

June, 2009

Volume 6, Issue 10

West Street School

# West Street School Newsletter

## A Change in Reading Instruction Next Year

Next year, our reading instruction will be more individualized to accommodate interventions and enrichment for individual students. We understand the responsibility of our staff to provide quality education and early intervention for students in kindergarten through third grade so that they will be successful in the many school years ahead. "According to the NICHD (National Institute of Child Health and Human Development) branch of the National Institutes of Health, it takes four times as long to remediate a student with poor reading skills in fourth grade as it does in late kindergarten or early first grade (Lyon and Fletcher 2001). That means the earlier we can provide reading help to a student, the less time that student will need to catch up." [From *I've DIBEL'd. Now What?* by Susan L. Hall, page 11]

Our staff has been learning about RTI (Response to Intervention) this year. It recommends tiered learning so that students are given needed interventions immediately. We have discussed how we can use all of our

staff to the greatest effect to individualize reading instruction.

Next year, we will have blocks of reading time for each grade level. All classrooms at each grade level will have reading instruction at the same time for an hour. During this hour, two or three special education teachers, two reading teachers, and two paraprofessionals will work with three grade level teachers during reading instruction so that students can work in small groups at their individualized reading levels and in small groups for intervention instruction or enrichment. With so many staff working with each grade level, the small student/teacher ratio will maximize our ability to meet each student's needs. Students will "Walk to Read" — they will move from group to group within the grade level classrooms to best match their reading needs.

With the larger classes in third grade, we will also have some extra staff to assist during the math block to assure a small student/teacher ratio. Two special education teachers, two Title I staff, and a paraprofessional will assist the three classroom teachers during math.

## Best Wishes to Mrs. Smith on her Retirement

Patty Smith will be retiring at the end of this school year after teaching third grade in Granby for 14 years. She has taught a variety of subject matter in different communities during her 19 years of educational service. She taught under the Title I program in Ware, home economics at the South Hadley middle and high schools, as a long-term substitute in South Hadley, and under the Title I program in Belchertown before coming to Granby in 1995. During and between teaching, Patty was also able to find the time to be a stay-at-home mom and complete her Masters program. Patty plans on staying busy with her son and his upcoming marriage, daughter, husband, and parent/in-laws. She would like to continue to work with children in some capacity but will be taking time to enjoy her family and travel. Patty will be missed! Our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Patty Smith as she begins a new chapter in her life.

## Staff Changes for 2009-2010

We will have some changes for staff next year. Gilda Sanchez will be teaching third grade, Maura Whalen will be teaching an integrated kindergarten classroom, Kathy Beresky will be our full-time reading intervention teacher, Tracy Ramsey will be teaching fourth grade at East Meadow, and Ruth Garbett will be at the high school while Carolyn McBride comes here as our school psychologist.

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Mon., June 1st**  
Kindergarten wa-  
ter day
- **Tues., June 2nd**  
Volunteer  
Luncheon
- **Tues., June 2nd**  
PTO meeting @ 6  
P.M. in Learning  
Center
- **Fri., June 12th -**  
Flag Day -  
Kindergarten field  
trip to Lupa  
Zoo -  
End of Year Pre-  
school Potluck  
Picnic, 6-7:30 P.  
M.
- **Mon., June  
15th:** School  
Council meeting  
@ 3:15 in room  
18
- **Tues., June  
16th** (rain date of  
17th): Field Day  
and Princi-  
pal's Picnic
- **Tues., June  
23rd:** -  
Third grade Pan-  
cake Breakfast &  
planting of  
tree -  
Whole school ice  
cream social
- **Wed., June  
24th:** Last day  
of school—  
dismissal at noon

## End of the Year Activities Planned

The end of school is approaching fast. There are many activities that we are excited about. The kindergarten will have their water day on Monday, June 1st beginning at 9 A.M. and 1 P.M.

Third grade students will culminate their school year and attendance at West Street School with an annual pancake breakfast (served by the superintendent) and tree planting on Tuesday, June 23rd. We will also be celebrating Flag Day with a performance by some 3rd grade students in the morning on Friday, June 12th.

All parents are invited to watch their children participate in the field day activities on June 16th (rain date of June 17th). We will begin the Field Day with a "Walk to Cure Diabetes". The students and staff contributed to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation during March. We will walk around the school holding a JDRF banner and gather in the field to begin the field day activities. The

schedule will be as follows:

**9:05** "Walk to Cure Diabetes" & parade on baseball field

**9:20** Grade 3—50 yard dash

Grade 2—bat the ball relay

Grade 1—egg roll relay

**9:35** Grade 3—egg roll relay

Grade 2—50 yard dash

Grade 1— bat the ball relay

**9:50** Grade 3—bat the ball relay

Grade 2—egg roll relay

Grade 1—50 yard dash

**10:05** Grade 3—broom ball relay

Grade 2—water balloon toss

Grade 1—streamer run relay

**10:20** Grade 3—fetch & carry relay

Grade 2— tug-o-war

Grade 1—water balloon toss

**10:35** Grade 3—tug-o-war

**10:50** Grade 3—water balloon toss

Grade colors: 1=white, 2=blue, 3=red

**Students should wear sneakers!!**

A school picnic, "Picnic with the Principal", will be held in the courtyard after the field day. Grade 3 students will have their lunch at 11:15 and their parents are invited. Lunch for grades 1 & 2 will be for

students only.

On Tuesday, June 23rd, the third grade students will have their Pancake Breakfast prepared by our superintendent, Mrs. Pat Stevens. Following the breakfast, the third graders will plant a tree as a gift to West St. School. In the afternoon, our annual school-wide ice cream social will be held for our students and staff. We are grateful to the PTO for this treat!

The last day of school for students in P.M. kindergarten will be on Tuesday, June 23rd. The last day of school for A.M. kindergarten students will be on Wednesday, June 24th.

**Thank you for a wonderful year!!**



*Many thanks to Florence Savings Bank for giving our preschool funds for 2 scooters, 1 tricycle, & 1 "comfy chair".*

## Many Thanks to our Volunteers

Our staff and students wish to acknowledge the many volunteers who were part of our school community this year. Without the generosity of time and funds from the volunteers in the Granby PTO, we would not have teacher stipends for classrooms, a Teacher Appreciation luncheon, 3rd grade recorders, family fun nights, assembly programs and field trips for our students and staff. The experiences and assistance are truly appreciated. We also appreciate all the time and efforts that volunteers have given to

our students, staff, and school by providing students with individual and group assistance with their academics and staff with their responsibilities. These are the volunteers who have routinely volunteered throughout the school year: Amy Baker, Bre Benoit, Melissa Buxton, Sam Carriveau, Amy Cauley, Michelle Cayo, Kellie Cournoyer-Cronk, Deb Couture, Dawn Dearing, Sheila DeSellier, Cindy Dumais, Rhonda Fabricius, Cheryl Fernandes, Angela Fillion, Cindy Fournier, Katie Gauvin, Mary Gervais, Kristen Grabowski, Deanna Hass, Alli Holmberg, Natalie Lacoste, Claudette Lambert-Peterson, Tracy Learned, Lori LeBlanc, Nancy Mainville, Amy McGreevy, Kara McMahon,

Kerry Mikalchus, Melissa Moriarty, Sally O'Shea, Lora Os, Betsy Rosazza, Jennifer Roulier, Tammy Rousseau, Gilda Sanchez, Kim Sarnacki, Tracie Sexton, Nancy Shaw, Jill Skibel, Tracie Sexton, Andrea Szczur, Karen Tosoni, Lori Toth, Aimee Varney, Chris Young, and Edna Zucker. Special thanks to Leah Condon who continues to organize and monitor our school-wide literacy closet and Lynn Mercier for her role as chairperson of the Granby PTO. Our thanks to all other volunteers who have occasionally helped out for various activities throughout the school year.

Volunteers will be honored at our annual Volunteer Luncheon on Tuesday, June 2nd in the Learning Center.