



# GMS January Newsletter

January 13, 2012

## From the Principal

### MCAS Test Preparation

Welcome back! We hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable winter break. While spring may seem like a long way away, March will be here before we know it and March 20<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of our state MCAS tests in English and Language Arts for all GMS students.

**On Jan. 19 & 20 we will have MCAS practice for all students.**

Please help our students prepare for doing their best on these tests by

- Making sure your child gets plenty of sleep
- Making sure your child gets a breakfast
- Making sure your child is on time for school
- Being supportive of your child during these tests.

Thanks for your support! And please contact me if you have any questions at 413-772-1360 ext. 2242  
Principal Gary Tashjian

## 4/5 Family Math Night

### Math Games and Dinner

Families of GMS 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders are invited to a Family Math Night on Tuesday, January 31. At 3:45 pm, students and their families are invited to participate in a variety of games that develop students' math knowledge and skills. Stations for the games will be set up in the library and the cafeteria. At 5:00 pm, a macaroni and cheese dinner (courtesy of the Greenfield School District) will be served in the cafeteria. PTO members will be contributing side dishes and desserts.

Watch for the flyer coming home with your child on **January 13<sup>th</sup> to register by January 25<sup>th</sup>** for this fun and educational event! (If you don't receive a flyer and want to attend, please email rahwad1@gpsk12.org).

## Health Update

### Help your child stay warm and healthy

In these colder winter months, it is important that students come to school dressed for the weather (i.e. coat, hat, mittens, boots). Students will go out to recess if the temperature is 20 degrees or above. If your child is in need of a warm coat, please let us know. We have a collection of new and slightly used winter coats available to any student.

## ELT Assemblies

### Arts enrichment and entertainment

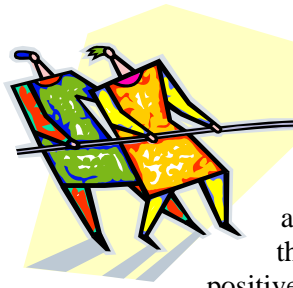
Using ELT assembly funds, we were able to bring the Tanglewood Marionettes to GMS to perform the Chinese folk tale, "The Dragon King". The play was amazing and showed the incredible skill and creativity of these nationally-renowned puppeteers. Our students were exceptional audience members!

On January 27, we will again have Jeff Davis visit our school. This accomplished musician will be presenting two performances on the traditional and historical music of Massachusetts.

## January and early February 2012 GMS Events Calendar

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			<b>Jan 12</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> Family Math Night flyer goes home	<b>Jan 13</b> Early Dismissal 11:15 am
<b>Jan 16</b> MLK Day No School			<b>Jan 19</b> 5/6 gr. MCAS practice	<b>Jan 20</b> School Dances 4/7 gr. MCAS practice
		<b>Jan 25</b> Math Night registration deadline	<b>Jan 26</b> PTO meeting 5:30 pm in the library	<b>Jan 27</b> Jeff Davis MA Music Assembly
	<b>Jan 31</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> /5 <sup>th</sup> gr. Family Math Night 3:45 pm to 5:30 pm	<b>Feb 1</b> Signs of Suicide for 7 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>Feb 2</b> Signs of Suicide for 6 <sup>th</sup> grade	

## Counselors' Corner



Happy New Year! Since September, GMS has introduced monthly character themes to use in general discussions, activities, meetings, and advisory periods throughout the school. The themes reflect positive character traits that are

important for students to practice and integrate into their interactions in daily life. Themes in the Fall of 2011 were politeness, responsibility, civility and self-control. The GMS character themes for the remainder of the 2011-12 school year are:

*January – Cooperation*

*February – Empathy*

*March – Honesty without Hurt*

*April – Assertiveness/Courage/Stopping Rumors*

*May – Humility*

*June – Commitment*

Please review these themes with your children and discuss how they can be integrated into their everyday life.

Kate Marion Lapierre and Nora Israeloff  
GMS Counselors

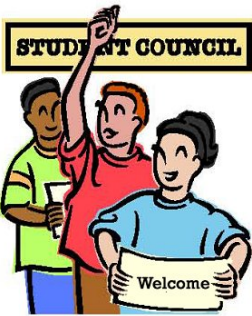


6th and 7th grade parents can log into PowerSchool to look up assignments, check status and help their child stay on task. PowerSchool login information was sent home. If you do not have this information, please call Bonnie at 772-1360 x2240. **If you do not have access to the Internet, call Ms. Israeloff to get an update about your child's progress (772-1360 x2214).**

## Spotlight on 4th Grade

The 4th grade at GMS has been learning about life cycles and food chains in Science. To accompany these lessons, 4th graders visited the Richard C. Cronin Fish Hatchery in Sunderland, MA where they observed salmon and even had the opportunity to fertilize the eggs!!

In addition, students participated in a cross-curricular unit about owls, using owl vocabulary, as well as reading and analyzing fiction, non-fiction and poetry. They also created various food chains of an owl and observed a real-life owl food chain through dissection of an owl pellet and identification of its contents.



## GMS Student Council Members

Congratulations to the 32 students who obtained parent/guardian permission and submitted essays about why they wanted to be on student council! The student council members are: Leah Bosco, Yanassis Guzman, Gabby Weeden, Sarah O'Sullivan, Jenna DiDonato, Enella Agapov, Aiyanna Drouin, Maddie

Soulia, Dina Samake, Hannah Maillox, Morgan Bowling, Jacob Perkins, Jake Cote, Cheryl Ven, Lexy Wapner, Marybeth Weeden, Mitch Wells, Kory Rankin, Amy O'Sullivan, Morgan Winn, Roman Varcarciuc, Brianna Bowring, Abby Champagne, Samantha Smith, Lexxie Rowell, Taren Durham, Raegan Hickey, Olivia Joy, Cecile Dakin-Gilchrest, Enna Lyvytska, Alyssa Garvin, and Kassie Renfrew.

Student council members meet twice a month (the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday) and work on projects in the school to promote leadership, service and community.

Our first event is a dance on January 20<sup>th</sup>. The schedule is 4<sup>th</sup> gr. 2:30 to 3:15 pm, 5<sup>th</sup> grade 3:30 to 4:15 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> grade 4:30 to 5:15 pm and 7<sup>th</sup> grade 5:30 to 6:15 pm.

Principal Gary Tashjian  
GMS Student Council Advisor



## Homework

The following are guidelines for homework by grade:

- 4<sup>th</sup> grade = Monday/Wednesday, read for 20 minutes and respond in journals; Tuesday/Thursday, math 30 minutes
- 5<sup>th</sup> grade = Mon-Thurs. 30 minutes w/additional spelling words
- 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> grade = Mon.-Thurs. daily reading of 20 min. + with 6<sup>th</sup> graders completing reading log and 7<sup>th</sup> graders completing reading activities. There is also weekly math and occasional projects in both science and social studies.

## Absence Reminder

Please call our office (772-1360) if your child is sick or absent **for any reason**. Remember, **a note explaining the absence needs to be sent when your child returns to school**. If your child was seen by a doctor, a note from the doctor's office is helpful.

