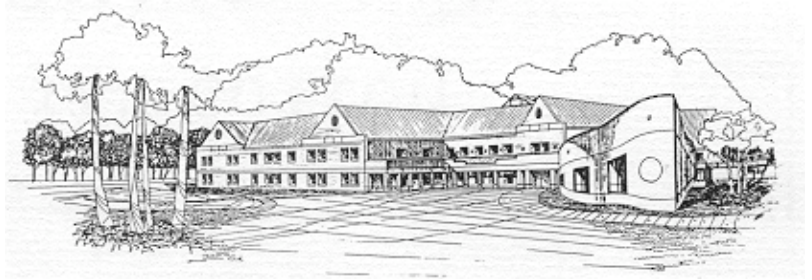


GRAY-NEW GLOUCESTER  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

PARENTS as PARTNERS  
NEWSLETTER



Sherry L. Levesque, Principal  
Geoff K. Robbins, Assistant Principal

Office Number: 657-4994  
Fax Number: 657-5219

October 2nd, 2009  
#3 09/10

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***Dates to remember:***

10/12/09 No school Columbus Day  
10/26/09 Early release

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**Fill Your Tank!**

Breakfast served daily in the cafeteria.  
**7:10-7:30 a.m.**  
Full price \$1.00  
Free/Reduced \$0.00

**Infinite Campus Parent Access**

We are ready to open parent access to Infinite Campus. This access will allow parents to review student progress from home. Parents who have returned their child's census reports will be able to receive information, directions, and access passwords to Infinite Campus beginning Thursday, October 8, 2009. In order to assure confidentiality of this information, the Infinite Campus information will be distributed to parents in the following means:

- Parents can pick-up the information in the Middle School Cafeteria from 7:00 A.M. – 7:30 A.M. from Thursday, October 8 through Friday, October 16, 2009.
- Parents can pick-up the information in the Middle School Cafeteria from 1:30 P.M. -2:15 P.M. from Thursday, October 8 through Friday, October 16, 2009.
- Parents can send a note to school with their child requesting that the information be sent home in the mail.
- Parents can pick-up the information from their child's homeroom teacher at conferences during the first week of November.

Parents who have not returned their child's updated census report may still do so. Additional copies of the census reports can be obtained by calling the Middle School office at 207-657-4994.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences**

Parent teacher conferences will be the week of November 2nd, with the common night being Thursday the 5th. Please watch for notices regarding specific times and dates teams will be holding conferences. Report Cards for the first quarter will be distributed at this time. Any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the main office at 657-4994 or your child's team teachers directly.

### **October Dance**

The October dance will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. All school rules apply including dress and behavior expectations. We ask that students arrive as close to 6:30 as possible and be picked up promptly at 9:00. Admission to dances is \$5.00.

### **NECAP Assessments for Grades 5-8**

The NECAP (New England Common Assessment Program) will begin for Middle School students on October 5, 2009. This is a new assessment that takes the place of the MEA which was administered in March of each year. Students in grades 5 and 8 will complete assessments in reading, math, and writing. Students in grades 6 and 7 will complete assessments in reading and math. Assessments are scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders during the week of October 5<sup>th</sup>. Assessments for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are scheduled for the week of October 12<sup>th</sup>. Make-ups for assessments will be completed on an as needed basis until October 22<sup>nd</sup>. We encourage parents to make sure that their child gets plenty of rest, eats a good breakfast, and brings a snack to school to help students focus in order do their best on these important assessments.

### **Wellness Day handout**

The Middle School has begun the process of helping to create a shared vision for the school and the district. An information sheet was sent home with your child after Wellness Day. It asked parents and guardians to respond to three questions. *What skills will students need for the 21st century? What are your hopes and dreams for your child? What makes a great classroom?* Your input is invaluable. The process of creating a vision requires everyone's ideas. If you have not yet returned this sheet to the Middle School, please do so, and be watching for more information about this effort.

### **Hello from Gray-New Gloucester Middle School Library!**

We have had lots of activity in the library. Most classes have had an introduction on using our library. Students are allowed to check out two books at a time, for a period of two weeks. Books can be renewed as long as no one has that item on hold. Students are responsible for the books they check out.

Our library catalog can be accessed from any internet connection by going to the GNG Middle School website; there is an option for the library catalogue. The program our library uses is called Destiny. Searches can be done using titles, subjects, authors and keywords. This is a valuable tool for students as it also provides web sites that have been reviewed for appropriate content, along with suggested grade levels for those sites. That can be a real time saver.

We will be having a Scholastic Book Fair on November 3 through November 6. The Fall Book Fair is a for-profit fair and all the proceeds are used for purchasing library books. Hours are 7:30AM-2:00PM on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. On Thursday the hours are 7:30AM until 8:00PM.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Strout

### **Dismissal Reminder**

We have implemented a new dismissal procedure for the end of the day. We ask parents wishing to dismiss and pick-up their students at the end of the day to do so prior to 1:45. Office staff will be stationed at a desk outside the main office entrance to sign students out. We thank you in advance for your cooperation in this effort.

### **Hannaford Helps Schools**

We are registered with Hannaford in Gray for their "Hannaford Helps Schools" program. If you purchase participating products you will receive a certain number of "school dollars" with your receipt. These "school dollars" can be deposited in the collection tower at Hannaford in Gray, or if you shop at other Hannaford locations, you can turn the "school dollars" into the Middle School office and we will get them to the Gray store for collection. More details of this program are available at [www.hannaford.com/hhs](http://www.hannaford.com/hhs) or you can pick up a flyer in our office. The deadline for earning Hannaford "school dollars" is December 6, 2009. All funds collected from this program will go towards Middle School activities.

### **8th Grade DC Trip Set for May 11- May 14**

There is still time to sign up for the Gr8 Discover DC program as registration does not close until October 9th. Among our many activities, we will explore major historical landmarks, lay a wreath at Arlington National Cemetery, and meet with one of Maine's Senators during our four days in D.C. Details about our program and a sample itinerary are available online at [www.worldstrides.org](http://www.worldstrides.org) or contact Karen Morgan ([kmorgan@msad15.org](mailto:kmorgan@msad15.org)) here at the Middle School for more information.