

11.9.23

Dear GMS families,

First, thank you to all of the veterans in our community who have served our country. As we observe Veterans Day tomorrow, I want to acknowledge your sacrifices. We appreciate you!

Last Thursday we observed the Day of Welcome at GMS. This annual event promotes inclusion of all students in our school community. On the Day of Welcome, students and staff are encouraged to wear orange to signify that they support all students having a safe and welcoming school community. We use prompts in our Advisory classes that help students think about the constructive things we can all do to be more welcoming to others. The Day of Welcome is sponsored by our school Civil Rights Team.

On a related note, below you will find information about the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) World of Difference program we have at GMS. We are gearing up to train 7th and 8th grade students who are selected to provide peer-to-peer lessons in 6th grade health classes on bias related behavior. We have maintained a relationship with ADL for many years and the World of Difference program is an integral part of our health curriculum and who we are as a school community. We believe the old saying that an “ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” The Day of Welcome and World of Difference peer lessons are two ways among many that we invest in the ounce to gain the pound.

If you have not signed up for conferences, there is still time to do so. Please check out the details provided below on how to schedule a conference with your middle schooler’s teachers. We look forward to meeting with you to talk about your child’s progress so far this year.

Best,

Mar-E Trebilcock

ADL World of Difference Peer Training Opportunity

Dear Parents and Guardians of 7th and 8th graders,

The application process for the Anti Defamation League (ADL) Peer Trainer is beginning. Any child interested can come to an informational luncheon with Ms. Goodwin and Ms. OP to find out what this exciting opportunity is about on **November 13, 2023** in the lobby.

Interested students can bring their lunch to a meeting that will be held outside the lunchroom. They will receive an application and all the details on how to apply. If they are unable to attend this meeting they can stop by their School Counselor’s office and get an application form.

The peer training program is an opportunity for your child to get 3 days of training from an expert from the ADL on issues of bias in our schools. Because missing 3 days of school may have a significant academic impact, a group of counselors, teachers and administrators will have input on all applicants before final acceptance.

By participating in the Peer Training program, students will gain: Stronger understanding of the nature and impact of bias motivated behavior such as name-calling.

- Greater awareness of personal and hidden bias.
- Increased ability to recognize and respond to bias motivated behavior.

- Improved leadership, critical thinking, conflict management and communication skills.

Please encourage your child to attend this informational meeting or to see their school counselor if they have any interest. Please feel free to contact us yourselves if you have any questions about this program.

Dates to Note: Informational Lunch: **November 13**, outside of the cafeteria during 7th and 8th grade lunches. Deadline for applications: **November 27**. Acceptance notification: **Wednesday Nov. 29**. Training Days: **December 4, 5, 6** during school hours.

Thanks, Bobbi Goodwin and Kate O.P., School Counselors

Winter Sports Practices

Winter sports have started here at GMS. We are noticing a lot of students waiting for their practice to start without any supervision. Unless the coach has clearly stated that they will be with the players until practice starts, players should be home or at an after school activity. Going to Food Stop, coming back and loitering before practice is not allowed. If a team has a practice immediately after school, then it is OK that they stay. However, when the wait time is an hour or more, we ask that your child please go home during that time. Thank you for your help with this.

News from Student Services

November 2023

Dear Parents and Guardians of GMS Students:

At the time of year when family needs increase, we wanted to offer information regarding local resources to support your families. Please note many programs have early deadlines for their applications.

Holiday Gifts:

- **Portland Press Herald Toy Fund.** <https://www.pressherald.com/toy-fund/>
- **Angel Tree thru the Salvation Army:** <https://saangeltree.org/>
- **Toys for Tots-** <https://www.toysfortots.org/programs/holiday-programs/>
- **Local churches/temples/houses of worship. Reach out to inquire about supports they may be able to provide.**
- **Firefighters for Kids:** for information on donating or receiving toys for the holiday season, please reach out to Kevin Foster at the Cumberland Fire Department or email firefighters4kids@gmail.com

The form below will need to be completed:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdJkebHyIdfZxtof6Y4w-VdBUWD94eVfRIVnhAzaErsa7XohQ/viiewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0>

Food:

- **Community Food Pantry** 290 Tuttle Road Cumberland, Maine 207-829-2205. www.cumberlandfoodpantry.org. Open every other Friday afternoon from 3-6 pm.
- **Wayside Food Program** 207-775-4939 www.waysidemaine.org
- **Preble Street Resource Center** 207-775-0026 www.preblestreet.org

Heating Assistance:

- Opportunity Alliance** (207-523-5049) or <https://www.opportunityalliance.org/heap>
- Cumberland Congregational Church** offers finances for heat and they also have a wood bank.

We recognize that this time can be stressful. If you have any concerns regarding your child, please contact your child's School Counselor or Social Worker.

Sincerely,
Rachael Farley Loring, Social Worker
Kate Olsen Pietrowski, School Counselor
Bobbi Goodwin, School Counselor

GMS Student Involved Conferences

Welcome to the Greely Middle School family conference scheduling system. Conferences are offered both in-person and virtually this year so pay attention to the date and conference type!

This fall we will be using our Google platform so you will need to have a gmail account to sign up for conferences. If you do not have a gmail account, you can either create one OR log-in using your child's MSAD51 account - ***after all these are student-involved!!!***

When you visit the website, choose the team and off-team teachers with whom you wish to conference.

6th, 7th, and 8th grade are meeting as teams or paired groups. All other conferences are with individual teachers -- this includes Spanish and French teachers, Allied Arts teachers, interventionists, special education teachers, and other providers.

1. Click the link to the team/teacher.
2. Choose the time to book a slot for your conference.
3. **WHAT:** Add your child's name - this is important especially if your child has a different last name!
4. **DESCRIPTION:** Add your name and any details you wish to share (an alternate email).

[Greely Family Conference Landing Page](#)

Team Leaders:

6th grade Eagle - Mark Phillips
6th grade Sentinel - Sallie Hunter
7th grade Katahdin - Mark Emery
7th grade Osprey - Kyle Dancause
8th grade Doubletop - Rebecca Martin
8th grade Kingfisher - Jacey Morrill

News from Modern Language

JE SUIS UNE PIZZA



Dear families of 6th grade French students,

You may have heard that we've been spending the last few weeks writing stories about pizza-quests gone wrong and listening to the song "[Je suis une pizza](#)" ("I am a pizza") by Charlotte Diamond. We are incredibly proud of the creativity that students brought to the story-writing process, and of their ability to read and understand these stories in French!

Students have also learned about "la pissaladière," which is similar to a pizza and from the south of France.

In order to celebrate our learning, we encourage you to ask your student about their class Pizza Story, have a family "*Je suis une pizza*" sing along, or try cooking some pizza or [pissaladière](#) at home!

Stay tuned for information about a class Pizza Party, where students will be invited to make and bring in their "dream pizza" to share with their classmates.

Bon appétit !

Catherine Lane & Becca Pruenete



GMS 6-8 Green Team

What: is Green Team: A club to explore the many ways we, as a GMS community can be environmentally conscious and active.

When: November 27th (this is the Monday we return from the November break) after school until 3:30. (There is a late bus on Mondays that arrives at 4pm. You can arrange a ride home if you prefer not to wait.)

We will plan to meet every 2 weeks on Mondays after school. (This means the second meeting will be December, 4th, the third Dec 18th, then we will resume after the December break on January 8th).

Where: Room 107

Who do I reach out to:

Send an email to **Mrs. Dostilio and Mrs. Kapschull** (adostilio@msad51.org, jkapschull@msad51.org) to let them know.

Library Media Center News



The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be here soon! There will be **Family Events** during Parent/Teacher Conferences on Monday, November 20 from 11:30-7:30 & Tuesday, November 21 from 11:30-3:30. Students can come in to shop during school (either with a class or with teacher permission) or after school. [Here is a link](#) to the Sign Up Genius for parents/guardians who are interested in **volunteering** during the fair or with set-up/clean-up. *Volunteers must be approved by the district to volunteer first. Online shopping is also an option; [here is the link to the book fair website](#).



Info about the ewallet (like a book fair gift/debit card for kids) is also on the [Book Fair website](#).