



Each year the PTO provides students with experiences above and beyond the classroom setting. Our K-8 students are afforded opportunities that the school district does not include in its budget. We thank you for your continued support in this endeavor.

Thanks to all who worked together to help celebrate No Name-Calling/Dissing Week. Special thanks to the district guidance programs and support services for their continued support and willingness to do fun things for our schools. Last week, students did morning announcements, read books focused on name-calling, took part in "Kindness is Contagious" activities, and had a special presentation by Greely High School students during lunch.

The administration and staff really appreciated the recess volunteers during the week on the MIW playground and the kids were thrilled to have so many moms and dads to play with! The purpose of the recess volunteers was not to direct the children's play but to include those "wanderers" who were not involved with any activity ☺

Artwork and poetry still fill the walls and students are still chatting about the yummy Peace Cakes, which were made and delivered to MIW and DRS by 37 volunteers.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or suggestions, don't hesitate to contact the PTO via email at our address below.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Nicholson Co-Chair glrnich@maine.rr.com 846-3032	Heather Giandrea Co-Chair hrg@maine.rr.com 829-8051
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Community Opportunity

Ten spots left! The Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program's *Gatekeeper Training* will be held Thursday, March 4th, 8:00 AM – 3:30 PM, at Cumberland Town Hall. Gatekeepers are the "safety net" for vulnerable youth and for students seeking help for their friends. They can be teachers, counselors, ministers, youth workers, parents, or anyone willing to attend a one day training offered by the Maine Youth Suicide Prevention Program. The training is free (lunch will be provided) to any member of the MSAD 51 community. To register for the program please visit www.mcdregistration.org Select "Current Registrations", Click on "Greely" and fill in the registration. Please contact Peter Scott @ GHS (829-4836 or peter.scott@msad51.org) with any questions.

21 reasons Table Talks: Parents Connecting for Alcohol-Free Youth ~ Host Information *Connect with other parents who care about underage drinking prevention *Learn new information about underage drinking and how to prevent it *Share challenges and ideas for preventing underage drinking *Get practical tips to use at home and share with other parents. FMI or to volunteer to host a discussion, please contact Suzanne DiBella-Olson, sdibella@mcd.org

Internet Safety: Pro-Active Prevention Strategies for "Computer-Challenged" Parents

Instructor: Michael Burd, Technology Integrator/Life Skills, Mt. Blue RSD/Franklin County Adult Education, Maine Computer Crimes Task Force

Even if you have never touched a computer in your life you will learn simple ways to become more involved in parenting your child's online experience. This presentation is designed to build confidence in developing an approach to managing this "foreign language" using the "good parenting" skills that you already have. Resource handouts will be available.

Tuesday March 23
GHS 7:00-9:00pm
Fee: \$10/\$15 per parent couple



Enrichment (en-rich-muhnnt) ~ the act of adding greater value or significance to. **Enrichment Chairs**

MIW Linda Collins, geolinda@maine.rr.com
DRS/NYMS Amy Saffian, saffian7@myfairpoint.net
GMS/GHS Patty Normandeau, murphpat@maine.rr.com

Over several days during the first week in February, Greely Middle School 6th graders were visited by award-winning poet and Maine resident, Paul Janeczko.

When he's not writing (over 40 books so far!) this self described "catcher, anthropologist and poet" travels the United States and Europe, sharing poems, jokes, and a love of writing with lucky students and educators. His work has been described by critics as "joyful, engaging", and "delightful". Our students learned about the different kinds of poetry, and enthusiastically crafted their own fun poems working in small classroom groups. One Greely 6th grader reported, "He is a really fun guy and I learned a lot!" GMS principal Kim Brandt observed the creative goings on and considered it a resounding success! Thanks to the PTO and all who made this great event possible!



EVENTS

Jen Segal, jendridge@yahoo.com

Please join us for a Family Night Out Monday, February 8th, at Greely Middle School, 6:30PM. We will be entertained by Magician Peter Boie.

Important Upcoming Dates:

- TV-Turnoff Week, 3/29 - 4/2
- Teacher Appreciation Week, 5/3-7
- Memorial Mile Fun Run, 5/31

Box Tops

Ann Eisenhart, aeisenha@maine.rr.com

At the Box Tops **Marketplace**, you can shop at over 70 online stores like **Oriental Trading Co., GAP** and **Lands' End**. A percentage of purchases goes back to your school - at no additional cost to you!

Reading Room - Earn cash for your school simply by buying the books you love. Box Tops and Barnes and Noble have teamed up to offer the newest way to earn cash for our schools. Six percent of the book sales is donated to our schools

The January Box Top Winners are...
Adam Giroux and Audrey Hankinson from MIW
Kelsey Currier and Molly Matthews from NYMS

We just submitted a total of \$915 in Boxtops! Thanks to everyone that participated!

The next Box Top drawing will be on Feb. 24

GMS PARENTS!!!! Don't forget that GREELY MIDDLE SCHOOL has a Box Top drop off for the kids. Put their names on the Box Tops or baggie and they will be entered into the monthly raffle.

OTHER DROP OFF SPOTS:

Prince Memorial Library, Cumberland Town Hall, and NY Town Hall

Ann could also use some volunteers in February to add up all the Box Tops from Oct, Nov and Dec.

Any questions please call, Ann Eisenhart, 829-5917

MEETINGS

Tuesday, February 9th @ 7pm
Mabel I. Wilson Library



How to Contact us:

- Check the PTO website at WWW.MSAD51PTO.COM
- Send a note to school an envelope marked PTO and it will be delivered to the PTO mailbox in the office.
- Email directly or call directly the event/activity chairperson.