

June 10, 2010

Linda

Kitelet from Director

Dear Families,

Another wonderful year at Groton Community School is drawing to a close. This is the time of year that celebrations, good-byes, and emotions are all in full swing. Our “buckets” are all full, and we hope that your children have gained some valuable skills surrounding empathy, caring, and sharing. These lessons of bucket “filling” & “dipping”, as well as those related to our “Peace” theme, all contribute to the strong foundations that will help guide your children in the coming years as they learn to navigate socially and emotionally in the world. May these lessons continue to be at the forefront of times ahead. What wonderful memories we have all gained together throughout the year; new experiences, new friends, and new growth.

Last Friday night’s Family Picnic had a great turnout and proved to be great fun. The weather certainly was on our side as all enjoyed delicious picnic dinners together and fun entertainment by Story Teller, “Big Ryan.” It was wonderful to see so many families mingle together and so many children in laughter. Thank you to fundraising for sponsoring the entertainment and to Andrea Poulin and Amanda Waltz (Parent Reps.) for helping to coordinate the event.

Groton Community School has a long history in the community. The school has been traced back to 1934 when it then held the name, “Groton Community Kindergarten.” In fact, the first Director, Mrs. Adelaide Luca, just celebrated her 95th birthday. The Kindergarten children recently just stopped by her house on their way back from an interactive field trip to visit with the residents at River Court. They offered her some warmth that only young children can, as well as music. She replied in a letter of thanks with wonderful words that I can’t help but share with all of you: “In all my many years now, I can’t recall another time when I felt so proud, so honored – to have your young, talented charges lift their beautiful voices in song. It was an experience I will cherish ever more.” Just one example of how young children spread cheer and good will!!!

One of the pieces that helps to make Groton Community School so wonderful is its staff; their experience and education is just amazing. This year we celebrated the longevity of seven staff members here at GCS:

Linda Kosinski – 25 years, Jolene Zukauskas – 20 years, Lisa Stafford – 15 years, Terri Martin – 15 years, Noreen Keras – 10 years, Inga Nuccio – 5 years, & Lorrie Morgan – 5 years. Please join me in thanking and congratulating these fine women!!

Attached please enjoy correspondence that I recently received from the “Save the Children” organization as they thanked our GCS Community for our Haiti Collection and donation. Please read more about their relief efforts and enjoy some photos that are posted on our “Helping Hands” bulletin board located in the front entrance area.

As the year ends, we do have some special acknowledgements to make:

- Our Kindergarten children and their teacher, Jolene, along with her husband, Bruce, for helping us all remember the importance of Memorial Day.
- The GCS Board of Directors for their unselfish time and commitment in helping to ensure that our school is a wonderful experience for everyone. We sadly have to say goodbye to five of our current members as their terms have come to an end: Sue Roberts, Elaine Herzog, Andrea Poulin, Bridget Cook, and Stephanie Tully. (See attached tributes)
- The entire teaching staff for their incredible energy, strong commitment, and never-ending time and support to our families.
- Kate McEleney for making Costco trips for the school
- Julie Ann Govang for collating Box Tops for us
- Jacqueline Porter for coordinating birthday book thank you's
- Diane, Don, and Sam Landry for their help in completing a special cookie tree, playground patio.
- Garden Club participants led by Elaine Herzog: Becky Mandell-Tully, Natina Perrotti, Jacqueline Porter and Monique Meehan
- Krista Ingram for taking the class photos and to Debbie Kennedy for her Photoshop expertise with the 8x10 photos.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the following families for their donations to the school: The Christiansen family for donated clothing, the McManus family for the Jumbo Fun Ball, the McCabe family for Pop-Onz blocks, the Kennedy family for staff snacks, the Bourbeau family for Pop-Ice for Wet & Wild days, the Ciarfella family for Duplo blocks, and to Brenda from Pediatrics West for a supply of cotton swabs for art projects. It is due to the generosity and kindness of so many folks that the school continues to thrive and we thank you.

Our children's library continues to grow with wonderful books through our Birthday Book Program. Thank you to the following children and their families for their donations: Finn Ashburn for W is for Waves, Eleanor Blandford for Too Much Noise, Georgia Brooks for Creatures ABC, Hayley Cahill for Mouse Count, Riley Doyle for Madlenka, Landen Kane for Beckett and the Pandamonium, Kyle Keith for Big Pumpkin, Jacob Lee for We're Going on a Bear Hunt, Chloe MacMillan for The Ugly Vegetables, Luke McKiel for In the Snow: Who's Been Here?, Andrew Ouellette for Walter the Baker, Joseph Wang for I See Animals Hiding, and Grant Weber for Going Lobstering.

I wish everyone fun, laughter, and low key days that the summer months can offer. Some of you will be with us at Camp Kaleidoscope, many will be returning in the fall, and others will be departing our school for good. Please remember us with future visits and updates as we have treasured our time with each and every one of you.