

GATES GAZETTE



Volume 24, Issue 3

November 2011

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Monthly Happenings

11/9 at 7:30pm : PTO meeting at Gates Library

11/11—Veteran's Day

11/15—Elementary early release

11/23—Early Release

11/24 & 25—Thanksgiving Recess

To submit items to the *Gates Gazette*, please contact Salomé Juethner at gates.gazette@yahoo.com

NEWMAN'S NOTES

The Gates School Council held its first meeting on Wednesday, October 19th. I would like to thank Palma Cicchetti, John Manning, and Gina Moran, our parent representatives, for their participation in our School Council. Tricia Sullivan is our safety officer and community member and Dr. Priscilla Kotyk and Ursula Konde are the school representatives. The Gates School Council will be meeting from 8:00 – 9:00 on the following Wednesdays: Nov 16, Dec 21, Jan 18, Feb 15, Mar 21, Apr 25, and May 16. The committee helps to write the School Improvement Plan with goals that impact the school. This year our goals are reading comprehension and social responsibility. The School Council also serves on the Health Advisory Committee, which is responsible for overseeing the Wellness policy. All meetings are open to the public and everyone is wel-

come to attend.

Each month we take time to celebrate as a school. Our school year began with a pep rally that included cheers, dancing, and singing. In October we participated in an all-school book buddy / pajama day. Our goal is to incorporate our core values (generosity, acceptance, trust & respect, enthusiasm, and scholarship), which enhances our school community. On Tuesday, November 1st the Gates and Conant staffs will be participating in a full day of professional development. This year our focus is formative assessment. The purpose of formative assessment is to inform instruction by using formal and informal assessments and making the necessary instructional adjustments to improve student achievement. Formative assessment is a process, not necessarily a test and the goal is to enhance student learning. We are excited to share our teaching strategies/



assessments with our Conant colleagues. October & November are both busy months with parent/teacher conferences. Although many teachers have offered to meet before and afterschool, October 26th and November 15th are early dismissal days that have been set aside for conferences. Having a strong parent teacher relationship is important in the educational development of each child. We look forward to working with you!

Lynne Newman

Principal





Janice Martineau
(left)
PTO Senior Co-Chair
Maureen Flynn

FROM THE CHAIRS

Fall has been a busy time at Gates! Nature Walks, Family Photo Day, Scholastic Book Fair, Fall Family Social, and the Halloween Parade; along with our Square 1 Art and Meadow Farms fundraisers.

This year's Fall Family Social was a great success and a lot of fun! Students and families had a great time at the first ever Gates Olympiad, competing in a variety of fun events. Thank you to Ken Silva for planning and organizing this event and to all the great volunteers. This night could not have happened without you!

The Scholastic Book Fair was also a great success this year. Thank you to all the many, many volunteers who helped make this event possible. Please see the Book Fair article on Page 6 for more information.

At our last PTO meeting, there was much discussion around the auction for this year. This information was shared with the Gates community via email, along with a request for Auction Co-Chairs. **Unfortunately, as we currently do not have a chairperson to run an auction event, we will not be having an auction this year.** On **November 3rd we will have a PTO Direct Appeal Campaign kick-off meeting**, where the PTO Board will present their plans and ideas. The goal of this campaign will be 100% family participation to raise \$38,000. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting to learn more as well as to offer comments and feedback.

The next general PTO meeting will be held on Wednes-

day, November 9th at 7:30 in the Gates Library. Updates will be shared and the discussion topic will be MCAS. Mike Cappolino, School Committee Chairperson will attend to give updates from the School Committee. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

Janice Martineau
PTO Senior Co-Chair

Maureen Flynn
PTO Junior Co-Chair

Numbers to Know

\$57,000 Amount of money the PTO needs to raise this year to continue to maintain current levels of teacher assistant hours and programs.

485 Number of students at Gates School.

\$118 The amount of money that the PTO currently spends *per student*.

\$35,900 The amount of money raised at last year's auction

80% Percentage of PTO funds spent on staffing (Classroom Assistants, Library Staff, and Computer Lab)

YOUR PTO BOARD



Left to Right: **Philip Tsang** (Assistant Treasurer), **Raji Srinivasan** (Recording Secretary), **Dan Zou** (Treasurer), **Maureen Flynn** (Junior Co-Chair), **Janice Martineau** (Senior Co-Chair), **Michelle Baytarian** (Corresponding Secretary)



About Us ▼ Get Involved ▼ Gates PTO Store Auction ▼ Forms Contact Us Gazette

It's been a Year in the Making.....and it's Finally Here!

The Newly Designed and Updated Gates PTO Website!

www.gatesschoolpto.org

All the Information you Need in One Place:

- Timely Announcements
- Calendar of PTO and School Events
- Ways to Get Involved Through Participation and Volunteering
- Information on Programs and Fundraisers
- Forms: Pick Up Notes, Bus Passes, Apparel Orders, Scrip Orders, Donation/Expenditure Forms
- Mission Statement and Goals of the Gates PTO
- PTO Board and Committee Chairs Listings and Contact Information
- PTO Meeting Minutes as well as Past Gazette Newsletters
- Links to Lunch Menus, Bus Routes, and Important District Sites

STUDENT COUNCIL TOWEL DRIVE

The Gates Student Council will be sponsoring the Annual Towel Drive for HGRM on Thursday, November 17th in the lobby of the school from 8:45-9:15.

Please donate your new or gently used towels for this great cause. The Student Council will be in the lobby to take your donations.

If you have questions, please contact: Sarah O'Neill at smboneill@comcast.net

NEWS FROM GATES HEALTH OFFICE

Diane Spring RN and Victoria Reiersen, RN



As we head into November, we have seen some usual and some not-so-usual trends with illness. The usual colds, isolated strep throats, and “tummy bugs” are back but in expected numbers and not widespread. We are seeing more cases of pneumonia in children, some cases isolated and a small cluster in one classroom. Children are healing well. It is unclear if this illness is following flu-like symptoms or if it is a primary illness. We have spoken with medical authorities who said that following basic illness hygiene practices is the best way to help decrease the spread of this and other illnesses. These practices are listed here in brief as a reminder:

Reducing risk: Get a flu shot every year. Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer frequently. Cover your mouth with a tissue or your arm when you cough or sneeze. Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Avoid close contact with others who are sick.

For more information about the Flu, Please go to www.mass.gov/dph/flu

Please be sure to call the health office directly if your child is diagnosed with and/or if you suspect a significant medical condition, especially a communicable one, so that we can track incidence and offer support as needed. Be as specific as you can on “Safe Arrival” messages; That information is relayed to us.

Mandated health screenings are ongoing in the areas of vision, hearing, growth measurements per the schedule set for us by the Department of Public Health. You will receive a letter notifying you of any concerns we find.

- **1st and 4th** grade students are the only elementary grade levels screened for height and weight measurements and all these parents are given a letter of results(most at parent teacher conferences), whether or not results are in the “normal” range. If you have not received such a letter, please contact us.
- **5th** grade parents are encouraged to either borrow the DVDs at the Acton Public Library titled: “Just Around the Corner” or to be part of the PTO-sponsored , group viewing of these videos on March 20th at our school. The 5th grade students will be seeing these videos during a lesson on April 3rd.

Thanks to all the generous families for the donations of ginger ale, snacks and soft tissues for the health office. We are set for now. Your kindness has already eased many a child’s ills... **Thanks also** to the parents who have volunteered thus far to assist with tasks in the health office.

Stay warm and safe as we deal with this unseasonable weather taking us out of October!

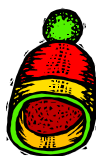
WINTER CLOTHING DRIVE!

Mrs. Newman



It is that time of year when parents replace winter coats, snow pants, boots, mittens, and hats. It is amazing how quickly our children grow! Please consider donating your gently worn winter gear to Gates. We want to ensure that all children can go out in the winter months, stay warm, and have fun in the snow! Please bring your items to the office and we will be happy to share them as needed.

Many thanks!



FOOD SERVICES NEWS

Lunch Prices: Acton Public \$2.35 (\$.10 increase)

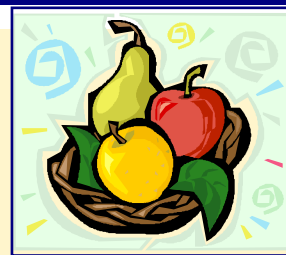
A la Carte Milk: \$.50 (remains the same price)

Acton-Boxborough: \$2.10-\$3.00 (Tiered pricing based on menu offerings)

We are pleased to offer Gluten Free Lunches at all schools. Please see menu for details. We do require advance notice for these lunches. These offerings will become available mid September.

Here is the link to our menus: Please note the daily alternates were not listed on your menu. The alternates are available...please click on the link for the menus below to see what is additionally offered each day in the cafeterias. <http://ab.mec.edu/departments/food/foodmenus.shtml>

Your family may qualify for free or reduced price lunch. The following link will bring you to the free and reduced lunch application: <http://ab.mec.edu/departments/food/foodmenus.shtml>



Thank You to all the volunteers who helped with the Fruit and Vegetable Tastings.

Students sampled many healthy things including Summer Squash, Zucchini & Jicama.

Healthy Pumpkin Bread Recipe

From Good Housekeeping

Total Time: 1 hr 10 min

Prep Time: 20 min

Oven Temp: 350 degrees

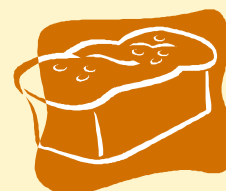
Ingredients:

1 cup(s) (packed) light brown sugar	3/4 cup(s) whole wheat flour
2 large egg whites	1 1/2 teaspoon(s) baking powder
1 cup(s) pure pumpkin (not pumpkin pie mix)	1 teaspoon(s) ground cinnamon
1/4 cup(s) canola oil	1/2 teaspoon(s) ground nutmeg
1/3 cup(s) low-fat plain yogurt	1/2 teaspoon(s) baking soda
1 teaspoon(s) vanilla extract	1/2 teaspoon(s) salt
1 cup(s) all-purpose flour	

Treat family and friends to this slimmed-down quick bread. Gone are the traditional version's 3 grams of saturated fat and all the cholesterol (thanks to egg whites and a blend of low-fat yogurt and canola oil).

Directions

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray 8 1/2" by 4 1/2" metal loaf pan with nonstick cooking spray with flour.
2. In large bowl, with wire whisk, combine brown sugar and egg whites. Add pumpkin, oil, yogurt, and vanilla extract; stir to combine.
3. In medium bowl, combine all-purpose flour, whole wheat flour, baking powder, cinnamon, nutmeg, baking soda, and salt. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture; stir until just combined. Do not overmix.
4. Pour batter into prepared pan. Bake 45 to 50 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center of loaf comes out clean.
5. Cool in pan 10 minutes. Invert pumpkin bread onto wire rack; cool completely.



GRADE 1 UPDATE

The first graders are kicking off the school year with some exciting new additions! First and foremost is the addition of Smartboards in each classroom. We are so excited to integrate technology into our daily routine and have found that it has enriched our reading, writing and math lessons beyond our expectations.



Speaking of math, the first graders are utilizing a new math program (Investigations) this year and are LOVING it! The program incorporates hands on activities, mathematical games and “partner talk” (sharing ideas about problem solving and mathematical reasoning) to help our young mathematicians grow.

Finally, we are excited to begin a new reading adventure with “Good Habits, Great Readers”. This program not only teaches young readers the foundations for becoming fluent oral readers, it also focuses on comprehension and reflection skills that we strive for all readers to develop.

There is so much to be excited about in first grade- we’re looking forward to a fantastic year!

Mrs. Holt, Mrs. MacLean and Mrs Taylor

GRADE 3 UPDATE

Third grade is a time of transitions. From manuscript to cursive, homework packets to agenda books we are learning new curriculum and new responsibilities.

We’ll have our first introduction to Pilgrim life with a visit from a modern day Wampanoag from Plimoth Plantation. We’ll learn of their interactions with the Pilgrims, hardships, and lifestyles during the 1620s.

Our Pilgrim unit will culminate in class with a reenactment of the Pilgrims’ journey to the new world. This living history is always a favorite with our students.

We look forward to an exciting and eventful year bringing our third grade curriculum to life for your children.

Mrs. May, Mrs. Kokkinos, and Mrs. Olson



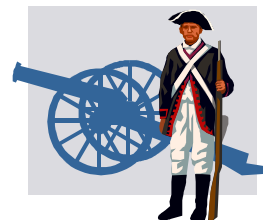
GRADE 5 UPDATE

Fifth graders had an exciting time on their first field trip to Concord Museum at the end of October. This experience helped them learn more about local history during the Revolutionary War, which will be their future social studies topic.

Students will soon be switching teachers and units for science. This year they will be studying Simple Machines, the Ecosystem and the Transport Systems.

In reading, fifth graders enjoy participating in guided reading groups to develop their skills. In math, students are demonstrating their number sense knowledge through the place value, multiplication and division units.

Mr. Grob, Mrs. Acheson, and Mrs. Stoffel



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

This year's Scholastic Book Fair was a great success!



Gates families came out in big numbers to support the school, and the PTO raised over \$3,000! Gates families purchased 151 "Wish List" books for a value of \$1096 for classroom and specialist's libraries.

In addition, students raised an amazing \$1,076 themselves through "Change for Kids" – putting even more books into the Gates classrooms and library, and will be matched by a Scholastic donation to children in need. All the students should be very proud of themselves! **The two classrooms that raised the most money were Ms. Subsick's and Mrs. Konde's classrooms.**

A great big thank you goes out to the many parent volunteers who helped throughout the week! We could not have done this without you.

A special thank you to **Rebecca Rosen, Michele Kenerson & Deb Henderlong** who worked each day and helped us run this event!

As always, **Gates librarian Judy O'Brien** was a wealth of knowledge and helped out in so many ways. We are lucky to be part of such a wonderful, generous school community!

Janice Martineau & Kirstin Lynch

Barbie Drive for Home Goods Recycling Program

Girl Scout Troop 72020 is collecting gently used Barbies and extra Barbie clothing to be donated to the Home Goods Recycling Program (HGRM) in Acton before the holidays.

HGRM distributes household goods to people that need help during difficult times. Our troop will be cleaning, dressing and packaging the Barbies to be placed around the HGRM Center making these gifts available to the individuals and families that use their services.

There is a collection box in the lobby for gently used Barbies and extra clothes to be dropped off by November 17th. Thank you for your support!

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Flynn: maureen4flynn@verizon.net



Do you or your family purchase gifts for clients or employees for the holidays? Consider giving gift cards you order through our Scrip program!

Would you like to help our school earn money while taking care of your holiday shopping, giving gifts or running errands around town? Did you know that we have a gift card fundraiser called SCRIP?

Scrip means "substitute money" – it is gift certificates from national and local retailers. They are the same gift certificates that you buy in the store. Many popular retailers participate in our scrip program including The Gap, Home Depot, Best Buy, Stop & Shop, Roche Brothers, Shell, Staples, CVS., Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Learning Express, Barnes and Noble and many, many more.

These companies help us raise money by selling gift certificates to our organization at a discount. Gates families like yours buy the certificates for full face value, and our school keeps the difference as revenue. With Scrip, everyone wins...

- The retailer gets cash up front and repeat business...
- You get a fundraising alternative that involves *buying items that you would use anyway...*
- Our school gets a regular source of revenue.

Just spend your regular shopping dollars with scrip participating stores. For special occasions, ordering scrip cards makes gift-giving easy and benefits the PTO at the same time.

The scrip order form is located on the new PTO website. If you do not find a retailer you frequent on the form, go to the website at www.shopwithscrip.com and click on the Shop tab at the top. You will find a list of all participating retailers. If you find one you are looking for, just enter the name and amount of the scrip card you wish to purchase in the space provided at the end of the form and we will order it for you.

Orders will be due no later than Wednesday, December 7th in order to have the cards back in time for the holidays.

The Scrip program is a simple and effective way to raise funds for Gates. If you have any questions, please contact me. Thank you for your support.

Cindy Richardson, Scrip Coordinator
cindy_richardson@hotmail.com or 978-263-7636

During the holidays, do you typically give a gift card to your teacher(s), bus driver, letter carrier or hair dresser? Think about ordering it through scrips!



SCRIP ORDER FORM (Pages 9-11)

Name		
Phone		
Email		
	Yes	Child
Backpack Delivery	No	Teacher

Please make checks payable to: Gates School PTO. You will be notified by email when your order arrives. Learn more about the program at shopwithscrip.com and see a complete list of all participating vendors. Questions? Contact Cindy Richardson at cindy_richardson@hotmail.com.

Important Information: All orders must be paid by check or money order when submitted. Scrips sales are non-returnable. The PTO cannot be held responsible for losses involved in backpack transit. You are responsible for verifying your order's accuracy. If there is a discrepancy, the PTO coordinator should be notified within 7 days. Scrips are not tax deductible.

Apparel		
Product	Qty	Total
Aeropostale \$25		\$
American Eagle Outfitters \$25		\$
Banana Republic \$25		\$
Children's Place \$25		\$
Eddie Bauer \$25		\$
Express \$25		\$
Gap \$25		\$
Gymboree \$25		\$
J. Crew \$25		\$
J. Jill \$25		\$
Lands End \$25		\$
Lands End \$100		\$
Lane Bryant \$25		\$
Limited \$25		\$
LL Bean \$25		\$
Old Navy \$25		\$
Payless Shoes \$20		\$
Talbots \$25		\$

Specialty Retailer		
Product	Qty	Total
Amazon.com \$25		\$
Amazon.com \$100		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10		\$
Barnes & Noble \$20		\$
Barnes & Noble \$25		\$
Bath & Body Works \$10		\$
Bath & Body Works \$25		\$
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		\$
Build A Bear \$25		\$
Claire's/Icing \$10		\$
Crate & Barrel \$25		\$
Disney Gift Card \$25		\$
Harry and David \$25		\$
Halmark \$25		\$
Learning Express \$15		\$
Learning Express \$25		\$
Learning Express \$50		\$
Jo-Ann Fabrics \$20		\$

Michael's \$25		\$
Office Depot \$25		\$
Office Max \$25		\$
Overstocks.com \$25		\$
Pottery Barn \$25		\$
PB Teen \$25		\$
Sephora \$20		\$
Staples \$25		\$
Staples \$100		\$
Target \$25		\$
Toys R Us \$20		\$
Williams Sonoma \$25		\$
Williams Sonoma \$100		\$
Sporting Goods		
Product	Qty	Total
Cabela's \$25		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		\$
REI \$25		\$
Sports Authority \$25		\$

Page 1 Subtotal \$

Department Store		
Product	Qty	Total
Bloomingdales \$25		\$
JC Penney \$25		\$
Kmart \$25		\$
Kmart \$50		\$
Kohl's \$25		\$
Kohl's \$100		\$
Lord & Taylor \$25		\$
Macy's \$25		\$
Macy's \$100		\$
Sears \$25		\$
Sears \$100		\$
Sears \$250		\$
TJ Maxx / Marshalls/ HomeGoods \$25		\$
TJ Maxx / Marshalls/ HomeGoods \$100		\$
Walmart \$25		\$
Walmart \$100		\$
Walmart \$250		\$
Electronics		
Product	Qty	Total
Best Buy \$25		\$
Best Buy \$100		\$
Game Stop \$25		\$
iTunes \$15		\$
iTunes \$25		\$
Radio Shack \$25		\$
Shutterfly \$25		\$

Restaurant		
Product	Qty	Total
99 Restaurant \$25		\$
Applebee's \$25		\$
Boston Market \$10		\$
Burger King \$10		\$
Bertucci's \$25		\$
Carrabba's \$25		\$
Cheesecake Factory \$25		\$
Chili's \$25		\$
Chipotle \$10		\$
Chuck E Cheese \$10		\$
Cold Stone Creamery \$10		\$
D'Angelos / Papa Gino's \$10		\$
Dominos \$10		\$
Dunkin Donuts \$10		\$
KFC \$5		\$
Legal's Seafood \$25		\$
Longhorn's \$25		\$
Macaroni Grill \$25		\$
On The Border \$25		\$
Outback \$25		\$
Panera Bread \$10		\$
Panera Bread \$25		\$
PF Changs \$25		\$
Restaurant.com \$20		\$
Red Lobster/Olive Garden \$25		\$
Starbucks \$10		\$
Starbucks \$25		\$

Subway \$10		\$
TGI Fridays \$25		\$
Wendy's \$10		\$
Home Improvement		
Product	Qty	Total
Ace Hardware \$25		\$
Ace Hardware \$100		\$
Home Depot \$25		\$
Home Depot \$100		\$
Lowe's \$25		\$
Lowe's \$100		\$

Page 2 Subtotal \$

Upcoming Events

Curious about Gates PTO Meetings?

- ◆ A great opportunity to find out more about programs at Gates!
- ◆ Meet and connect with other Gates Parents!
- ◆ Discuss current and future events & activities and share your ideas!
- ◆ Get your questions answered!

There are lots of ways to get involved with activities and events at Gates. If you are interested in learning more about the Parent Teacher Organization or just want to connect with other families, everyone is welcome. Drop in for one meeting or attend regularly throughout the year... we'd love to see you!

Janice Martineau
Maureen Flynn

November:

9th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

December:

2nd

School Movie Night 6:30pm, Gates Cafeteria

7th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

January:

10th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

February:

8th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

TBD

Night at American Girl store

March:

20th

Joint PTO Meeting & Speaker Series with Douglas

7:00pm, Gates

April:

24th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

May:

4th

Spring Family Social 7:00pm

14th –18th Staff Appreciation Week

23rd

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

June:

8th

Activity Day (rain date, June 12th)

TBD

Spinners Game

Questions? Contact your PTO Co-Chairs –

Janice Martineau: jjmartineau@verizon.net

Maureen Flynn: gatescochair@yahoo.com

Gates Email Distribution List

Are you receiving Gates email notices?

The Gates email distribution list is used by Principal Newman and the PTO to update the Gates community about upcoming events, meetings, and other school related information. All PTO flyers and sign-up sheets – even the *Gazette* – go out via the Gates email list.

The Gates email list is moderated - only messages sent by the Principal or approved by the PTO chairpersons can be posted to the list. Only the List Administrators can add or remove members from the list. This is done for privacy and security reasons. This information is used solely for Gates School purposes and will not be shared with other organizations. Families may unsubscribe at any time.

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the list, use the "Sign up for Email" section of the Gates PTO website

(www.gatesschoolpto.org).

To update/change your email address, you need to unsubscribe the old email address and subscribe the new email address.

If you completed the School/PTO Permissions portion of the on-line emergency form, your email address has already been added to the Gates email distribution list. In this case, there is no need to re-submit your email address via the Gates PTO website.

Please contact one of the List Administrators with any questions: Lisa Benati at (978) 264-9145 or mhenati@yahoo.com, or Kirstin Lynch at 978-263-0186 or kirslynch@comcast.net