

GHR NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2008



From the Principal~ Mr. Dave Petrone

Dear Parents,

As this school year comes to a close, I find myself reflecting back on all the varied learning opportunities and experiences that have been part of the 2007/2008 school year. It's wonderful to celebrate all of the student accomplishments and to recognize the physical, emotional and cognitive growth that has occurred in such a short period of time. I am so fortunate to have the unending support and assistance from parents and the PTO. Your boundless supply of time, talents and financial support has helped us in countless ways. I am truly appreciative of all that you have done for us throughout the year.

In addition to the parents, I wish to thank the teaching and support staff for all that they have done and continue to do to make G.H. Robertson such an exceptional learning environment for everyone to enjoy. I also want to send a special congratulation to our fifth grade students who will be moving on to a new school and new challenges next year. The teachers and staff at G.H. Robertson will miss you!

Sincerely,
David Petrone
Principal

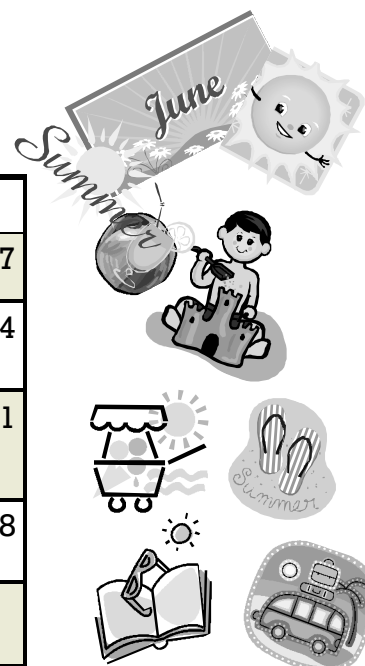


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JUNE 2008

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29 STUDENTS	30 HAVE	A SAVE	& FUN	SUMMER!		



News from Grade 3

Visions of lazy, hazy summer days are dancing in our children's heads. From the day trips to the weekly camps to the longer vacation getaways, summer is a time for our bodies and our minds to rejuvenate. We want to offer some suggestions for keeping your child mentally active and ready for fourth grade:



► Top Ten Ways to Become a Better Reader 10. Read 9. Read 8. Read 7. Read 6. Read 5. Read 4. Read 3. Read 2. Read 1. Read

► Keep a running list of the books your child reads and submit them to your child's fourth grade teacher. Books read over the summer count toward Robertson's RAH program and the Governor's Reading Challenge. Which member of your household can read the most books? It's more exciting, not to mention competitive, when the whole family joins in. You are also setting a great example!

► Write... write journal entries of vacation days, send postcards to friends and family, write thank you notes and send them in the mail, or keep an email correspondence with a relative in another state.



► Practice math- it is all around us, every day and in every way. Instead of the usual beach toys, how about using measuring cups or spoons? On a rainy day, make a batch of cookies or help make a pasta salad on a hot evening. Practice basic facts repeatedly during the summer months. While at the grocery store, help your child budget expenses by estimating the total amount spent. When traveling, give your child a map and have him or her estimate the distance and record the time and length of a trip.



We will miss our third graders tremendously! Have a wonderful summer and good luck in fourth grade!

Have a wonderful June!
Heidi Bosco, Anne Burke, Jennifer Emerson, Ronnie Giana, Donna Gwozdz, Erin Jackson, Gail Sroka, Katie Stiles, Jan Spangle, and Nan Kandolin

News from Grade 4


Jerry Craig, Mike Daigneau, Jim Dzwonchyk, Janine Goldsnider, Erin Hazzard, Kim Licata, Michelle Santese, , Barbara Timberman

As the end of the year approaches we reflect on the fabulous year we have had. The year has been a full and busy one with many events happening from the word go. We have truly enjoyed every minute of it. It is hard to believe the year is nearly over.

Fourth graders, we will miss you, but we also wish you the best of luck in the fifth grade. Remember, we're right around the corner if you need us.



Parents, thank you for a great year and for supporting your students. Keep believing and amazing things will happen.

On June 6, the fourth graders will be participating in the 10th annual GHR math bee.  We're all *a-buzz* about it!

A special thank you goes out to Mrs. Houser for all of her support over the last 10 years. We'd also like to thank the Lion's Club for their generous donation. Finally, thank you to our own PTO for donating the trophies.



On June 13, the fourth graders will be heading out to experience force and motion first hand. We will be going to Lake Compounce. Permission slips and additional information will be coming home soon. If you have any questions please contact your child's homeroom teacher.



. The fourth graders are looking forward to participating in field day activities on June 17. Please send your child to school with a water bottle, sunscreen, and appropriate shoes. It should be a fun afternoon.



Have a fantastic summer and don't forget to READ and PRACTICE MATH!!!!!!!



News from Grade 5

Team 5A – The Silver Scorpions

Mrs. Bernier, Mrs. Jones, Mrs. Piteo,
Mrs. Sandberg, Ms. Woodin, Mrs. Fowler,
Mrs. Moriarty, Mrs. Oakley, Mrs. Sokola

Math:

With the school year winding down, students from both teams will be participating in the **12th Annual Math Day Extravaganza!** On this very special day, teams will travel throughout the fifth grade hallway to compete in a series of hands-on, high flying mathematics themed events to earn points.

A special invitation to parents on TEAM B: Do you like math? Do you like fun, fast paced activities? Do you sometimes find yourself longing for something interesting to do in the afternoons? Well, we have the solution... We are looking for some volunteers to assist in managing math stations for the Extravaganza. No experience is necessary! Please contact Mrs. Martello for details! You'll be helping to make math fun for everyone!



Reading:

Students on both teams are currently involved in riveting, heart stopping realistic fiction novels. Team 5A has been keeping a very close eye on the weather forecast since beginning Night of the Twisters.



Team 5B – The Sapphire Sharks

Mr. Carlson, Mrs. Martello, Ms. Steeves,
Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Hansen, Mrs. Mansfield

Team 5B has stepped back in time while enjoying the historical novel, The Sign of the Beaver. The central characters in both literary works are children whose lives get turned upside down by a series of unpredictable events.

Social Studies:

Students are learning about the original 13 English colonies and discovering the causes of the eventual push towards independence and nation building. Special attention will be given to learning the basics of our system of government.



Other News:

Grade 5 will be hosting its annual **Hobby Day Expo**. This will be a terrific opportunity for students to share some of their outside interests with their peers. It's a great chance to learn more about students and teachers. So, if you're into *philatelics* (stamp collecting), *numismatics* (coin collecting) or even *lepidopterology* (butterfly collecting), this day is for you!



Finally, grade 5 teachers wish to thank parents for their continued support throughout this school year. It has been a memorable year for us. We appreciate all who helped make grade 5 a friendly, exciting, educational experience for students. Best wishes to all in 6th grade!

MATH MATTERS- Sharon Davis ASSIST Teacher

This is the last newsletter of my career. I will be retiring at the end of this school year after 32 years in education. Well, actually 31.7 but we math teachers just can't resist rounding a number! When I teach my students estimating with rounding, I always stress that they will actually use this skill in their life outside of school someday.

I feel so fortunate to have spent 26.7 of my years teaching in the Coventry school system. I enjoyed teaching math to so many wonderful children and I hope I instilled a love of math in many of my students. I have also been very fortunate to have worked with so many kind and caring people.

When someone would ask me what I do, I have always been very proud to say that I teach. I will miss my profession and GHR very much. I am taking this opportunity to say good-bye and thank you to all of my students, parents and co-workers. I hope we will meet again.

I love math!



**From the Band Room:
Mrs. Gould**

The GHR grade 5 Band recently participated in their Spring Concert at the Veteran's Memorial Auditorium along with the CNHS grade 6 Band.

The band did a great job! The students were very excited the day of the concert in anticipation of their first performance as a concert band. I am very proud of these young musicians for all their hard work.. Thanks to the families and friends that came to the concert to show your support for the band. It really means a lot to all those involved.

What a great year it has been for me, working with these kids. It is gratifying for me to see them go from squeaks and blasting to thinking about where a phrase should go and how to make it move the listener. This is where the fun and joy of music begins!

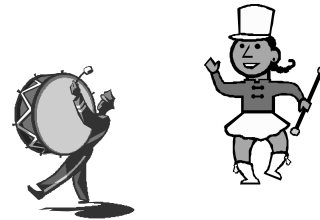
Lessons will continue through Wednesday June 18th.

Please be aware of the status of your child's instrument in regards to the rental agreement that you have. I am not responsible for any matters concerning rented instruments. Call the store where the rental took place if you have questions.

Thanks for a great year!

Sincerely,

Carol Gould



Board of Education News: Programs That Make a Difference

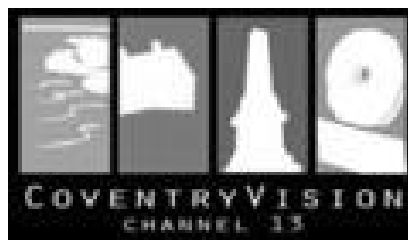
At the May 8, 2008 meeting, the "Coventry Pride" section focused on the Reading Programs at the G. H. Robertson School. Rebecca Moe and Kim Kozlowski, para-educators at GHR, presented information on the Rising Stars Program, which takes place first thing in the morning from 7:30 – 8:10 a.m. The focus is on literacy competencies. Mr. Petrone, GHR Principal, said parent willingness is very important because they have to be committed to making sure students arrive to school by 7:30 a.m. He said staff is very impressed with the attendance rate. Ms. Kozlowski said it was wonderful to see the students really coming together as a team.

Mr. Petrone then spoke about the after school Expanding Horizons program, which began through a grant from UCONN. Originally the program was to run for two years through UCONN, but it was so successful that GHR staff have continued it on their own into now, its third year. He said they are still working with UCONN and Dr. Catherine Little, who is very supportive by providing free tutors and books. Dr. Little said there is a visible increase in fluency with these students.

Kim Licata and Michelle Santese, Expanding Horizons teachers, also spoke about the program. They said it is based on school-wide reading model frameworks and is split into two sessions, one in the fall and one in the winter/spring. It is structured with goals and phases, with one phase including students voluntarily completing journals. A love of reading is evident in the students who participated in the program.



Tune in to Munivision, Channel 13, to view the entire portion of this meeting and learn more about "Programs that Make a Difference."





From the Reading Room ~ Mrs. Sue Hansen

Summer Reading News

This summer the Booth and Dimock Library's summer reading program theme is "Catch the Reading Bug." Obviously it's all about bugs.



There are lots of programs planned throughout the summer. Information about the library's summer program will appear in their next newsletter, to be distributed before the end of the school year. Students can participate in both the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge and the library program. Books read during the summer can count for both programs. Reading logs for the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge will be sent home.



Students are reminded to bring their reading logs to school in August to receive credit toward the RAH (Reading At Home) program.



Greetings From the Media Center! ~ Mr. Lowman

Greetings from the GHR Media Center! Wow, the end of the school year is quickly approaching. What a busy year it has been!

During the month of May we learned about some great books and authors that we can enjoy over our summer vacation. We discussed the book The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau.

This is an exciting adventure story about a city that has no natural light. Unfortunately, the power source is starting to fail and the city is in peril. Can the two main characters, Lina and Doon, solve the mystery of their city and lead the people to a new life?



A second series we talked about was Children of the Red King by Jenny Nimmo. This series focuses on 11 year old Charlie Bone and his adventures at Bloor's Academy. 5th grade students also received packets for a summer reading assignment from the Captain Nathan Hale Middle School.

We hope that all students will choose to do some reading over the summer. Here is a link to a great resource at Education World.



http://www.educationworld.com/a_curr/curr244.shtml

There are many booklists put together by a variety of libraries that will give you plenty of ideas for the entire summer. Enjoy!

The last day for book checkout is May 30th and all books are due back to the library on June 6th. Please look high and low for those library books that may be hiding in your house and need to be returned. Thanks for you help.



Have a great summer!

Update on GHR SCHOOL STORE

We would like to thank the fourth grade students for their hard work and commitment in running the school store.

For the short time the store has been running it has been a success. The profits earned are being donated to Coventry Food & Fuel Bank. Thank you to all the patrons who made this a booming success !! We will be looking forward to seeing you next year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Kandolin, supervisor



Nurse's Corner ~ Therese McKeever 742-4529



Just in time for summer fun... Sunscreen: Answers to your burning questions

Who should use sunscreen?

Everyone. Regardless of skin type, the sun's energy penetrates deeply into the skin and damages DNA of skin cells. This damage may ultimately lead to skin cancer. Children are especially susceptible to the harmful effects of the sun, so take extra steps to protect their skin and to prevent sunburns. Children or teenagers who experience at least two blistering sunburns are at increased risk of developing skin cancer later in life. Babies younger than 6 months should be kept out of direct sunlight because their skin is even more fragile.



What does SPF have to do with it?

Sunscreens absorb the sun's UVA and UVB rays before they can cause skin damage. Sunscreen effectiveness is measured only in UVB protection because currently there is no effective way to measure UVA protection.

The SPF (sun protection factor) number is a measurement of the amount of UVB protection. It is not an indicator of how long you can spend in the sun. For example SPF of 15 filters out about 93% of the UVB rays; SPF 30 filters about 97%. The beneficial effects of sunscreen decreases over time, so after a few hours the difference between the two may be even less.

But don't rely solely on the SPF factor to decide how long you're safe in the sun. And don't count on your skin to tell you when you've had too much sun. It may take up to 24 hours for a sunburn to develop fully.



What reduces the effectiveness of sunscreen?

- Type & amount of sunscreen used
- How often it's applied
- Intensity of the UV rays
- High humidity
- Sweating
- Drying or rubbing your skin with a towel
- Swimming, showers or other contact with water

What should you look for when buying sunscreen?

Be sure to select a broad-spectrum (protection against both UVA and UVB radiation) sunscreen with an SPF of at least 15. Look for sunscreens that are water resistant, which offers some protection against washing off in water or when perspiring heavily

How much sunscreen is necessary, and how often should it be applied?

An effective application is 1 ounce to cover all exposed parts of the body. If you have a 4-ounce bottle, you'll be using about one-fourth of it for one application. Be sure to rub the sunscreen in well. And remember to apply sunscreen liberally 30 minutes before going outdoors and reapply every two hours, or as needed.



As the school year comes to an end we want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped make this another successful year. We still continue to finish up our activities that are planned for this year. The book sale we just finished was successful as was our Spring Fundraiser. Some planning has already started around activities for next year. We are still looking for board members for next year and if anyone is interested please give any of us a call. As always please contact any of us Patty Choiniere: 742-2519, Melissa Joseph-Hartigan 742-5193, Heather Erskine 742-6828 and Barbara Riordan 742-1427

Treasurer's activity from 4/19/08 through 5/27/08

Beginning Balance	\$7,821.71
Deposits	\$9,267.46
Expenses	\$4,044.21
Ending Balance	\$13,044.96
Committed Funds	<u>\$350.00</u>
Total Uncommitted Funds	\$12,694.96



Committed Funds as of 5/27/08

RIF (based on May fundraisers)	\$350.00
Total	\$350.00



Next PTO Meetings! :
Tuesdays
6/9
@ 7pm!



REMEMBER:

Every vote counts
 Coventry Town Budget vote
 Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Polls open 6:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Make sure your voice is heard.



A reminder from the Coventry Grammar School and G.H. Robertson PTOs.

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|-----------|---------------|-------------|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Max | Alosky | Tristan | Nicholas | Bonee-Gionfriddo | |
| Allan | Andrews | Tucker | Dylan | | |
| Jessica | Bailey | Tre | Aaron | Borruso | |
| Samantha | Baker | Kristina | Janai | Brand | |
| John | Baskowski | Justin | Brandon | Breault | Amanda |
| Calum | Beaulieu | Samantha | Daniel | Breuer | Connor |
| | | Jenna | Jordan | Burke | Victoria |
| Jacob | Conde | Carleigh | | Butler | Baylee |
| Mariah | Couture | Tanner | Dantas | | Joseph |
| Sean | Crocker | Shayne | Davis | Dockum | Rachael |
| Brandon | D'Anna | Hazel | Delillo | Dombeck | Kaitlyn |
| Colleen | Dabrowski | Andrew | Deschamps | Dombkowski | Brendan |
| Tatiana | Damboise | | Dickerson | Elkins | Yasmine |
| | | Rebecca | Dimock | Emond | Nicole |
| Richard | Gokey | Dylan | Haddock | Ennis | Daniel |
| Melinda | Gorneault | Katelynn | Hatch-Krisch | Jatkowski | Nicholas |
| Melinda | Gosselin | Mathew | Hayes | Jean | Jacqueline |
| Adam | Grace | Adam | Hendel | Jennings | |
| Logan | Greene | Erica | Hennequin | Jeroszko | Ashley |
| Jacquelyn | Griswold | Jessica | Hopkins | Johansen | Vanessa |
| Hannah | | Carys | Hull | Joseph | Andrew |
| Daniel | Larson | | Hunter | Joyal | Sean |
| Megan | Lawrence | Connor | | Joyal | Tomasz |
| Samantha | Leavens | Christopher | Madsen | | Ashleigh |
| Michael | Leblond | Cody | Magistri | Miranda | Cassidy |
| Robert | Levesque | Travis | Maid | Moriarty | Samantha |
| Shawn | Lewis | Brian | Mailhiot | Morris | |
| Clark | Lopez | Hailey | Martel | Morrison | Alyssa |
| Sarah | LoRicco | Raymond | McKeever | Morrison | Jeanna |
| Morgan | Lupacchino | Daniel | Medina | Moulton | Benjamin |
| | Lyon-Dallaire | Avery | Meyer | Mowry | Zayne |
| Douglas | Pellerin | Aaron | Putman | Sandvoss | Vasilika |
| Matthew | Pelletier | Logan | Reynolds | Sanford | Thomas |
| Abigail | Pepin | Savanah | Richardello | Sattar | Alison |
| Erich | Pfaff | Jennifer | Ringer | Schrack | Annabel |
| Alyssa | Picard | Andria | Robert | Scollo | Kevin |
| Hannah | Polinski | Chance | Rockx | Sergis | Bruce |
| Haley | Pollinger | Emma | Rogers | Sernoffsky | Kayla |
| David | Pouliot | | Rose | Setzler | Makayla |
| | | Ethan | Taylor | | Katherine |
| | | Zachary | Trainor | Christopher | Brian |
| | | Allison | Trombley | Gina | Piper |
| | | Rachael | Trudon | Tanner | Courtney |
| | | Brooke | Vaillancourt | Stephen | Joseph |
| | | Caitlyn | Verbridge | Megan | Alexander |
| | | Hannah | Vignone | Gabrielle | Szkirka |
| | | Tucker | Voorvaart | Miranda | |
| | | Amanda | Vousden | | |
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| | | | | | Napolitano |
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We wish you the best at CNHMS