

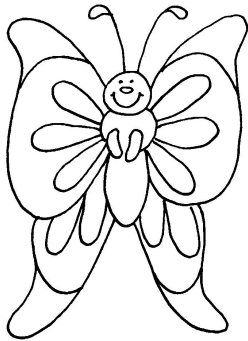
The Boutwell Butterfly

The Official Newsletter of the Boutwell Early Childhood Center

Groton-Dunstable
Regional School District

September 2009

Russell Hoyt
Early Childhood Director



Bouts
The Butterfly

Important Dates

- ◆ September 17th - Half Day Curr. Day, Pre-K - 4th grade only
- ◆ October 1st - Family Night 5:30 to 7:00 Pizza and Family Fun
- ◆ October 1st - Half Day Curr. Day.
- ◆ October 12th & 13th - No school, Columbus Day and Full Day Curr. Day.

The Year of Happiness

By Mr. Russ (Russ Hoyt, Early Childhood Director)

Happiness - Here at the Boutwell Early Childhood Center the 2009-2010 school year is the year of Happiness. How are we going to focus on happiness? Easy, we are going to work hard to improve our interactions with the children. The staff at Boutwell is amazing in the way that they bring out the best in each child, but we all want to get better. Before the children returned, while we were prepping the center and participating in trainings to improve our skills, I asked the staff a question. I asked, "If you were able to improve your interactions with the children we serve would you be happier in your work at Boutwell?" Everyone, each individual who works here, said, "YES!" To that end I asked each staff member to complete the interaction section of the *Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale*. We will use this information to target areas for self improvement for each person. Here's to wishing everyone happiness for the entire school year and beyond.

Newsletter Available On-Line Only

In an effort to reduce cost and help the environment, we will be switching to an online-only version of Boutwell's monthly newsletter. It will be available in PDF format for download on the Boutwell website: (<http://www.gdrsd.org/Schools/Boutwell/BMain.html>). You can chose to either read it online or print out a copy. If you are unable to access the internet, please contact us and we will send home a paper version in your child's backpack.

Help Needed - Library Volunteer Coordinator

If you are interested in being a Boutwell Library Volunteer Coordinator, please contact Brenda at 978-448-2297. Thank you!

SAFETY FIRST REMINDER

When coming through the pick-up line, please be aware that staff cannot buckle children into their car seats. Parents/care givers must be the ones to buckle the children in.

Next newsletter deadline is September 24th. Please email articles to lortiz@gdrsd.org.

Groton-Dunstable Regional School District Statement of Non-Discrimination: It is the policy of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, gender, disability, sexual orientation, national origin, or homelessness in its educational programs, activities, or employment policies as required by Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments, Chapter 622 of the Acts of 1971, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Also, students will not be excluded for reasons of marriage or pregnancy. Requests for information about these laws and/or grievance procedures should be directed to Jeanne Mitchell Director of Human Resources, Groton-Dunstable Regional School District, (978) 448-5505.



District Nurse Coordinator Phyllis Lang to Participate in Local AAFA Panel Discussion

The Nashoba Valley Asthma & Allergy Education Support Group will host a panel discussion on Monday, September 21 at the Nashoba Valley Medical Center, Ayer at 7:00 p.m.

The topic will be “Food Allergies at School: How to Work with Your Child’s School Nurse to Develop an Individual Health Care Plan.” Learn about various policies and procedures for managing food allergies in school, and the components of an effective individualized written plan to address the prevention and treatment of allergy exposures and reactions.

GDRSD District Nurse Coordinator, Phyllis Lang will be among the panel of speakers. Mrs. Lang is also the school district advisor to the GDRSD Food Allergy Support Team (FAST).

Donation of Food Allergy Related Books to GDRSD School Libraries

The Groton Dunstable Food Allergy Support Team (FAST) presented fifty books dealing with food allergy awareness to the GDRSD school libraries in June.

FAST worked with the school district to select age appropriate books for all levels from preschool through High School. These books will be available to students when they return to school in September. FAST was able to provide these books through generous grant funding from the Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc. (GDEF).

These books are a wonderful way to increase the awareness of food allergies and their severity at all grade levels. All children as well as teachers and school personnel can benefit from these books; not just those with allergies.

FAST is dedicated to providing information and support to families coping with allergies, promoting allergy awareness in our school community, and working with the Groton-Dunstable Regional School District to ensure a safe environment for children with allergies. For additional information or a list of books donated, please contact gdfast@yahoo.com.

Are You a Parent or Caregiver of a Child with an Allergy?

FAST is a group of parents partnered with the school district whose mission is to support other families coping with severe and life-threatening allergies, promote allergy awareness in our school community, and work with the school district to ensure a safe environment for children with allergies.

We would like to invite parents and caregivers of children with a food, latex, insect or environment allergy or anyone interested in this health topic to join us at our next meeting at the Peter Twomey Youth Center on Monday, October 19 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. Meetings are scheduled for 10/19, 11/16, 1/11 2/8, 3/15, 4/12, and 5/17.

We are planning lots of fun and informative sessions this year. Please join us! Contact Lisa Chau at gdfast@yahoo.com if you would like additional information.



Groton Dunstable Education Foundation, Inc.

Post Office Box 322 Groton, Massachusetts 01450

www.gdefinc.org

GDEF GEARS UP FOR THIS YEAR'S SCHOOL GRANTS

The Groton Dunstable Education Foundation welcomes students and parents to a new school year. Thanks to your generosity, last year GDEF awarded a total of over \$40K in grants to all five district schools, and we're counting on your continued support to fund more exciting grants that enrich the classroom experience of all our students.

There are lots of ways you can help GDEF support our schools and teachers. We'll again be raising most of our grants funds through our **Annual Giving Campaign** which officially launches in November, but your tax-deductible donations are welcomed anytime. Plans are also underway for a fun, new family fundraising event – a team **Trivia Bee planned for April**, so stay tuned for more details. We're also **looking for new volunteers** in many different areas, from grants and fundraising to public relations and event planning, so please consider sharing some of your time and talents to help GDEF continue its mission of enriching our children's education.

Applications for our fall grants cycle are due November 6th, both for regular mini-grants of up to \$500, as well as for GDEF's special Bruce J. Anderson Foundation "Integration of the Arts" grants, which are available in any dollar amount. Teachers and other staff, as well as parents and community organizations, are encouraged to apply, and applications can be found on our website.

Be sure to look for the GDEF **booth at Parent Open House** nights, as well as at **Grotonfest** on October 3rd, where we'll be once again be selling the popular sweet and sour "Sandy Candy" straws. To learn more about all of GDEF's activities, please visit us online at www.GDEFinc.org or email us at info@gdefinc.org.

Questions? E-mail us at info@gdefinc.org



Groton Dunstable Special Education Parent Advisory Council

The GD SpedPAC's mission is to provide a network in which parents of children with special needs have access to relevant information, training and emotional support; and to encourage an atmosphere of effective open communication, understanding and mutual respect among all students, parents, educators and the community-at-large. In addition, the GD SpedPAC provides input to the District staff and administrators, working collaboratively with the District to plan and develop SPED initiatives.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER:

Open House

The GD SpedPAC will have a table set up at the **Boutwell Early Childhood Center's Orientation Sessions on September 2nd and 3rd**. Please stop by our table to gather information on upcoming events!

Grotonfest!

Look for our booth at this year's **Grotonfest** on October 3rd. We will be selling delicious homemade French fries so come and check us out!

GD SpedPAC Business Meeting & "An Evening with Dr. Genovese"

All SpedPAC meetings and lectures are free and open to the public.

DATE: Thursday, October 8, 2009

PLACE: **High School Library**

TIME: **7:00 pm – 7:30 pm**

7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Business Meeting

Dr. Alan Genovese, Superintendent of the Groton Dunstable Regional School District

Parents, teachers, staff and community members interested in education issues that involve children with special needs are invited to a discussion with GDRSD Superintendent Dr. Alan Genovese. The SpedPAC has been lucky to have had Dr. Genovese participate for the last four years in these round-table discussions which have proven to be productive and beneficial through an honest exchange of ideas, thoughts and concerns among attendees and the Superintendent. Dr. Genovese will share his thoughts on the Groton-Dunstable school system – its strengths, its areas of needed improvement, and 'what's in store' for the future. All are welcome to attend.

GD SpedPAC Officer Contacts:

Nancy Bugbee, President

nbugbee@gdspedpac.org

978-448-9916

Maryanne Squeglia, VP & Treasurer

mvsquel@gdspedpac.org

978-448-0670

Cyndy Premru, Secretary

premru@gdspedpac.org

978-448-9788

Parent Liaison, Liz Podsiadlo

lizpod72@yahoo.com

Parent Resource Center at Prescott

978-448-5505, ext. 229

All parents & community members are welcome to come in to the Center to access SpedPAC's literature, education resource library, to ask questions, and to get guidance from a SpedPAC representative to help navigate the special education process.

Located in the Prescott School Building - Use side entrance and follow signs to the lower level.



Helping Parents
Help Their Children

Drop In Hours

Tuesday 10:00 - 11:30am

Wednesday 1:00 – 2:30pm*

Thursday 9:30 – 11:30pm

Other days and times – call for an appointment

**Exception will be on half days in the District*



The GDAY Good Newsletter

Volume 3 Issue 1

www.G-DAY.org

September 2009

SEPTEMBER 28th -- Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your ChildrenTM

[Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your ChildrenTM](#) is a national movement to inform parents that the parental engagement fostered during frequent family dinners is an effective tool to help keep America's kids substance free. Family Day reminds parents that "Dinner Makes a Difference!"

Watch for news about the new Safe Homes program coming in September 2009

GDAY Summer Book Group 2009

By: Betsy Dolan K-4 GDAY Liaison

This summer's new GDAY Age 9-11 Book Group was a great success! It was great to see the kids connecting their ideas on plot, characters, and deeper meaning on what they read. They made connections with each other on what the books taught them and the crossover to their present school and home life. The kids discussed their impression of the readings and characters they liked and disliked. It was a wonderful opportunity to see the children reading common literature and expand their learning with discussion questions. I encourage all parents to help their children create and host their own book group with neighborhood or school friends during the school year. It's a great way to encourage reading while developing further reading comprehension.

Books read: Because of Winn Dixie; Rules; Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of Nimh

Back to School Tips on H1N1:

With Back to School starting on the flip of the calendar page and the Swine Flu (H1N1) still kicking around the country, medical professionals are gearing up for some major outbreaks and school closures this early fall, until vaccine production and distribution are up to speed.

According to NBC **Today Show** medical contributor Dr. Nancy Schneiderman and GDAY's community stakeholders, here are some good practices parents can teach their school aged children and college bound young adults to help reduce the risk of getting or spreading this season's flu.

1. Proper hand washing! Teach younger children to lather up first, THEN turn on the warmest water they can tolerate and scrub their hands, front and back and each finger while singing Happy Birthday at least 2 times. Using a paper towel (at home and school), turn off the faucet. With another clean paper towel, dry hands thoroughly and dispose of towels properly in the trash. Paper towels are recommended unless terry cloth hand towels are tossed into the laundry after each use during cold and flu season.
2. Invest in hand sanitizer and sanitizing wet wipes. Students may not always have the chance to wash hands (like after a bus ride) or when switching classes. Using hand sanitizer or wiping down the hard surfaces of desks, chairs and door handles when moving from class to class may limit exposure to the virus.
3. Contrary to our best manners and good nature, do not share during flu season. Many viruses, including H1N1 can linger on hard surfaces for quite a while. Sharing pens, pencils and crayons may spread the germs. When faced with “community” resources like scissors, glue sticks, playground equipment, children should wash their hands immediately after the activity.
4. Teach youngsters to use napkins and tissues when wiping hands, faces, noses and eyes, scratching itches and of course when coughing, or yawning. Always sneeze into a tissue or the crook of your elbow! The flu is most often transmitted from hand to mouth or eyes.
5. Shaking hands or hugging good friends is always a nice gesture but not during these early days of back to school flu season. Instead, friendly fist bumping, tapping elbows or just a terrific smile are safer ways to greet friends after a summer away from school.
6. Make sure youngsters have their own water bottles or disposable paper cups at home and school. Stainless steel water bottles are safe, easy to clean with hot soapy water, and aside from knowing the water source, you are helping the environment. Students should NEVER drink from the same water or sports bottles. If you must share a beverage, pour liquid from a previously unopened can or bottle into disposable cups, or containers that will be washed in hot soapy water. Sharing food is not recommended either.
7. Finally, have an accurate thermometer available for use. If your child feels warm, take his or her temperature and if there is a fever present (anything over 99*), consult your doctor and or school nurse. If you or your child is sick, stay home for at least 72 hours after the fever has broken or until cleared by your doctor.

Work is a reality for many of us, so perhaps neighbors can meet to talk about ways to support each other when dealing with sick children at home. Sending children sick with the flu or fever to school not only endangers your child, but the other children, parents, teachers and staff at the schools, as well as extending the flu season.

Reports indicate that H1N1 Flu vaccine should be making its way to doctors’ offices sometime in October. Check with your child’s pediatrician for advice about the vaccine and your child. If you are a public service or health care professional, please contact your doctor as well about getting vaccinated.

Armed with some common sense strategies, common courtesy and community outreach, together we can work to fight the flu and keep our homes and schools happy, healthy and safe during the back to school season.