

Granger Gazette



2012



January 2012



Dear Granger Families,

Happy 2012! I hope that everyone had a healthy and relaxing December break.

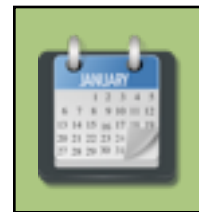
Many adults find themselves making New Year's Resolutions this time of year. If you are looking for a family New Year's Resolution

consider creating a family reading time each day. Studies show that when children read outside of school their reading abilities will improve. This doesn't have to be reading novels. Have your child read whatever interests them such as comics, magazines or joke books. Here are some websites where you can find high interest level books that children will gobble up: ReadKiddoRead.com, GuysRead.com and Oprah.com's Kids' Reading List. Role models are very important in children's lives. If they see adults around them stopping everything to read (like the newspaper), it will have a positive impact on their reading as well.

We have added a few more staff members to Granger. Ms. Lauren Longhi was hired as a paraprofessional replacing Natalya Lawor. Ms. Malori Trippodo was hired as a paraprofessional replacing Jess Sanders. Also, Ms. Heidi Maloni was hired as our new Enrichment Coach replacing Mrs. Kitty Albright. Please join me in welcoming all of them to our Granger family.

Winter temperatures have definitely arrived. Children will be going outside for recess whenever the "feels like" temperature is 20 degrees or above. The "feels like" temperature also factors in the wind chill, not just what the thermometer reads. It is important for children to come to school with a warm coat, hat and gloves/mittens. If you are having difficulty providing any of these items, please contact the school office so that we can assist you.

Happy New Year to all of you!
Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl Salomão



Important Dates to Remember:

- 1/16: **No School** (Martin Luther King Day)
- 1/18: **Springfield Armor Reading Rally**
- 1/19: **School Council Meeting** 6 p.m.
- 1/23–2/17: **Read-To-Achieve Program**
- 1/27: **Coffee with the Principal** 8:30–9:10
- 2/1: **PTO Meeting** 6 p.m.



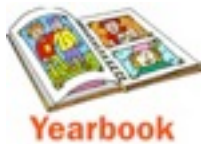
Brick Heads won Judge's Award at the Massachusetts FLL State Championship Tournament

The FIRST Lego League held a regional competition on Saturday, December 10, 2011, at

Agawam Junior High School. There were 24 competing FLL teams and several Jr.FLL teams. All of the teams were amazing competitors. FLL teams had a project that involved research and presentation of an innovative solution for contamination in food. Each team worked together to display the core values, like Gracious Professionalism, throughout the day. Team #7452 "Brick Heads" (a combined team from the Agawam elementary schools, included Granger fourth grade students **Aidan Chan** and

Robert Taylor) had an idea that could help ice cream shop owners to prevent food poisoning. As the day progressed Team #7452 "Brick Heads" won the Robot Tournament! Along with 6 other teams, who won in other areas of the competition, their top-notch performance at the qualifying tournament earned them a golden ticket to the 2011 Massachusetts FLL State Championship!

With the golden ticket, Brick Heads continued their journey to compete in the State Championship on December 17, 2011 in Worcester at WPI. As a competitor there, they competed in all areas of FLL along with 71 of the other top teams in the state, including two teams from Jamaica! At the end of the day, Brick Heads took home the Judge's Award in the Core Value category along with lots of precious memories.



Yearbook

The creation of the yearbook is under way!!! The theme this year is **"Where Memories are Created."** We are excited to announce that they will be in **FULL COLOR** for the first time and offered at the same price as past years for only \$15. The yearbook will consist of 40 pages and includes the entire school. Once again, the PTO will provide a FREE yearbook to each 4th grader!! Pictures are always needed and appreciated! Please send any photos you may have of Granger students at school events or events outside of school. Please put them on a disc labeled PTO Yearbook and send it to school with your child. The disc will be returned to you prior to the end of the school year. The more photos we have, the better the yearbook. Look for order forms to be coming home soon. Please contact Kelly Hurley at hurley14@comcast.net with any questions.



Family Pasta Dinner

Our annual Pasta Dinner hosted by Granger Dad's will be held **Friday, March 30th at Agawam High School**. This is always a fun-filled event for the whole family. There will be delicious food, music, games and raffles. This is a great way for the dad's to get involved and meet new people! We are in need of **volunteers** for that evening. Please contact Tony Suffriti at tsuffriti@hotmail.com. More details will follow as the event approaches. Mark your calendars!!!!



Wednesday, January 18th, Granger School will host a **Springfield Armors' Read-to-Achieve Kick-Off Assembly**. "Steal," the Springfield Armor mascot will visit during this interactive pep rally. The Read-To-Achieve program is a four week incentive-based reading program to be held **January 23rd – February 17th**. Each classroom teacher will set her own goals personalized to the needs of the students. Springfield Armor will provide prizes during the four week period. The Grand Prize for all students who meet their classroom teacher's personalized goals): attend a Springfield Armor basketball game on **Saturday, March 24th**, vs. Canton Charge. Granger students will be called out to a pre-game on-court recognition for graduating from the program. Students will receive free tickets. Parents will have the option of ordering additional tickets for their family.



Important MCAS Information

Attention families of 3rd and 4th graders,

The dates for the 2012 MCAS tests have been set. It is imperative that your child be here on the days that MCAS are taken. Please avoid scheduling doctor's appointments, vacations, late arrivals and early dismissals on these days. Please take a moment to mark these important MCAS dates on your calendars.

- Grade 4 Long Composition – March 20th
- Grade 3 MCAS ELA – March 21st and March 22nd
- Grade 4 MCAS ELA – March 27th and March 28th
- Grade 3 MCAS Math – May 9th and May 10th
- Grade 4 MCAS Math – May 15th and May 16th



**Clifford M. Granger School
31 South Westfield Street
Feeding Hills, MA 01030**

If you know of any child who will be five years old before September 1, 2012, please fill out the form below and return it to the school. Also, if you know any first graders who will be entering and have not attended Granger before, please fill out the form below and label "First Grade." This will assist us in preparing our enrollment for the upcoming school year. Thank you.

Cheryl M. Salomão
Principal

NAME OF CHILD _____
(First Name) (Full Middle Name) (Last Name)

NAME OF PARENT/GUARDIAN _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

CHILD'S Date of Birth _____ CHILD'S Place of Birth (City, State) _____
(Month/Day/Year)

Is this child currently enrolled in the Agawam Early Childhood Program? Yes _____ No _____

Any preschool? Yes _____ No _____ If yes, where? _____



Book Fair Volunteers,

Thank you for making the book fair a great success this year. This is the only fundraiser for the library each year. All the students at Granger School will benefit from your time and efforts on their behalf. Thank you to all the volunteers and especially to those who volunteered for multiple shifts.

Thank you,

Wendy Matys
Granger Library Assistant

The PTO would like to thank **Stop & Shop** for donating plastic bags for us to use during the Book Fair. The bags came in very handy and were much appreciated!!!

The PTO would also like to send their sincere thanks to **Superintendent, Mr. Sapelli**, for attending our December meeting to answer questions and address concerns parents had regarding school issues. Some of the topics discussed included: playground safety, school bus times, school start times, snow days and the ways in which they could be made up and the possibility of a new high school. The night was very informative and we appreciate Mr. Sapelli taking the time to meet with us!