



Dear Parents and Guardians,

March is a month for celebrations! Winter is winding down and hints of spring are apparent. During this month the Arts Alliance is sponsoring the 5th annual *Celebration of the Arts*. Classrooms in grades K-5 will participate in an Art and Literacy exercise in which a parent volunteer reads a book and compares/discusses two works of art pertaining to the book topic. The students then interpret the styles and methods to create an individual or collaborative piece of their own. This artwork will ultimately be displayed at GMS on Family Arts Night at the end of the month. Each year the PTO gives money to the Arts Alliance to promote further arts enrichment. This year our donation is being used to fund the Figures of Speech Theatre presentation of the Hans Christian Anderson story, *Nightingale* to the entire 4th and 5th grades. All students in K-3 will also take part in a hands-on learning opportunity or presentation involving music.

Celebrate your family! As the month draws to a close the PTO is once again challenging families to turnoff their TV for a week. The purpose of *TV-Turnoff Week* is about having more fun and turning "on" your life. Focus on creating, discovering, building, participating and doing. Simply switch off or unplug your TV set for five days and engage in a wide range of substitute activities. Perhaps even aim for one *screen free* day!

Lastly, thank you to all the participants in the recent Board of Directors second Budget Forum. It was encouraging to see not only parents, but teachers and town members present. Informed, involved, and engaged individuals will assure the continuity of a strong district.

Respectfully submitted,

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Community Opportunity

Celebrate science! MSAD51 parents, friends, and community members have the opportunity during the month of March and April to celebrate science!

On Thursday, March 11th, all freshmen at Greely High School will participate in this year's Science Fair. We will need judges from 7:15-11:00 a.m. and from 11:00-2:15 p.m. to make this event successful. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer and be a judge at this Fair.

If you are a parent/guardian of an 8th grader, this is a great opportunity to see what your student will be expected to do as freshmen. You can also be a judge if you are a parent/guardian of a current freshmen, just be sure to let us know your student's name so you don't judge their project. If you know of a community member that might not receive this email and would like to be a judge, feel free to contact them.

We sincerely appreciate the many community members that serve as judges. On the day of the fair, you will receive a judge's packet that will include a brief description of the student's project, scoring sheets, and further directions. Students will then present their research project for your review. If you are able to volunteer for one or both of the judging session on March 11th, please contact Peg Hughes at sundance@maine.rr.com or 781-0958.

EVENTS

Jen Segal, jendridge@yahoo.com

TV Turnoff Week: March 29-April 2

TV Turnoff Week is about having fun and focusing on creating, discovering, building, participating and doing! On our website we've included a variety of alternative activities as well as a neighborhood schedule of local events you may want to attend. There is a chart to download for younger children to complete, which tracks activities they did instead of watching TV (or downloading shows and movies!). Hopefully, individually or as a family you may take part in something new during this week! Please visit www.msadpto.com for activity ideas.

Important Upcoming Dates:

Teacher Appreciation Week, 5/3-7

Memorial Mile Fun Run, 5/31



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

In April, our celebration of science continues with a "Medical Round Robin" to be held the morning of Wednesday, April 7th at Greely Middle School.

GMS 6th graders will be studying the human body this spring and we are in need of doctors, nurses, dieticians, physical therapists, etc. to volunteer for a fun and interesting morning. If you have knowledge of the body and its systems to share, please contact Sue Pynchon (PTO 6th Grade Enrichment) at spynchon@maine.rr.com or 829-6840.

This extremely popular program has benefited many children in the past. They can see connections between this unit of study and exciting careers in the medical field. The more hands-on the better, props are welcome!

Details are unfolding, but it looks like there will be 3 sessions of about 40 minutes or so. You would stay in the same room and students rotate in. The day would begin around 8 a.m. and end by 10:30-11:00 a.m. We will provide a snack for volunteers, hey, because the human body needs fuel, right?

We are looking to fill 9 spots and currently have 3.

Volunteer Applications and Handbooks are available at each school office, Central Office and on www.msad51.org under Ways to Give. Completed applications must be returned to any of our schools or the Central Office prior to beginning volunteer duties. Volunteer approvals are valid for five years; it is not necessary to complete a new form each year.

We look forward to working closely with you. Wonderful students, teachers, community members and parents make our schools a special place to learn and grow.

Box Tops

Ann Eisenhart, aeisenha@maine.rr.com

Congratulations to the February Box Top Winners!!

MIW Ben Hall and Sydney Abbott

DRS Sydney Pettengill

NYMS Abe Dwyer

Keep up the good collecting!!!



Greely High School Student Council hosts blood drive March 16, 2010 - 7:30 am to 1:30 PM

Celebrate life! Peter Bailinson, a member of the Greely High School Student Council, and one of two student representatives on the MSAD51 School Board, encourages all to come out to support the American Red Cross and their efforts at home as well as with our neighbors in Haiti as the Student Council at Greely High School offers a blood drive on Tuesday, March 16th in the Greely High School Gym. The blood drive takes place from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm, and the requirements for donors can be found at <http://www.redcrossblood.org/donating-blood/eligibility-requirements>. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are preferable. Many slots are open, every 15 minutes, from the start to the end of the blood drive and appointments as well as any questions about the blood drive can be made at greelyblooddrive@yahoo.com.

MEETINGS

Tuesday, March 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.