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Monthly Happenings

September 10 – Welcome Back Picnic, 4PM, Gates playground and fields

September 12 – Back to School Packets are due back to school

September 13 – PTO meeting, 7:30 PM, Gates library

September 17 – Redeemable Can/Bottle Drive, 8AM-1PM, Gates/Transfer Station

September 19 – Meadow Farms Wrapping Paper Fundraiser begins

September 20 – Grades K, 3, 4 Open House / Back to School Night & PTO Showcase, *times vary by grade*

September 21 – Grades 1, 2, 5, 6 Open House / Back to School Night & PTO Showcase, *times vary by grade*

September 23 – Square 1 Art work due

September 30 – Meadowfarms Wrapping Paper Fundraiser Orders due

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

GATES GAZETTE



Volume 24, Issue 1

September 2011

NEWMAN'S NOTES

Welcome Back! With the uncertainty of Hurricane Irene, the Gates School was still able to open as scheduled on August 30th. Students were excited to meet teachers, visit with old friends, and begin new friendships.

On Thursday we celebrated our new school year with our annual all pep rally. It is exciting to begin our new school year! As I meet with each grade level, I am taking the opportunity to remind students to work hard and to treat each other with trust, respect and kindness. Students are expected to follow all school rules and here are a few rules that we spent extra time discussing:

Cell phones – Please keep cell phones home. If cell phones are brought to school they must be turned off and kept in backpacks. Cell phones that are taken out of backpacks or ring in class are a distraction and will be taken away. I will contact parents to have the phone picked up at the office. Students are welcome to use the school phone and parents can leave messages in the office, which will be delivered to students.

Electronic devices – Devices such as an iPod, Gameboy, and Nintendo DS do not belong in school. They are expensive and there is a risk that they might be lost, broken, or stolen at school and/or on the bus. Please keep them home.

Dress code – There is no formal dress code, but in the warmer weather beach attire is not appropriate for school. Specifically for our intermediate grades 4-6, we are following the same guidelines as the Junior High. Shorts and T-shirts are acceptable, however clothing which exposes midriffs as well as visible lingerie, spaghetti straps, strapless shirts, halter tops, very low cut shirts and boxer shorts should not be worn to school. Straps should be at least an inch thick. Skirts and shorts should also be an appropriate length. Students should be able to place their arms to their sides and the skirt or shorts should reach halfway down their middle finger. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.

These rules are in place to minimize distractions at school and help to provide a safe, respectful



learning environment. Your support is greatly appreciated! Just a reminder that parent pick-up has moved from the library to the cafeteria. It is important for parents to enter the school on the left side of the building. The 2nd door (#23) is next to our garden and will be unlocked at 3:20. So far, so good! It is always exciting to begin a new school year. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact us at the Gates School at 978-266-2570. Here's to a great school year!

Lynne Newman

Principal





Janice Martineau
PTO Senior 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)

FROM THE CHAIR

I would like to welcome you and your children to a new year at Gates Elementary School! I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to start a new academic year. For those of you who don't know me, I have 4 children at Gates. My son Ethan is in Mrs. Walsh's 4th grade class; my son Andrew is in Mrs. Cranina's 2nd grade class; my son Matthew is in Mrs. Taylor's 1st grade class, and my son Colin is in Mrs. Holt's 1st grade class.

Last week, the PTO sent home a **Back-to-School Packet**. The packet is a resource containing important information and forms that need to be completed and returned to school as soon as possible (and please no later than Monday, September 12th.)

All PTO announcements, school related information, and the monthly *Gates Gazette* newsletters go out via the *Gates email list*. Please see information on the email list on page 7. **If you do not have access to email, please fill out the paper subscription form located on page 9.**

There will be a **Welcome Back Picnic for the Gates community on Saturday, September 10th at 4:00pm**. Dinner will be available for purchase from Savory Lane or you can bring your own. We will supply popsicles for dessert. Come join us for this low-

key picnic on the Gates playground and fields to socialize with old friends and make some ones!

We invite you to join us at our **first General PTO Meeting on Tuesday, September 13th in the Gates library at 7:30pm**. This is a great opportunity to learn about our programs, meet other Gates parents, get involved with the school, and get updates from our principal Lynne Newman.

The Gates Back-To-School Night (aka Open House) will be held over two nights, Tuesday September 20th and Wednesday, September 21st. You will receive more information about this soon. During this evening, please visit the PTO Showcase in the lobby for refreshments and an opportunity to learn more about the numerous and varied volunteer opportunities mentioned in the Back to School packet.

The success of our school's fundraisers and events is based entirely upon parent involvement. Each of you has unique abilities and time

"The success of our school's fundraisers and events is based entirely upon parent involvement."

to offer. My Co-Chair, Maureen Flynn, and I welcome the opportunity to match your skills and interests with the school's needs. We are always looking for fresh ideas!

The Annual Gates Auction and Social is scheduled for Saturday, March 31st 2012. This event is the biggest fundraiser and social event of the year! We are currently looking for two creative and energetic Co-Chairs to head up this event. Past chairs and auction veterans are willing and able to provide guidance and support. If you are interested in learning more, please contact me at: jjmartineau@verizon.net

Janice Martineau
PTO Senior Co-Chair
jjmartineau@verizon.net



NEWS FROM GATES HEALTH OFFICE

Diane Spring RN and Victoria Reiersen, RN

We are wishing you all a warm welcome back to school. It is always a pleasure to see how our returning children have grown as well as to welcome our new students. A few reminders to get you in “sync” with your school’s health office...Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the new “Health and Nursing” website. It can be accessed from the school district home page by clicking on the “health and nursing” heading under “popular pages”. If it isn’t already accessible via a link on our Gates school web site, it will be shortly.



We have received quite a few questions about our policy and procedures on life threatening allergies, medication administration, dealing with head lice etc. and these and more are all listed on this website in full detail. At the website, you can print out medication forms you might need, saving you a trip to the nurse’s office; and you are also able to view immunization and physical exam requirements for attendance, among other valuable resources.

For children in need of “as –needed” medications: please bring in new medication orders/medications for inhalers, epi-pens, etc. The orders from the prior year are no longer binding for this school year. If you left your child’s meds here at the end of the school year, they have been likely disposed of by school policy.

Be on the look out for head lice as children gather in close proximity, not uncommonly bringing lice with them from summer camps and other social activities. Please let us know if you suspect your child has them so that we can support you with resources and track cases.

Lastly, we are asking the K through 3rd grade parents for donations of the following specific foods so as to calm sick “tummies” or to be able to provide a snack for those forgotten: ½ sized cans of ginger-ale, 100% juice boxes, oyster-sized or bite-sized square saltine type crackers, individually wrapped granola bars, cheese cracker snack packs. Please do not send in any obvious peanut or nut products. We will call upon the parents of our older students later in the year.

Thank you for your anticipated continued generosity!

BAND AND CHORUS NEWS

Mrs. Ward



First Year Band Students

Mr. Hickey will be coming to Gates School on Wednesday, September 7 from 10:30 to 11:00 to do a demonstration of the band instrument choices. He will send home information with you about signing up for the program. Instrument choices are: trumpet, trombone, percussion, saxophone, flute and clarinet. Lessons begin the week of **September 19**. For more details visit the Elementary Band Website.

<https://sites.google.com/a/abschools.org/aps-elementaryband/>

Second Year Band Students

You can sign up anytime through the A-B Community Education Program. Registration forms are available through the Elementary Band Website. Lessons will begin the week of **September 12**.

<https://sites.google.com/a/abschools.org/aps-elementaryband/>

Gates School Chorus

Gates School Chorus is open to students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. Rehearsals will be on **Friday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00a.m.** Please note, the change in day for this school year. A registration form will be coming home with your student on Wednesday, September 7. If your child would like to join the Gates School Chorus, send the form back to me by Friday, September 9. Our first rehearsal will be Friday, September 16. Our fall events will include a Community Service concert at Lifecare of Acton in November and an evening concert for parents in December.



The Daily Offerings information was omitted from the September Menus. These options are available and are:

- B: Sandwich of the week
- C: Grilled Cheese
- D: Chicken Caesar Salad
- E: Pizza (MTW)
- F: Bagel with Cream Cheese or Sunbutter and Yogurt

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 have exciting things happening this year in the Food Service Department!

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>

We will once again be offering local farm fresh apples from Carlson Orchards this Fall.

Elementary students can join us for the Mass Harvest to Schools week. The week of September 19th -23rd will be full of fun! We are pleased to offer farm fresh corn on the cob that students will once again be able to help husk. In addition to what is on our menu we will offer a fruit and vegetable tasting for all students. The fruit and vegetable tasting will give students a chance to sample food items they may not have tried before. If you are interested in volunteering during the week of September 19th-23rd please contact Pat Barry in the Food Service office. We are looking for parent volunteers that have been CORI'd and can help serve the fruit and vegetable samples in the cafeteria. When e-mailing Pat please specify what your availability is during the week and what school you can help out at. Pat's e-mail address is: pbarry@mail.ab.mec.edu. The fruit and vegetable sampling is Funded through the Northwest Suburban Health Alliance/CHNA 15 DoN Funds from Lahey Clinic.

We are in the process of implementing a point of sale system that will become in effect on the 7th of October. If you have not already taken a moment to read the details of this please visit our website: <http://ab.mec.edu/departments/food/pdf/2011-2012fall-food-service-news.pdf>

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>

We look forward to a year of many new and exciting offerings within our Department. It is our pleasure to serve your children.

Kirsten Nelson
Food Service Director



BOXTOPS FOR EDUCATION

Please send in any Boxtops you've been saving over the summer. It's a terrific program, and easy to participate. **Each Boxtop is worth 10 cents for our school. Simply clip Boxtops from hundreds of your favorite products and send them to school with your child.** You may also drop them in the collection box in the lobby, next to the office.

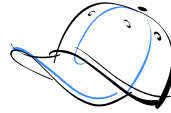
Some products included in this promotion are: *Betty Crocker mixes, Nestle Juicy Juices, General Mills Cereals, Green Giant Frozen Vegetables, Pillsbury cookies, breads, and rolls, Land O Lakes butter, Welch's jellies, Avery labels and school supplies, Ziploc bags, Cottonelle, Hanes products, and more.* For the **complete list of participating products**, go to www.boxtops4education.com.

Please ask grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to clip them for you too – get everyone involved and **EARN CASH FOR GATES SCHOOL.** Last year, during the 2010-2011 school year, we earned \$560.00. Gates School has earned a total of \$8,047 since we started submitting Boxtops in 2002. Remember, we receive 10 cents for every Boxtop we submit to General Mills. **The deadline for fall submission is October 24, 2011.**

Also, go to www.boxtops4education.com to see opportunities to earn electronic Boxtops (called eBoxtops), with online purchases from many popular stores.

Please contact Susan Bartow at 978-264-2014 or sbkajbartow@comcast.net if you have any questions

GATES APPAREL



Show your school spirit with Gates Apparel !
Available at the Back to School Picnic: September 10th and
Back-to-School Nights: September 20th and 21st.

- * NEW navy Gates baseball hats
- * Navy Gates shirts for all
- * Pink t-shirts for the girls
- * White t-shirts for women
- * Sweatshirts in navy and pink
- * Pajama pants, prints for both boys and girls
- * Fleece jackets to order

Order forms are available on the PTO website at gateschoolpto.org
Questions? Contact Sandra Fallica at gatesapparel@hotmail.com

AUCTION CHAIRS NEEDED!

The Annual Gates Auction and Social will be held on:

Saturday, March 31, 2012

This event is the biggest fundraiser and social event of the year!

We are currently looking for two creative and energetic Co-Chairs to head up this event.

Past chairs and auction veterans are ready to provide guidance and support. Spread the word!

If you know someone who'd be great at this, or if you are interested in learning more, please contact Janice Martineau at jjmartineau@verizon.net

Who's Behind the Scenes?

2011-2012 PTO BOARD

Senior Co-Chair:

Janice Martineau
(978) 929-9287
jjmartineau@verizon.net

Junior Co-Chair:

Maureen Flynn
gatescochair@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Dan Zou
dan.dzou@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer:

Philip Tsang
philipTsang1368@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary:

Michelle Baytarian
mbaytarian@gmail.com

Reporting Secretary:

Raji Srinivasan
rajlak@hotmail.com

If you'd like to see your name here and be an integral part of the school's support system, please let us know! We'd love to have you!

FALL SOCIAL

The Gates Fall Social will be on **Friday, October 21st** this year!

Held in conjunction with the Book Fair, this social event is designed to bring the Gates community together.

Ken Silva has agreed to help organize an **Olympiad** type event.

We are looking for people to assist with this fun and active event. Can you help promote it, organize volunteers, or run a game at the event?

There are many small jobs that go into running the Fall Social, do you have an hour or two to volunteer?

Please contact Ken Silva (ken_silva@verizon.net) if you are interested in helping out!



Redeemable Can & Bottle Drive

Saturday,
September 17th
8am-1pm

Drop off redeemable cans
and bottles at Gates or
the Acton Transfer Sta-
tion.

Proceeds benefit the 6th
Grade Field Trip to Na-
ture's Classroom.

If you have questions,
please contact:
Xuan Kong
(xkong2004@yahoo.com)



Art Fundraiser

The Square One Art Fundraiser is back! Please keep an eye out for it in ALL students backpacks.

Just a reminder how this program runs.

1. You will receive the special sheet of paper to decorate.
2. Decorate the paper, and **please** remember to follow all the instructions!
3. Return the decorate art sheet back to the school by Friday September 23,2011. no product orders or money are due that time.
4. A few weeks later you will receive an ordering packet with a free sample of your Child's art work on stickers, **FREE** for you to keep even if you don't place an order! (You will receive a **FREE** sample of stickers for each piece of art-work you submit!)

A few of the items you will be able to order are, Note Cards, Ornaments, Aprons, Mugs, Calendars, and lots more! Think of all the holiday gifts you are going to be able to order and help out Gates at the same time!

Sample Items will be on display in the Lobby!

Questions email Carolyn McDonough at
carolynmcdonough@verizon.net



Extra Art sheets are available in
the Gates School office
you may decorate more than one



Save your Donelan's Receipt

Our school is participating in the Register Tapes for Education Program. Please help us earn free educational equipment by collecting register receipts from Donelan's Supermarkets.

Only receipts dated **September 1, 2011 - March 31, 2012** are eligible.

Please send collected tapes to: Gates School lobby and place in the Donelan's receipt bin.

Contact carolynmcdonough@verizon.net

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

September:

20th & 21st
23rd
30th

Back to School Nights
Square I Art work due
Meadowfarms Wrapping Paper fundraiser orders due

October:

2nd
4th
17th -21st
21st

Family Photo Day
PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library
Scholastic Book Fair Week
Fall Family Social/Book Fair 6:30pm – 8:30pm

November:

9th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

December:

7th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, 8

January:

10th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

February:

8th
TBD

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library
Night at American Girl store

March:

20th
7:00pm, Gates
31st

Joint PTO Meeting & Speaker Series with Douglas

Annual Auction and Social, Devens Marriott

April:

24th

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

May:

4th

14th –18th Staff Appreciation Week
23rd

Spring Family Social 7:00pm

PTO Meeting 7:30pm, Gates Library

June:

8th
TBD

Activity Day (rain date, June 12th)
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

HELP WANTED

Love to Bake?

The Hospitality Committee needs volunteers to bake at various school events during the school year. Bake *one time* or throughout the year, it's up to you!



Do you have a child in Grades K-3?
Do you love the outdoors?

The Gates Nature Walk program needs parent volunteers to lead small groups of students around the Gates schoolyard as they explore nature. All necessary information provided.



Scrip Program Coordinator

Coordinate the sales of pre-paid gift cards. Advertise, collect and place orders, distribute cards.
Training and Support Available!



A perfect work-from-home job!!

Auction Chairs Needed!

Our biggest fundraiser and social event of the year needs 2 energetic and creative Co-Chairs to organize this event.



Apparel Salespeople Wanted!

Help support the Apparel Coordinator by working an hour or two at the Apparel Sales Table at one of the various school events throughout the year.



Work the Concession Stand!

Help sell popcorn and snacks at Gates movie nights held throughout the school year.



Gardener Needed

The Landscape/Schoolyard Clean-Up Coordinator is in need of volunteers to help support fall and spring clean-up around Gates by pruning and planting. Dates and times to be determined.



Run a Game at the Fall Family Social

Have some fun working a 1 or 2 hour shift at the fall social!



No experience necessary!

Can You Help 1 Minute a Week?

Clip Box Tops coupons from participating product packages and return them to the collection box in the Gates lobby. The PTO earns 10 cents for each Box Top collected!

Save your Donelan's Receipts and return to the Gates office attn: Donelan's Fundraiser. Gates earns points for dollars spent and can purchase supplies and equipment for the school!

If you are interested in learning more or signing up, please email us at Gatesschoolpto@yahoo.com.

Additional volunteer opportunities available in your PTO Back-To-School Packet.

All positions include support/training from previous coordinators.

We are all volunteers-having fun, making a difference, and supporting each other!

We can't do it without you!!!

PTO Communication Paper Subscription

Please fill out this form if you **do not** have access to email and would like to receive paper copies of all PTO announcements, including the monthly *Gates Gazette*. Paper distribution will be to the youngest sibling in your family.

Please note – official school communications will still be delivered in paper form.

Youngest child's name: _____

Grade: _____ Child's teacher: _____

Your name: _____

Please return your paper subscription form to the school office, Attn: PTO Chairs



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