

June 14, 2011

### **Kitelet From Linda**

Dear Families

I can always tell that the end of the school year has arrived when I hear the Kindergarten children singing, "The Circle of Life", during their closing ceremony. It was an amazing evening with joyful children and some tearful families. Another group of children leave GCS to begin their next journey of learning... "on the path unwinding". It sure has been a busy time with all classrooms celebrating their year together. The parking lot has been full, as families have joined in the many festivities. All around the school are sounds of sing-a-longs, ice cream parties, and portfolio viewings. I hope the year was full of wonderful memories for you and many milestones for your children.

We have been so fortunate to have had a wonderful group of youth volunteers with us throughout the year. The Big Room enjoyed past GCS alum, Jillian McCarthy, as a student intern for a good part of the school year. Another alum, Sarah Hilton, along with fellow NHS member, Meg Goodale, organized a group of student guest readers that visited classrooms over several days to share their favorite children's books. And finally, we were inspired by 1,000 peace cranes, lovingly made by Molly Pratt, now a freshman at Boston University. We were honored that Molly donated her senior project to our school because she heard we were so dedicated to peace. Molly's cranes were on display for our Peace Picnic, and she recently visited us to share her cranes and her experiences of living in Japan, and to teach us about Japanese Culture.

The board and staff came together last month to celebrate a terrific year, but also to celebrate some special milestones for some staff members. Please join me in congratulating Bonnie Stanton, who has been at GCS for 15 years; Debbie Penney for 10 years; and Courtney Waite & Sandy Irving for 5 years. We are blessed to have such a caring and dedicated group of staff members.

Sadly, we also have to say goodbye to four wonderful, hardworking women on our Board of Directors:

#### ***Donna Fosberry* 2007-2011**

It has been such a pleasure to work with Donna over the last 4 years. Her dedication to GCS is apparent - she began volunteering on the Board with just one child, and is leaving the Board a mother of two! We thank her for her service to the school! It isn't easy to record and organize all the important information that Board meetings entail, and we are so appreciative of her time and attention as Secretary, as well as her calm and thoughtful nature. We found out that she makes terrific appetizers for any social gathering! Donna was also thoughtful in helping the Board recognize each individual staff member at their birthday with a cheerful card. We are so lucky that it isn't good-bye to the Fosberry Family, as her youngest child Ella still has more time at GCS. Thank goodness for younger siblings!

***Diane Landry*** 2009- 2011

Diane is always cheerful and upbeat, bringing sunshine with her as she enters the building each day. We didn't realize that when Diane took on the position as Board Member, and especially Building & Grounds, that we would be getting a "two-fer". Thank you to both Diane and Don for all their help in making our school look so spiffy! Diane has not only been helpful in organizing our Fall Fix-up and Spring Spruce up, she and her husband have helped with special projects for our playground weekends and evenings. She is patient and always willing to tackle a challenge –and our playground has presented a few! We will miss Diane, Don, and graduating Kindergartener Sam, who has helped to lead the class in song with such enthusiasm!

***Wendy Kelly*** 2009-2011

Wendy helped to make our Groton Community Home Tour such a success this year as Fundraising Co-Chair! We are grateful for her time and commitment in fundraising, and on the Board in general for the last two years. Fundraising can be fast-paced and a bit challenging to coordinate at times, but Wendy's sense of humor and calmness helped everyone. We could all learn from her easy-going, down-to-earth approach... She is unflappable! Wendy has shared her positive outlook and also two of her three wonderful children with GCS! We will miss the Kelly family so much, but hope to see our neighbors "just down the road" often.

Congratulations to the Kuzdzal Family on the birth of their daughter, Abigail Elizabeth. Her sister, Caly, is in the AM Pre-K Class and mom, Holly, is the PR Chair on the GCS Board.

**Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You \* Thank You**

Many thanks to Ben Griffith for helping us with some "behind the scenes" repair on our playhouses and to Diane and Don Landry for repairing the stone path on our playground.

We'd also like to thank the following families for various donations made to the school this past month: The Bonenfant family for clothing; the Harrington family for puzzles & books; the Kane family for plastic bags; the McEleney family for granola bars; Liz Schocklin for decorating the front entranceway; the Tennis family for games, books & rocking horse; the Wandtke family for shoes; and the Worley family for toys & crafts. All of the contributions made by families this year have been very much appreciated. We feel very fortunate!

