



GHR NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2009



From the Principal~ Mr. Dave Petrone

Welcome to 2009! January often brings the tradition of making New Year's resolutions. Some people vow to start a new exercise program, play kindly with a sibling, get plenty of sleep, eat healthy foods, or make their beds each morning. Rather than having students write New Year's resolutions, the G.H. Robertson staff asked kids what wish they would like for the world this year. I would like to share with you some of the whimsical, thoughtful, and sincere responses that were received:

"If I could have just one wish for 2009, it would probably be to have kindness throughout the world." *Grace – 3rd grade*

"My wish for the world is for people to start carpooling so the air won't get polluted." *Nina – 4th grade*

"My wish for 2009 is to help elderly by having people spend more time a day with them so they won't feel lonely." *Luis – 5th grade*

"One wish that I would like in 2009 for the world is that people would stop polluting our environment." *Sydney – 3rd grade*

"My wish for the world is that everyone would have someone to call a friend." *Brandon – 4th grade*

"My wish for 2009 is for no one to go to bed hungry and sad." *Brianna – 5th grade*

"My wish for the world is that there is world peace." *Ben – 3rd grade*

"My wish for 2009 is that there will not be anymore oil spills." *Ethan. – 4th grade*

"My wish for 2009 is that every poor family gets good food, clean water, nice shelter and clothes." *Hailey – 5th grade*

"My wish is that President-Elect Obama will stop the wars and stop people from smoking." *Trevor 3rd grade*

"My wish for the world this year is for someone to invent a medicine to cure all the bad illnesses." *Konnor – 4th grade*

"My wish for 2009 is to stop having wars and help each other through these tough economic times." *Jesse – 5th grade*

"If I could have one wish for the world it would be that the cost of food and supplies would be cheaper." *Makrina – 3th grade*

"My wish for the world is that the economy gets better so people can have their jobs back and be able to take care of their family."

Michaela – 4th grade

The staff at G.H. Robertson Intermediate School and I wish all of you a Happy New Year. May all of your resolutions and wishes come true in 2009.


Sincerely,

David Petrone

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
January				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
HAPPY NEW YEAR						

 Holidays

 Staff Dev Day

Welcome to 2009! Third grade welcomes the new year as an opportunity to set new academic goals and to do our best. With the holidays behind us, we can continue to focus on learning and growing to the best of our abilities.

Personal responsibility is an area in which we seek growth. In order to foster independence in your child, we can work together to help our children to grow into responsible learners by monitoring a few things:

Homework is an area of responsibility that we expect of our students. In third grade we have math homework nightly (Monday through Thursday) and each child is expected to study his or her spelling words for Friday's test. Reading logs are due either Friday or Monday. This flexibility in the reading log due date allows for you to help your child learn time management, as well as to establish a nightly routine that works best for your family.

Making appropriate choices for clothing is a task third graders can accomplish successfully. With the cold winter days on our doorstep, please be sure your child brings appropriate snow gear for outdoor play (mittens, hats, scarves, coat, snow pants, boots). Also, children should plan to dress in comfortable layers for the climate inside the building.

Making good book choices is another area of growth for our readers. At this time of the year, we feel third graders can read a chapter book at their appropriate reading level. Students should be self-selecting mostly chapter books at this time of year. Beginning readers might choose a book like Henry and Mudge. More skilled readers might opt for A Series of Unfortunate Events.

Speaking of reading, our classrooms are working diligently on writing descriptive responses to stories we read. A third grader is expected to write a response with strong supporting details or a clear, logical explanation. Our CT state standards for reading comprehension can be broken down into four levels: forming a general understanding (*What important lesson does the character learn in this story? What will the character probably do next?*); developing interpretation (*What type of person do you think the character was? What details in the story support the idea that...?*), making reader/text connections (*Which part of the story was most important? Think about a time you... and tell how that experience was similar to the events of the story*), and examining content and structure (*Using information from the story, write a journal entry as if you were that character. Choose a simile from the story and explain why the author used that simile*).

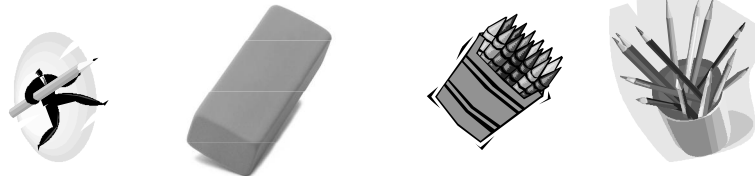
Happy New Year! From the third grade team: Heidi Bosco, Erin Brown, Anne Burke, Jennifer Emerson, Ronnie Gi-ana, Donna Gwozdz, Gail Sroka, Katie Stiles, Jan Spangle, and Nan Kandolin

News from Grade 4

Jerry Craig, Mike Daigneau, Jim Dzwonchyk, Janine Goldsnider, Erin Hazzard, Nora Jones, Michelle Santese, , Barbara Timberman

Happy New Year to everyone at G.H. Robertson Intermediate School! What a wonderful first-half of the school year! It's amazing that it is already 2009! As we move on with the school year, now is a great time to replenish your child's school supplies so they can be ready for the second half. Some things for students to always have on-hand or in their desk are:

- pencils
- erasers
- crayons
- colored pencils



In the fourth grade, December was a very busy month for the students. Many of them participated in Mrs. LaBelle's Holiday Concert and we want to thank her for her endless effort on organizing a very successful production. The students enjoyed singing and performing for the rest of the school, as well as their parents. It is always a special treat to see the children singing great songs and getting everyone into the Holiday Spirit!

Looking ahead, the classrooms are going to begin the process of selecting students who exhibit mastery of their math facts to participate in the Annual 4th Grade Math Bee. The Math Bee will focus on addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, and mixed application problems. This event will take place in the month of May. Keep practicing your math facts!

Please continue to support your child in his/her daily learning. As always, students are required to read at home for fifteen minutes, study their spelling words, practice their multiplication facts, and complete any other homework assignments. The winter months are a great time to start a great novel and read with your child.

Lastly, it is getting very cold outside and the teachers are seeing that some students are not prepared for this type of weather when we go out for recess. Please make sure that your child comes to school with a winter jacket, a hat, gloves, and boots. If they do not have these items then they will not be able to go outside for recess.

We wish you all a happy and safe New Year!!

As the snow drifts through these winter days, 5th graders are working steadily throughout the end of the second quarter.

In science, students are finishing up learning about the brain and its three major parts. Students learned what a wonderful organ the brain is and how to take care of it. Soon students will be studying the five senses. Many students are unaware of how much we actually rely on them!

In math, students are exploring the world of geometry. They are investigating the differences between rhombuses and trapezoids and discussing angles of all sizes. Soon they will be delving into the wonderful world of division! Keep practicing those facts!

In reading, we are finishing up an exciting unit of interpreting poets such as Robert Frost, Shel Silverstein, and many more! All fifth graders are encouraged to continue reading at home and take part in the school's RAH (Reading At Home) program. Remember, each evening after students have read, parents should sign their child's reading log. In language arts, students are finishing up showing their poetic sides writing different types of poems, including Haikus, Cinquains, and Quatrains. Soon students will be revisiting expository writing to prepare for CMTs.

In social studies, students are studying exploration and different important explorers throughout our history. Students will be researching reasons for the exploration of the world as well as advances in technology that made exploration possible.

As a new calendar year begins, it is the perfect time for restocking school supplies at home that may be necessary for homework and school. These items include plenty of pencils, paper, erasers, and things with which to color at home.

Have a wonderful new year!

Gr 5 – Mrs. Bernier, Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Piteo, Ms. Steeves, Ms. Silvernail, Mrs. Sandberg, Mr. Spivey, Ms Woodin

From the Reading Room ~ Mrs. Sue Hansen

Reading Activities to Improve Fluency



One goal of reading instruction is to help students to become fluent readers. Fluent readers read with appropriate pitch, pace, phrasing, and expression. Fluency is necessary for good comprehension and enjoyable reading.

Strategies that have shown to improve fluency include repeated reading, partner reading, choral reading, echo reading, and listening to good fluent reading by an adult or on a tape.

In echo reading, you read a phrase or sentence and the child repeats the same line after you while looking at the text. Increase the number of lines you read one at a time as the child's reading improves. Remember, the child should be looking at the words as you read. During choral reading, you and your child read the same text aloud together. Poetry works well when choral reading. When partner reading, you and your child take turns reading. Start by reading one sentence and asking your child to read the next sentence. As the child's fluency improves, you read a page and he/she reads a page. In repeated reading, the same book, story, or poem is read more than once in the same week.

Remember, when reading with your child use as much expression as you can so that your reading sounds like speaking and the story comes alive.

MATH MATTERS - Kim Licata ASSIST Teacher



Marilyn Burns is a nationally known mathematics educator who has been the recipient of many awards given in the field of mathematics. She has written numerous books in which she shares her love for math and includes exciting hands-on lessons for children in a variety of areas. Recently I read a book that she wrote entitled MATH Facing an American Phobia. I would like to share a few of her thoughts and ideas for parents.

As adults we do plenty of mathematical thinking and reasoning each day. There are many opportunities for children to see you using math. Think of things you do everyday-digging in your wallet or pocket for change to pay for a purchase, figuring out when you need to leave the house to get to the movies on time, choosing the right-size bowl for the leftover spaghetti, measuring the plant food into the watering can when you feed your house plants, measuring ingredients when you whip up something in the kitchen, etc. When your children are around, do the mathematical thinking out loud and clear!

Include your children when you are doing math. Let them figure out how much admission will be for all of you at the movies, choose which measuring spoons to use for three-quarters of a teaspoon of salt, help you measure the wood for a do-it-yourself bookcase, or figure out how much you owe the baby-sitter.

Children loved to be read to and often ask for the same story over and over again. There are a growing number of books for children that deal with mathematics. Many of them include suggestions for how you can extend the stories and engage your children in thinking about and doing mathematics having to do with geometry, measurement, patterns, probability and statistics. Just to name a few-The Doorbell Rang, The Math Curse, Remainder of One, Spaghetti and Meatballs for All.

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 winter sessions of "Donuts with Donna" are scheduled for Friday, January 23 from 10:30 – 11:30 a.m. at Thymes Remembered in the Meadowbrook Plaza on Route 44 and on Wednesday, February 25 from 1:30 – 2:30 p.m. at the Booth & Dimock Library on Main Street.



Greetings From the Media Center!



Happy New Year to all our readers out there. You may be coming up with New Year Resolutions for 2009 so why not add some reading ones to your list. Here are a couple of suggestions:

- 1) Try reading a book about a subject you are unfamiliar with – you may end up learning something new.
- 2) Read the same book with a couple of friends and then discuss what you liked and didn't like about it.
- 3) Write some author names down on paper, cut them into separate sheets, put into a hat and pick a different one out each week. You could do this with subjects as well.
- 4) If you only read fiction books, try reading a non-fiction book for a change. Same thing goes for you non-fiction readers – try a fiction story this year.
- 5) Read only on days that end in "Y" for 2009!

We hope 2009 is off to a great start for you. There is lots of fun in store at the media center as we head towards June!

Nurse's Notes ~ Therese McKeever 742-4529

The internet can be a wonderful resource for health related issues. While much of this information is current and reliable, there is plenty of online "information" that cannot be trusted.

So, how can you weed out the good information? An excellent place to start your cyber search is with federal government (they end in ".gov") sponsored websites. Other large professional organizations and well-known medical schools are also good resources.

Online health information should never take the place of a qualified medical professional. The web however can be an excellent tool to inform you about diagnosed conditions, medications, or the treatment plan prescribed by your doctor.

Here are some reliable sites to try:

www.cdc.gov – Federal government Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

www.Healthfinder.gov – health information from government agencies and partner organizations

www.Kidshealth.com - information regarding children's health from before birth through adolescence

www.mayoclinic.com – Mayo Clinic's health education for patients and the general public

www.mederm.com – a project of the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

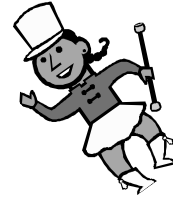
www.familydoctor.org – health information from the American Academy of Family Physicians

www.medlineplus.gov – information offered by the National Library of Medicine

www.webmd.com – commercially sponsored medical information for consumers



Our band students are now preparing for their first concert that will be on Tuesday February 3, 2009. The concert will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium at Coventry High School and will begin at 7:00 pm. All friends and family are invited to attend. Each student should be practicing the list of songs that will be played in the concert.



This concert is a multi-purpose one. The students will perform as well as inform the audience of the different things that they work on in the lesson groups. Each section will be featured with a "soli" piece and all students will play as a full band.

Full Band rehearsals will begin the first week of January. Students will need to remember

their instruments for lessons and full band. Attendance is essential for a successful concert and for overall progress--- on their instrument. I hope that the anticipation of this

performance will motivate students to "step it up" in regards to practicing. Practice isn't exactly fun, but the results are very rewarding. Encourage your child to work on their instrument and to play for you.



I look forward to seeing you at our "Informance Performance" in February!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Carol Gould, Band Director

**"Just a Note!" From the Music Room ~
Mrs. Labelle**

We will be studying instruments of the orchestra and reviewing notes and rests.

Grade 4 will be studying a song and figuring it out by translating the notes into numbers, solfege, and letters.

Grade 5 will be learning how to conduct in various metes.



**A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

**Next PTO
Meetings! :
Tuesdays
01/13/2009
@ 7pm!**



PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

Now that the winter season is here, it is time for all students to experience the life-time sport of snowshoeing in Physical Education Class. In order for this to be successful, students should come prepared for class with a pair of snow boots or extra sneakers and socks and a winter jacket. In addition, hats, and gloves are also recommended. Please have your son or daughter come prepared for Physical Education class during the winter months.



GHR-CNHMS SKI Club-

We are excited to announce that there are a total of 64 students involved in this year's ski club. The ski trips to Mount Southington are on January 9th, 23rd, January 30th, and February 6th. **All students** will return at 8:15 P.M to **Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School.** We are looking forward to a fun and successful ski season.



Basketball

3rd and 4th

A basketball program will be offered to third and fourth grade Robertson students. It will involve some fundamental skills, lead up games, and scrimmages. This program will be run by Ms. Kessler, the Physical Education Teacher and Mr. Spivey, a 5th grade teacher (previous girls middle school coach) at G. H. Robertson School. If interested, forms are available in the P.E. Office. Please complete the bottom half as well as the medical form and **return it to Ms. Kessler by January 9, 2009.** Students will be taken on a first come reserved basis.

Who? 3rd and 4th graders (Maximum 20)

Where? Robertson Gymnasium

Time? 3:20 - 4:30pm

Cost? \$25 (Checks payable to GHR)

Thursdays: January 15th - 22nd - 29th - Feb. 5th - 12th



TEAM HANDBALL
4th- 5th

An indoor team handball program will be offered to all Robertson students. It will involve some fundamental skills, and scrimmages. This program will be run by Ms. Kessler, the Physical Education Teacher and Mr. Carlson, Social Studies Teacher at G.H. Robertson School. If interested, forms are available in the P.E. Office. Please complete the bottom half and return it to **Ms. Kessler by January 9th , 2009.** Students will be taken on a first come reserved basis.
Who? 4th - 5th graders(Maximum 20)
Where? Robertson gymnasium
Time? 3:20 - 4:30pm
Cost? \$25 (checks payable to GHR)
Dates: Mondays: January 12th - 26th - Feb 2nd - 9th - 23rd

