

Parsippany GRO/PGT Gazette

June, 2011

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Sponsored By The Parsippany Parents For The Gifted And Talented



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ First PGT Meeting - Sep 26, 2011
- ◆ GRO Back to School Night - Oct 12, 2011 at Littleton School

Another School Year comes to a close! Message from the GRO Teachers

Wow that was fast! It seems this school year just began and we're already at the end. To wrap it up, here is an end of year message from the GRO Teachers.

To: The Families of our Gifted Students

There are all sorts of districts in the great land of ours - big and small, rich and poor, well-run, and inadequate. In our district, collectively, we are proud to be a part of the Gifted Program and delight in teaching your bright and creative children.

Every September we look forward to our new classes of young students and notice characteristics and behaviors that make our students stand-out. What we do about them, and with them, are equally important. Every day we hear their desire to know more, and we are impelled to ask, as we do for every student, "What can we do for them?"

In our gifted classes, our goal is to provide a program that offers every child the opportunity to experience intellectual challenge and accomplishment as well as delight in learning. Young gifted children are eager to make sense of the world in ways we may not expect from elementary students. These children have the desire to exercise and expand

their minds intellectually and creatively.

Our gifted classrooms continue to hold promise for every gifted child, providing a learning environment that has been consciously designed not only to open wide the door of advanced pursuits, but also to entice each child to step through it. We gladly address the diverse needs and challenges inherent in developing and implementing a gifted program and work hard to establish the vital skills required to teach and direct it.

As the Gifted Educators of Parsippany, we want to personally thank the families of our students for a great year and for their continued support in recognizing the importance of gifted education in their children's lives.

Sincerely,

Mrs. J. Armstrong, Mrs. M. Brown,
Mrs. S. Dasti, Ms. J. Elzer, Mrs. L. Long, & Mrs. T. Murphy

Did you know?

At just \$15.00, a PGT family membership for an entire year costs less than a nickel a day. Now is that a deal or what!

2011-2012 PGT Board

The following are the PGT Board Members for 2011-2012 School Year:

- President: Kim Catapano - Littleton School
- Vice President: Rishi Agrawal - Troy Hills
- Secretary: Lani Duffy - Mount Tabor
- Treasurer: Macey Lee - Troy Hills

Thank you Joanne Slaman and Gina

Buckley for your dedication to the PGT and GRO Program. You will be missed and we wish you the best.

The PGT is looking to fill its Committee Chairs prior to the new school year. If you are interested in filling any of these positions, please contact Kim Catapano at: kcatapano@optonline.net.

Aerodynamics (1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades)



Aidan Wall (2nd Grade GRO, Littleton School) prepares to launch his rocket with his Dad.

1st, 2nd, & 3rd graders at Northvail and Lake Hiawatha did research on aviation topics for their final project in the Aerodynamics unit and participated in a PAPER-AIRPLANE CONTEST in June.

To culminate the Aerodynamics Unit, all Littleton first, second, and third grade students attended a "Rocket Launch" in

the backfield of Littleton School. Aidan Wall, a second grader at Littleton, brought his dad along to demonstrate the principles of flight. As the rockets soared 1,000 feet into the air, the children had a "blast" chasing the rockets as they fell back down onto the field.

Science Magic (1st, 2nd, 3rd Grades)

First through third graders experienced and observed the chemical and physical behavior of atoms and molecules through hands-on experiments and demonstration.

The students even had an opportunity to understand Earth Sciences by making model volcanoes. Here is one of the models constructed by the students in Mrs. Brown's GRO class at Mt. Tabor school.



The PGT awards one \$500 scholarship every year to a graduating senior from each high school.

Shakespeare (4th Grade)

Students have explored the world and words of William Shakespeare. Through a variety of drama activities, your child has developed and enhanced his/her creative imaginations, and communication skills.

Mrs. Murphy's 4th Grade GRO class at Littleton school culminated this unit with a performance of Julius Caesar.



Visual Arts and Artists (4th Grade)

The artists in residence in the GRO classes prepared interactive art exhibits in June. Their portfolios included artwork focusing on perspective, complementary color design, cartooning, and tessellations.

Here are some of the young artists from Mrs. Brown's GRO class at the Mt. Tabor school.



Financial Literacy (5th Grade)

The fifth graders at Northvail and Lake Hiawatha schools have gone entrepreneurial and conducted business

presentations to prospective in-class investors as the final project of the Financial Literacy unit.

End of Year Picnic

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's GRO Picnic hosted by the PGT on June 4th. We hit an all time record with attendance. 344 people attended this year's picnic at Smith Field Park. In the past we have had about 150-180 people. Due to new town regulations, the PGT had the responsibility of catering the Picnic entirely.

We also had a representative of A.W. Peller & Associates for the Bright Ideas Catalog attend and provide demonstrations on gifted games and puzzles for the children. The PGT raised \$250 from the sale of these games. Thank you to the parents that volunteered and assisted in the set up, clean up, and activities during the picnic. Without your help the PGT could not have had a successful day.

Gifted Fair

The PGT held their first Gifted Fair on March 9, 2011 at the Main Library in Parsippany. It was a great success for the PGT and the organizations that participated. The following programs were represented:

- The New Jersey Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC)
- Mad Science
- G&T Institute & SEE Camp

- Montclair Academically Gifted & Talented Youth Program
- ID Tech Camps
- Summer Institute for the Gifted
- Storming Robots
- Math Wizard
- Morristown Community Center

The PGT will continue this program and search for new organizations and programs to add to future Gifted Fairs.

Information Session: "Homework Help"

The PGT put together an Information Session with the Parsippany Main Library on March 23, 2011. Ms. Netta Aragona, Library Associate, presented a Homework Help Workshop. The workshop is designed to familiarize parents of children in elementary or middle school with the many databases

the library provides for free (live tutors are available through one of the sites!). Despite the bad weather that evening, the turnout was good. All that attended learned a lot about the great databases offered through the library to help our students with homework and research projects.

Information Session: Moving Up

The PGT put together an Information Session with Brooklawn Middle School and Central Middle School on May 19, 2011. The Information Session was presented by Principal Hoehne from Brooklawn and Principal Francis from

Central. They addressed the parents of 5th Grade GRO students to help our parents understand the transition their child will make and what gifted or accelerated programs are offered to their children.



Picnic: Kids spinning themselves to fun, Basketball and Velcro catch, Parents taking a break from the kids, Gifted Games demonstrations by our very own Parsippany GRO kids (Top to Bottom)

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Grades 2nd & 3rd Math Field Trip - October, 2011
- ◆ Medieval Festival - March, 2012

We're on the Web!
<http://www.pthsd.k12.nj.us/PGT/index.htm>

PGT News

Board of Education Visit:

Dr. Lee Seitz, Superintendent and Mr. Anthony Mancuso, President of the School Board, attended our March PGT Meeting. Dr. Seitz presented the approved and finalized 2011-2012 Budget and answered PGT Members questions regarding the budget.

Medieval Festival

GRO Students will be learning about the Middle Ages next year. The PGT will be hosting a Medieval Festival in March 2012. A Committee Chair and dedicated parent volunteers will be needed in order to accomplish this great program that is done for the children every four years.

PGT School Representative

The PGT needs a dedicated

representative from each school to attend the PGT monthly meetings and attend your local PTA meetings to report PGT activity. Each School Representative votes on all motions and the annual budget. If you are interested, please contact Kim Catapano.

Committees

The PGT needs volunteers to serve on our committees next year in particular the following:

- Information Sessions
- Newsletter
- Picnic
- Fundraising
- Scholarship

If you are interested in helping out, please email pgtparsippany@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report - Year to date spending

GIFTS TO GRO PROGRAM:

- Young Explorer's Carnivorous Creations \$289.45
- Citi Blocks \$269.50
- Convocation Supplies \$88.37
- Cascade School Supplies \$307.09
- Bright Ideas Catalog \$1,366.57
- Mindware \$922.43
- Gifted Fair \$100.50
- Parsippany Rec Dept - Picnic grounds \$100.00
- Scholarships \$1,000.00

Year End Gift to Teachers: The PGT raised \$250 from A.W. Peller and Associates, Inc. (The Bright Ideas Catalog) during the Year End Picnic. This was presented to the GRO Teachers to use towards classroom supplies.

Stay Tuned!

If you would like to stay informed about GRO and PGT news and events, we'd love to keep on telling you about them!

You can request to be placed on our email list by sending an email to: pgtparsippany@gmail.com. We value your privacy and will not use your address for any reason other than to send you information relating to the GRO program and the PGT.

In the next edition of The Parsippany GRO/PGT Gazette, we will have reports

on the Fall class projects and class trips.

A special thanks to all the GRO teachers, Joanne Slaman and Kim Catapano for contributing to this edition of the Parsippany GRO/PGT Gazette!

Have a great summer! See you next Fall!

Rafi Reza

Editor



GRO Parents perusing and buying gifted games from The Bright Ideas booth at the Picnic.