuss favorite. We will then be led in song by our very own song writer and music teacher, Mr. Jim Careau. Special thanks also for the support and efforts of Mrs. Jennifer Jones and the reading room staff and Mrs. Jeanne DuBois our talented art teacher for adding the colorful details to the day!

The talent show on Friday, March 18, will showcase the many talents of our students. Start planning those acts now!

Thank you all for your continued support of our educational pursuits. As we navigate this difficult budget season, it is only through close partnerships and relationships that we can continue to strengthen our commitment for our students' education. Together, we can do it!



**Welcome Spring!**

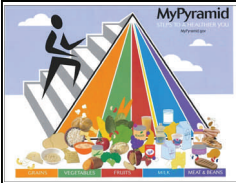
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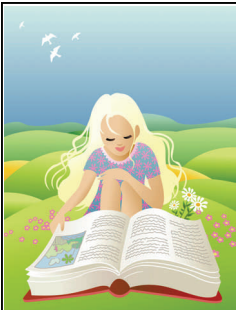
## Kindergarten News

### Kindergarten Team

Teachers: Wendy Baver, Terry Bitwinski, Heidi Bosco, Eileen Hosey, and Debbie Hurlburt  
Para-Educators: Debbie Carroll and Sue Lewis



March is **National Nutrition Month**. Foods will be classified into categories and the food pyramid will be examined.



We would like to remind parents and caregivers to continue to read to and with your child. Don't forget those classic fairy tales that we all heard as children. Many of them have important lessons that today's children don't hear enough.

In the coming weeks, we will focus on the food groups and nutrition. March is *National Nutrition Month*. Kindergarten children will tour Highland Park Market on a class trip to observe how food is delivered, prepared and sold. Foods will be classified into categories and the food pyramid will be examined. Artwork, language arts, social studies and math will focus on foods, needs and wants and good health as our major theme.

We will welcome *spring* during the latter part of the month. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate! We are all anxiously awaiting the change that spring will bring. Seasonal changes will be observed and class activities will reflect our findings.

In our math program, there are review lessons when students will be representing and writing numbers to 10; identifying missing numbers in a sequence; counting forward from a number other than one; counting backward from 10; combining two groups to find the total (addition) and separating objects to find the difference (subtraction); as well as solving, joining and separating problems using pennies. Children continue to collect, sort and represent data in graphs and glyphs.

We would like to remind parents and caregivers to continue to read to and with your child. Don't forget those classic fairy tales that we all heard as children. Many of them have important lessons that today's children don't hear enough. Children need to spend less time in front of the television and more time with books in their hands. Encourage them to look at the pictures and use the pictures for clues about the stories you read to them. Let them make predictions as you read.

A well-known author was Ted Geisel, otherwise known as Dr. Seuss. We celebrate his birthday on March 2 along with *Read Across America Day*. Dr. Seuss books are wonderful for beginning readers because of the many rhymes and matching word patterns. Some of them have important morals as well. The Lorax contains an important message about environmental awareness and Yertle the Turtle helps us to understand the value of freedom. On March 2, students will receive a free book as part of *Dolphin Book Day*, thanks to the PTO, as well as many local businesses, who contribute funds for this purpose.

Remember to look at the work that your child brings home from school. Your child's performance on tasks along with teacher comments will indicate skills that could be practiced. Continue to support the literacy program in your child's class. Practice in naming, printing and making sound-symbol associations will help your child achieve success in school. Students are writing their first and last names using upper and lower case letters. The kindergarten *star words* can be put up in your child's room so s/he can read them daily. Go to the kindergarten page on our school's website to find the kindergarten high frequency words in a slide show. It's another way for your child to practice these words. As we all know, practice makes perfect!

(Graphic to the upper left courtesy of <http://www.MyPyramid.gov>)

## First-Grade News

### First-Grade Team

Teachers: Megan Babcock, Bruce Gale, Colleen Hamblett, Patricia Klaneski, Matthew Kyer, Jennifer Osowiecki, Cristy Rau, and Ginny Taber  
Para-Educators: Laurie Darling and Jennifer Ray



In March we begin the state mandated program, "Here's Looking At You." This program is designed to help prevent children from using alcohol and other drugs. It provides students with basic information about drugs and explores some of the reasons people use drugs. Lessons on building coping skills and positive social skills will be highlighted.

Whether March comes in like a lion or a lamb, first graders eagerly anticipate spring and the variety of weather it brings. As a gentle reminder, parents, please continue to send boots, hats, mittens and coats with your child each day as our playground can be messy.

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In language arts, children will practice decoding and spelling words with short vowels and final double consonants. Identification of asking and telling sentences will also be covered. In both guided- and whole-group reading instruction, students will make connections between stories and their own life experiences. They will continue to practice retelling stories. There will be many

*(First Grade continued)*

opportunities for children to develop their talking and listening skills through discussion of stories with others. Students will start to make mental images about stories based on their own background knowledge and experiences. Retelling, visualizing, discussing and making connections to a story are strategies that help build your child's reading comprehension. Please continue to read and discuss stories with your child at home.

In math, we will continue to develop concepts and strategies related to addition and subtraction. Children will explore story problems that have a missing addend or a missing "starting number." They will learn to write an addition or subtraction number sentence related to a story problem. Children will study two-dimensional shapes in greater detail, as well as work with symmetrical designs. They will measure the length of objects using informal units and standardized units.

We would like to thank our parents for being good partners in your child's education. Your continual support is greatly appreciated.

## Second-Grade News

### **Second-Grade Team**

*Teachers: Carolyn Bennett, Jerry Craig, Nancy Gwozdz, Erin Hazzard, Heather McPeck, Nancy Plaster, and Angela Puccia*

*Para-Educators: Gloria Barry and Heidi Holever*

During this month, one of second grade's focuses will be to learn about the Mexican culture including their traditions, their family life, and language. The children will be visiting other second-grade classrooms to experience various lessons about Mexico. The Mexican lessons will culminate in a Fiesta, which has been tentatively scheduled for April 1.

Also during March, second grade will be working with Mrs. DuBois, our art teacher, to develop an understanding of various Mexican Art forms. The children will be experimenting with some of these forms. This will occur during our art enrichment time, which will start in the early part of March.

The start of our Nutritional Unit will occur this month. Students will begin to learn about our nutritional needs. They will be sorting foods using different attributes and learning the origin of various foods. This is a fun unit and lots of "Ah-ha" moments about foods.

In language arts, students will be learning about more complex sentence structures using conjunctions such as *and*, *or*, *but*, and *so*. They will be applying these to their narrative writings. Our narrative writings will focus on developing main events that have more details to help the reader picture the events. At home, you can help your child develop an understanding with this part of the narrative when you are reading to them. You can stop at quality descriptive parts in the stories and talk about how the piece is helping you picture the event. You can also talk about how the problem is developing. The more modeling the children have both at school and at home, the easier this writing becomes for them.

March 2 is Dr. Seuss's birthday, which fits well with the second-grade curriculum. During March, students will read, listen, and begin to write some poetry. At home, you could read some poetry and talk about the rhythm and the "picture" the poet is "painting" for you. If the poem has rhyming words, you could also discuss that as well.

Poetry is also an opportunity to work on fluency. Our children repeatedly read poems to each other, which helps build expression, and the rate of speed. Again, this is something you can model for your child, and then have your child read the poem back to you with the same expression and rate.

Math in the month of March will expand on measurement and geometry. Students will learn about symmetry, basic understanding of area and perimeter using manipulatives, and some exposure to weights and capacity. Problem solving will continue to be part of every unit in math. Also, practicing the basic addition facts at school, as well as at home will continue throughout March.

Due to the unusual weather this year, for recess, we ask that you regularly send in boots and snow pants along with other appropriate winter clothing. Our playground has been fluctuating between snow-laden grounds to mud, so the snow pants will be quite a help this winter.

We certainly look forward to an early spring sometime this month!



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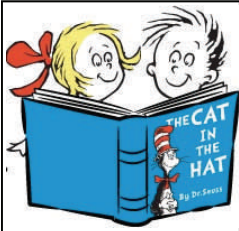


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## From Our Reading Room ~

### Reading Room Team

Jennifer Jones, Carol Bittner, Nan Kandolin, Hannah Pietrantonio, Mary Talaga



On March 2, Coventry Grammar School celebrates Read Across America Day, a national reading event to celebrate the late Dr. Seuss's birthday... CGS values reading and will continue to celebrate Read Across America the whole month of March.

On March 2, Coventry Grammar School celebrates Read Across America Day, a national reading event to celebrate the late Dr. Seuss's birthday. Coventry Grammar School makes this a day to remember by having green eggs and ham for lunch and by wearing red, white, and black attire. An assembly will be held where community leaders will be readers of *Green Eggs and Ham* and the students will sing the "Read Across America" song. This song's instrumentals will be provided by Mr. Gale and taught in music class by Mr. Careau. Every child will wear a Dr. Seuss hat, which they made in art class with Mrs. DuBois.

Teachers in every grade have been busy doing writing activities for the event. In kindergarten, students wrote rhyming words on Dr. Seuss hats. In first grade, students wrote rhyming couplets about reading. In second grade, students followed Dr. Seuss's craft by writing an eight-lined rhyming poem.

Our second Dolphin Book Distribution, will take place on this day, where every child receives a free book. Thanks to our generous PTO who funded both of our book distribution days! We would also like to thank all our parent volunteers who will be on hand to help stamp and distribute books to students.

As you can see, CGS values reading and will continue to celebrate Read Across America the whole month of March. Check out the website: [www.nea.org/readacross/](http://www.nea.org/readacross/) for more information about this event.

(Graphic to the left courtesy of <http://www.seussville.com/Educators/educatorReadAcrossAmerica.php>)



Over the past few weeks, there have been several cases of the flu reported to the health office... Please remember that students should remain home until they are free of fever for 24 hours and able to participate in classroom activities.

## From Our School Nurse ~ Mrs. Paula Curtiss

**Influenza (flu):** Over the past few weeks, there have been several cases of the flu reported to the health office. Here is some general information that you may find helpful.

### Common signs and Symptoms:

- Fever over 101 F in adults and often as high as 103-105 F in children
- chills and sweats
- headache
- dry cough
- muscular aches & pains, especially in your back, arms, and legs
- fatigue and weakness
- nasal congestion
- loss of appetite
- diarrhea & vomiting in children

### Treatment:

Should the above symptoms present, please contact your doctor for advice on care and any treatment needed. Please remember that students should remain home until they are free of fever for 24 hours and able to participate in classroom activities.

**Asthma:** Does your child have asthma? Eastern Highlands Health District has a free program to help you determine what triggers your child's asthma.

- The program is called "Putting on Airs".
- This FREE program will help you identify sources in your home that may trigger your child's asthma.
- You will receive free educational and training materials including free allergy-reducing mattress covers, pillowcases, and spacers.
- For more information or to schedule a "Putting on Airs" visit, contact The Eastern Highlands Health District @ 860-429-3325.

As always, please do not hesitate to call or email me with any questions. Stay Healthy!

Paula Curtiss, School Nurse

860-742-4558

[pcurtiss@coventryct.org](mailto:pcurtiss@coventryct.org)

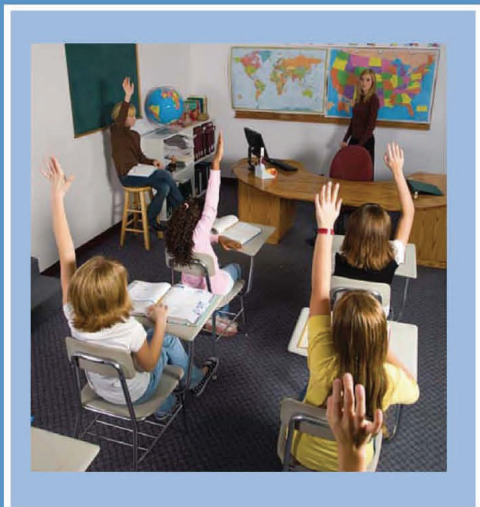
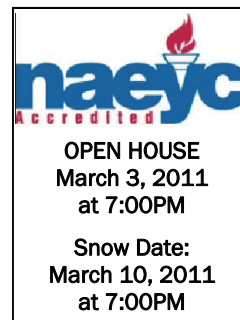
# From Our Friends at the Coventry Early Childhood Center ~

**PRESCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR FALL 2011  
begins March 3, 2011!**

**OPEN HOUSE - 7:00 PM  
March 3, 2011  
Snow date: March 10, 2011**

Applications are available and will be accepted at Open House.  
You may also visit the website to enroll on-line or download an application to mail.  
Please call if you would like an application mailed to you.  
Financial Assistance available through the School Readiness Program.  
Must be 5 Day students and slots are limited!

Phone: (860) 742-5859  
Street Address: 1171 Main Street, Coventry  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 251, Coventry, CT 06238  
Website [www.coventryECC.org](http://www.coventryECC.org) Email Address: [CECCo7@yahoo.com](mailto:CECCo7@yahoo.com)



*Coventry Public Schools is hosting a free workshop  
presented by Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center:*

## **Developing the Individualized Education Program (IEP)**

This training focuses on how parents can be actively and effectively involved in the development of the Individualized Education Program. Participants will learn the key components of an IEP and will become familiar with the Connecticut IEP forms. It will offer guidance about developing measurable goals and tips for monitoring a student's progress.

**Wednesday, April 6, 2011**

**6 PM to 8 PM**

**Coventry High School  
Media Center  
78 Ripley Hill Rd.  
Coventry, CT**

**Registration is required by April 4th.**

**Register online at [www.cpacinc.org/workshop-registration](http://www.cpacinc.org/workshop-registration).  
For more information contact CPAC at 1-800-445-2722 or [cpac@cpacinc.org](mailto:cpac@cpacinc.org).**

*Connecticut Parent Advocacy Center is a statewide nonprofit organization offering information and support to parents of children ages birth to 26 with any disability or chronic illness.*





**Please Stop  
Laughing at Me**  
Tuesday, March 1

## Community Conversations

**Annual Community Conversation, Book Talk with the Superintendent:** Please Stop Laughing at Me by Jodee Blanco is the book for this year's Community Conversation. Please Stop Laughing at Me chronicles how one child was shunned by her classmates from elementary school through high school. Jodee Blanco's vivid story will open your eyes to the harsh realities and long-term consequences of bullying.

There will be room for 15 to attend the conversation on Tuesday, March 1, from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m., in the superintendent's home. Community members interested in attending this Book Talk should contact the Superintendent's Office at 742-7317 x2 or [aboudreau@coventryct.org](mailto:aboudreau@coventryct.org).



**March 22**  
**Kenyon Mills Condos**

## Donuts With Donna

**DONUTS WITH DONNA:** The superintendent of schools is available for casual conversations with community members during the school year. "Donuts with Donna" is a way for you to greet your school superintendent, ask questions, and keep informed about education in our town. Please feel free to stop by, where there will be an informal atmosphere with an open dialogue and no set agenda. The next session of "Donuts with Donna" is Tuesday, March 22, from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Kenyon Mills Condominiums, 28 Armstrong Road, Coventry.



## Weather-Related/Emergency Closings, Delays and Early Release Notifications

Announcements regarding these closings, delayed openings and early releases will be made via our ALERTNOW calling system. In addition to broadcasting this information on selected TV and radio stations, all student homes are now phoned by ALERTNOW. If families would like a list of the selected media outlets, please see the website at [www.coventrypublicschools.org](http://www.coventrypublicschools.org).



## PTO Treasurer's Report ~ as of February 17, 2011

**January 19, 2011 - February 17, 2011**

Treasurer: Camilla Byam

<b>Beginning Balance January 19, 2011:</b>	<b>\$8,041.65</b>
<b>Income:</b> ~ None for this reporting period (bake sale profit to be included in next month's report)	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Expenses:</b> ~ Babysitting (Jan Meeting) \$ 50.00 ~ Cultural Arts \$ 4,000.00 ~ Apples for Teachers \$ 120.61 ~ PTO Insurance \$ 240.00 ~ Kindergarten Registration Supplies \$ 59.55	<b>(\$4,470.16)</b>
<b>Ending Balance February 17, 2011:</b>	<b>\$3,571.49</b>

For an electronic copy of this newsletter,  
or for additional information about the Coventry Grammar School,  
please visit our website:

[www.coventryps.org/cgs/cgs.html](http://www.coventryps.org/cgs/cgs.html).

## PTO News

Our *Crayons for Cancer Family Fun Night* on February 4 was a huge success! Thanks to all of the families that came and helped peel, break, sort and wrap crayons; it was a lot of fun. We are very thankful to Carolyn Dionne for organizing this tremendous event.

Another big thank you to Michele Mansella and her team of volunteers for helping Mrs. Caldwell in the *Jump Rope for Heart* P.E. classes. I'm sure the kids had a great time!

We are grateful to all of our families who were able to participate in the *Yankee Candle* and *Pampered Chef* fundraisers. We are hopeful that the proceeds from these fundraisers will allow us to purchase another interactive white board for the school.

Finally, we had a great show of support for the *American Cancer Society Daffodil Days*. We'll let you know how much was raised for ACS in our next newsletter.

Our next meeting is on Monday, March 14, at 6:30 p.m. in the gym. Free babysitting is provided. We hope to see you there! THINK SPRING!

### Upcoming Events:

- Wednesday, March 2 - Talent show signups at 6 p.m. in the CGS gym. Have your kids come prepared to show us their acts!
- Saturday, March 5 - Scrapbooking Event in the CGS gym
- Monday, March 14 - PTO meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the CGS gym
- Tuesday, March 15 - Daffodil orders will be sent home with students
- Wednesday, March 16 - Talent Show dress rehearsal at 6:00 p.m. in the CGS gym
- Friday, March 18 - Talent Show at 6:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 26 - *CT Whale Night* (ticket information coming soon)
- Thursday, March 31 - *Family Fun Exercise Night* from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the CGS gym
- Friday, June 3 - CGS Arts Festival and Family Fun Festival
- Sunday, June 12 - *Rock Cats* game

### Dolphin Dance:

This year's Dolphin Dance has been tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 13. We are seeking parents to help plan this annual event. If you are interested, please contact Beth Hassett ([bhassett5605@charter.net](mailto:bhassett5605@charter.net)). A committee planning meeting has been set up for Monday, March 7, at 7:00 pm in the CGS Teachers Lounge.

### One last note:

As the children are now going outside many days for recess, please be sure your child brings appropriate clothing for outside play, such as snow boots, winter coats and snow pants, hats and gloves. Also, please be sure your child has a change of clothes in his/her backpack in case it's necessary to change. This is especially important as the Health Office cannot provide a change of clothes if clothes become soiled at recess.

**Look for the CGS PTO on Facebook and become a member today!**

#### Beth Hassett, Co-President

Phone: 860-742-5605;

Email: [bhassett5605@charter.net](mailto:bhassett5605@charter.net)

#### Carrie Houk, Co-President

Phone: 860-498-0189;

Email: [chouko189@charter.net](mailto:chouko189@charter.net)

#### Anita Hilinski, Secretary

Phone: 860-742-1907;

Email: [doggroom21@cs.com](mailto:doggroom21@cs.com)

#### Camilla Byam, Treasurer

Phone: 860-742-8682;

Email: [camillabyam@hotmail.com](mailto:camillabyam@hotmail.com)

