



Gales Ferry/
Juliet W. Long
School

September 2011

A Word from the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends,

It is with much enthusiasm and excitement that I write this first official newsletter of the 2011-2012 school year. Much planning and hard work has gone into preparing for a successful school year. Custodians have worked diligently throughout the summer to clean and ready the schools for the endless array of activities that take place in the buildings each day. Teachers and support staff have spent hours preparing materials, creating child-centered classrooms, and reviewing data. Secretaries and office staff have registered new students, put together information packets to be sent home with all students, and organized new materials. Two new administrators have been learning the ropes.

September 6th marked the first day of school. Students streamed off of buses and out of cars. The hallways were filled with the hustle and bustle that has been absent all summer. Old friendships were quickly rekindled and new friendships made. Students swapped stories about summer and showed off new backpacks and school supplies. Teachers introduced routines and started to build a sense of community within their classrooms. We proudly welcomed close to ninety kindergarteners, the future class of 2024. A number of new students in grades 1-6 also entered the hallways for the first time. We are thrilled to have new students and families join the GFS/JWL family!

Educating a child is no simple task. A home/school connection is a vital part of a child's education. One habit for parents and caregivers to establish is checking a child's backpack daily. Forms and information are often sent home along with homework and completed work. Please read, sign, and return necessary forms in a timely fashion. The two most important things you can do to support your child are spending time talking and listening to your child and reading to and with your child. Literacy is a foundational skill. Just like an athlete in training, a reader must practice daily in order to improve. Modeling and valuing those skills is invaluable. The more time that parents can spend doing this, the better a child tends to perform. It truly does take a village to raise a child.

We are very fortunate to have an active, strong PTO. There are numerous opportunities for parents to be involved both during the school day and for a variety of events and projects. I encourage you stop by the PTO booth at Open House to get more information. Open House will be held early in September. Please note the dates listed on the calendar. We look forward to meeting you and developing a working relationship!

I look forward to getting to know each student and working collaboratively with parents and staff members to ensure that each child meets his or her full potential. My door is always open. Please do not hesitate to email me at ahogsten@ledyard.net or call the school office. I have an office in each of the buildings.

Sincerely,

Anne Hogsten
Principal

New Staff Members

Mrs. Hogsten - Principal

Dr. Austen - Assistant Principal

Mrs. Davis - GFS Secretary

Mrs. Ketcham - GFS/JWL Special Education Secretary

Ms. David - Art Teacher at GFS/JWL

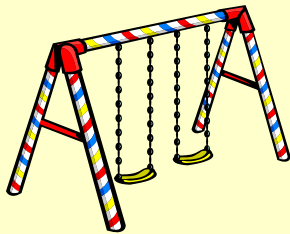
Mrs. McVeigh - Grade 5 Teacher

Mrs. Miner - Grade 1 Academy Teacher

Mrs. Ba'ez Rivera - Paraprofessional at JWL

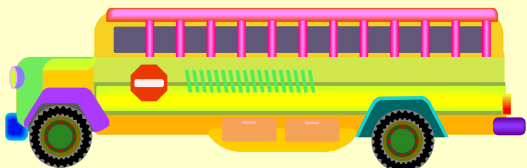
Playground News

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the PTO, new swings will be installed on the JWL playground in late-September.



Reminders to Parents

Wednesday, September 21st will be a half day. Please make sure to consult the handbook for dismissal information.



Upcoming Events

GFS Open House

September 8th 6:00-7:30 P.M.

JWL Open House

September 13th 6:00-7:30 P.M.

Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

September 17th 10:00 A.M. at Applebee's

Early Dismissal - PD for Teachers

September 21st - consult handbook for times

PTO Welcome Back Ice Cream Social

September 22nd 7:30 P.M.

JWL Picture Day

September 26th

GFS Picture Day

October 7th

PTO Meeting

October 13th 7:00-8:00 P.M. Library

CMT Results

We received the Connecticut Mastery Test results in July. Individual student reports will be sent home with students in grades 3-6 on September 14th. The results below show the percentage of students that scored at or above the state goal. Job well done!

Grade 3

Reading 70.6%

Writing 72.2%

Math 80%

Grade 4

Reading 74.6%

Writing 85.5%

Math 86.8%

Grade 5

Reading 81.9%

Writing 82.4%

Math 87.5%

Science 89.2%

Grade 6

Reading 84.8%

Writing 75%

Math 86.6%