

Granger Gazette



October 2011

Dear Granger Families,

Wow, it's hard to believe that the first month of school has already concluded! We have had a very successful first month of school. On September 16th we had an extremely important visitor, Commissioner Mitchell Chester from the Department of Education came to Granger. He spent some time visiting and interacting with the children in our wonderful Language Based Classrooms. Then Commissioner Chester attended a round table discussion with Mr. Sapelli, Mayor Cohen, School Committee Members, teachers, parents and several administrators. He was very impressed with the programs that we are running in Agawam.

We have added two new staff members to our Granger family. Ms. Mary Thomas is a new paraprofessional in the TLC program and Ms. Nicole Douthwright is a new speech and language pathologist. Ms. Douthwright is replacing Ms. Holly Fidrych who is leaving us to work at the Junior High School. We wish Ms. Fidrych well as she begins at her new location.

The MCAS results from last spring were mailed out to families on September 29th. If you did not receive your child's MCAS results, please call the Granger office and let us know.

Several parents were able to come to our first Coffee with the Principal to discuss happenings at Granger. Our next Coffee with the Principal will be held from 8:30am to 9:30am on October 28th.

I hope you are able to enjoy the wonderful New England fall weather.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl Salomão
Principal



Commisioner Chester in a 4th grade classroom

Important Dates At A Glance:

- 10/10:** No School (Columbus Day)
- 10/11:** No School (Primary Day)
- 10/17:** Yankee Candle Orders Due
- 10/17-10/21:** Food Drive
- 10/21:** School Pictures
- 10/24-11/10:** Magazine Drive
- 10/28:** Coffee with the Principal / Enrichment Program / Fall Frolic Parade
- 11/2:** PTO Meeting at 6 p.m. in Teacher's Lounge



PARKING LOT CONCERNS

We know that our parking lots get very congested as 310 children depart within minutes at dismissal.

Please be courteous and respectful to the vehicles around you at all times. The chain in the back parking lot cannot be removed to allow cars in that lot until 2:40 when P.E. class and kindergarten recess are over. Once you pull into the back lot, please pull all the way up to allow as many cars in as possible. You must get out of your vehicle to meet your child in the courtyard if you are parking in the back lot.

Please remember that it is unlawful to pass a bus when the red lights are flashing whether on the road or in a parking lot.

Kindergarten (and siblings) – Children will be dismissed to the courtyard from the back corner door in the courtyard. Please come to meet your child.

1st grades – (and siblings) will be dismissed to the courtyard and parents should come inside the fence to meet their children.

2nd & 3rd & 4th grades – Children will be dismissed to the parking lot side (Springfield Street) of the building. Parents should **pull up along the curb starting at the far end of the main building**. Please stay in your cars and your children will find you. We need to keep the line moving.

Morning Visits



Children are allowed to enter their classrooms at 8:20am. At

that time, it is the teachers' responsibility to supervise the children. Therefore, it isn't appropriate for parents to approach teachers during this time for a conversation. You can always leave a note in the office for the teacher or send an email. Our policy is that you must say goodbye to your child either outside or in the school lobby. For the safety of everyone at Granger, no one is allowed in the school hallways without signing in at the office and getting a visitor's pass. Thank you for respecting our Granger rules that are in place.



Pediculosis (Head Lice) Screening

Students are regularly screened at the elementary levels for head lice in September and on an as needed basis throughout the school year. If you suspect your child has head lice please notify me so we can adequately educate and instruct you thru this trying process. Early detection helps prevent the spread of head lice among your child's peers as well as decreases the amount of time he/she is out of school.

If lice are found on your child during a routine screening you will be notified immediately and your child will be dismissed. You will be instructed to treat the hair and remove all nits (eggs). Detailed instructions and handouts will be given at that time. Your child cannot ride the bus, or return to school until I have rechecked him/her.

The affected classroom will be screened, then rescreened in 10 days. If a recurrence is found, an instructional letter will be sent home. The class will be rechecked until no head lice are found. Siblings of affected students are automatically examined. If head lice are found, that classroom will then be checked. Parents will also be notified if an outbreak occurs within the classroom or grade level.

Please be proactive with assisting with the spread of head lice. Lice are spread through direct person to person contact and through infested personal items. Please check your child's hair on a regular basis. If your child complains of itching and you would like assistance, please call my office and I will be glad to screen him/her. Please be mindful to notify me if your child contracts head lice so we may prevent further infestation.

A Public Health Fact Sheet on Pediculosis is available upon request.

Thank you,

Pamela Lynch RN 821-0578

October Enrichment Program: “A Friendship Adventure with Ronald McDonald”

Ronald McDonald will visit the students of Granger School on **Friday, October 28th**. He will discuss topics such as friendship, cooperation, active play, anti-bullying taught through music, magic, and scenarios around bullying. The show is geared to show all elementary grade audiences the fundamentals of anti-bullying behavior. The program is underwritten by our local McDonald's Restaurant. The Connecticut and Western Massachusetts Owner/

Operator Association is comprised of local McDonald's restaurant owners who are community and industry leaders. They have a long-standing commitment to supporting educational initiatives and organizations in the communities they serve, including providing resources to promote balanced, active lifestyles to kids and families.



Fundraising

Thank you to all who participated in the Meadow Farms fundraiser! When you are selling the items the school chooses for fundraisers, please keep in mind what the raised money is put toward. Each year the PTO is proud to pay for the many Enrichment Programs (Educational Assemblies) provided for our students. We try to provide at least one program per month for the school to enjoy. The students benefit greatly from these programs. However, they can be costly. Last year the PTO put \$5,000.00 into the Enrichment Program. It is with the money from fundraisers we are able to pay for these programs! Thank you for your continued support!

Current/Upcoming Fundraisers:

Yankee Candle: 9/30-10/17

Window Clings: Ongoing (\$2 each)

Magazine Drive: 10/24-11/10



Volunteers Needed for Fall Frolic Parade

Volunteers are needed to assist with the Fall Frolic Parade to be held **Friday, October 28th** in the afternoon. Help is needed with getting the children dressed in their costumes, walking with the children in the parade around the school and handing out juice and cookies following the parade. If you are interested in helping, please e-mail Kelly Hurley at hurley14@comcast.net. Volunteers must have a valid CORI check.

If you are unable to volunteer, please feel free to watch the children during the parade. The parade will begin at 1:45.



Send in Box Tops

Please send in your Box Tops for Education. This is an easy way to collect money for our school. You can find Box Tops on items around your house such as cereal, snacks and paper products.

Be sure to check your boxes and packaging before you throw away money that could be coming to Granger! Thank You!

We also collect Tabs from soda cans. Twice a year the tabs collected are brought to Shriner's Hospital, in which, Shriner's can then convert the tabs into cash for the children who are in need of services. Please help give your tabs to a great cause! Thank you!



Mayor Cohen's Visit with PTO

On Tuesday, October 4th, Mayor Cohen attended the PTO meeting to discuss school and town concerns and answer

questions. Topics discussed included: safety on buses regarding the lack of bus monitors, playground cleanliness, enrichment programs needed due to the absence of Project See, safety on sidewalks for children who walk to school, amongst other topic.

It was a very informative discussion and a great opportunity for the Mayor to hear parental concerns first-hand. Thank you to all who attended and asked such great questions! It is important that our voices are heard.

*The morning after the PTO meeting, Mayor Cohen informed us that he has already begun to look into bus monitors and playground cleanliness. Many thanks to the Mayor!



Granger School is proud to be holding a Food Drive to help local people in need. The food drive will run **October 21st - 28th**. The non-perishable food items (pasta, canned vegetables, peanut butter, etc.) will be donated to the Parish Cupboard of West Springfield, which helps feed the hungry of Feeding Hills, Agawam and surrounding communities. There will be designated collection boxes near each grade level in which the children can place their donations. Thank you for all of your donations!