



East Hartford-Glastonbury Elementary Magnet School
MAGNET NEWS

September 2010

A NASA Explorer School

A Magnet *School of Excellence*

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Mr. Glen J. Peterson
 Principal

Ms. Jen Michno
 Asst. Principal

Principal Peterson's Page

I hope everyone has had a great start to the school year. It was wonderful to see everyone during Open House and the first week went very smoothly. I'm spending lots of time in classrooms, and I'm working hard to learn all the new students' names.

The big news is that Mrs. Michno will be leaving us at the end of September because she is becoming the principal of the Green School in Newington. She has been at EHGEMS for eleven years as a psychology intern, psychologist, and assistant principal. She has been an outstanding member of our school team and a strong advocate for children and families. Of course we will be sad not to see Mrs. Michno every day and benefit from her wisdom and friendship, but we wish her well. I know she will be very successful and that the Green School is lucky to have her as their principal.

Another piece of big news is that the school building project is moving ahead. I visited the site before school on September 7. The construction manager was meeting with the demolition contractor, there were some heavy machines, and a construction trailer was on site. The demolition of the existing building should begin very shortly. Demolition and site preparation is considered Phase I of the project and it is beginning now. Phase II is construction. The project should go out for bid next month and the contracts will be awarded in December. Those of you who visit Stop and Shop on Oak Street in Glastonbury will easily be able to follow the progress of the project.

We still haven't received paper CMT scores from the state. When we get them we will immediately send individual student scores home to parents. As always our scores are well above the Average Yearly Progress (AYP) benchmarks, but the overall scores were below those of the past two years. Scores in grades three were very strong and the fifth graders did quite well with over 90% of the students reaching proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics. The grade four scores were below our expectations. In grade 4 many students were just a few points below goal in reading and writing, which means their scores should increase dramatically as fifth graders. I will make a report on the CMT scores during the September 15th PTO meeting.

Parents all received lots of beginning of the year paperwork at Open House or on the first day of school. Please return those many forms to school as soon as possible.

Have a Great School Year!

**IMPORTANT DATES
 IN SEPTEMBER**

- 9-10 Pizza Night 5:30
- 9-15 Advisory Comm 6pm
PTO Meeting 7pm
- 9-16 Innisbrook Fundraiser
Due
- 9-17 Boxtops Submission
Due
- 9-21 Curriculum Night
6:30-8pm
- 9-22 Fall Fest Planning
7pm
- 9-23 McDonald's Family
Night 5-7pm
- 9-24 Recipe Submission
Due
- 9-30 Early Dismissal

Visit us at our web site for more school information and teachers classroom events and links to great websites. You may even register to receive alerts when pages are updated!

Karen Brunette, Editor

www.crec.org/ehgems

EHGEMS is managed by



Welcome To Kindergarten!

It was wonderful to see so many excited children at Open House. Students in kindergarten have adjusted nicely to the full day of school.

They began getting to know each other during morning meeting and have become comfortable with our school and classroom routines. They are showing much excitement and enthusiasm for learning!

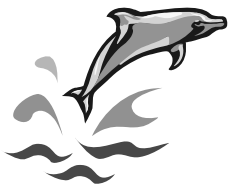
We are already illustrating and learning poems and songs and have even read books together. As a NASA Explorer School, Mrs. Rand has introduced our new kindergartners to rockets. They all enjoyed gathering in the science lab and going outside to launch a water rocket!



First Graders Will Visit Mystic

Welcome to the ONE-derful world of grade one! With the fall equinox, September is a very exciting month when our young scientists begin to explore forces and motion.

Throughout the year the children will measure the length and direction of their shadows.



On Sept. 23 parent helpers are invited to join the first graders on our first fieldtrip to Mystic Aquarium. With a focus on "Fins, Flippers and Feet", we will notice how and why marine animals move. Please join us for a fun filled day exploring the amazing sea life!

Mrs. Cordova and Mrs. Mroz look forward to a very dynamic year in grade one!

Second Graders Study Plant Life

We are so excited to begin our school year! We cannot wait to get to know our students and for them to learn all of the special topics we have planned for the year.

We will begin our year in science by learning about the life cycle of plants. Students will grow 2 bean plants and conduct experiments on one of them as a way to learn about the needs of plants. In reading, we will use Marc Brown's Arthur books as a way to review story elements.



The first unit in math reviews addition and provides various strategies for adding numbers. We are teaching students our classroom routines as well as discussing appropriate behavior and rules.

Mrs. Raffalo and Ms. Yencho are looking forward to a fantastic year!

Third Graders are Ready to Recycle!

Third graders have many exciting initiatives this year. First, we will kick off the year with a science unit about how living things (bugs and other animals) adapt to their environments in order to survive. We will also incorporate recycling and decomposition into this unit since third grade students are responsible for collecting, weighing, and recycling the paper from every classroom and office at EHGEMS. You'd be amazed at the amount of paper products we recycle!



Another component in our curriculum is the Scott Foresman Reading Street Anthology. This is a theme-based differentiated reading program that integrates science and social studies topics, along with rich literature by popular authors. We also plan to continue using our whole class community novels to model and reinforce fluency, written response to text, and various comprehension strategies. First up is *James and the Giant Peach*, by Roald Dahl, which coincides with our science unit on living things.

We will continue to use the Math Trailblazers series along with other supplemental materials for math. Our first unit has to do with data collection, sampling, classifying, and graphing.

Our first unit in global studies will focus on various map skills such as the differences between continents, countries, states, cities, and towns.

Please remember to send your child to school with a **healthy** snack such as fruit, vegetables, cheese, or yogurt each day. Please send water instead of juices or teas to drink as well since juices can be messy if spilled in the classroom. Thank you for your cooperation.

Please join us for Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 21st to hear more about what's in store this year.

Fourth Grade Will Study Life Outdoors

Mrs. Garbart and Mrs. Saunders want to welcome the fourth graders and their families to an exciting year of learning. In the next few weeks, we will work as scientists as we visit the local pond. We will examine animal and plant life and how they use the pond habitat to meet their basic needs. We will use this information as we study different biomes in the United States of America. While using newly learned map skills, the students will create a biome PowerPoint slide show.



Desert Biome

Also, watch for information on our trout. We will be raising them from eggs to fingerlings and releasing them into a local CT river. This is an on-going yearlong project of which the students are an integral part.

Students will be jumping into reading and writing using the Reader's and Writer's Workshop models they learned about in third grade. Reading at school and at home is important so *please* make sure your child is reading for at least 20 minutes at home each evening. In the next few weeks, students will be learning how to write a response to their independent reading books. They will be assigned a day each week that their response is due. This allows them to share their thoughts about their reading with us.

We look forward to continuing to help your child make a smooth transition to the fourth grade and look forward to seeing you on Curriculum Night.

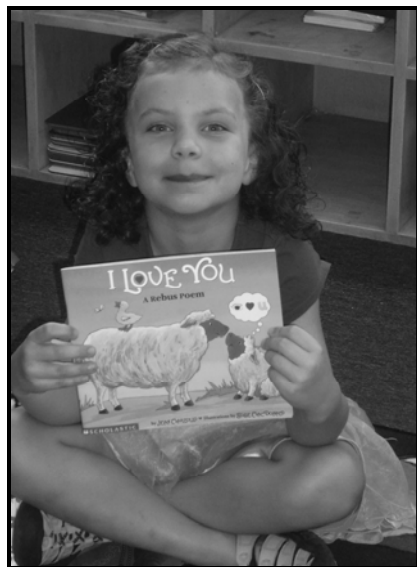
Fifth Graders Prepare for LIS

Welcome to fifth grade parents and students! It was wonderful to see so many of you at Open House on the 30th. This is going to be an exciting year! Our first major fifth grade event is traveling to Long Island Sound, Hammonasset State Park. An early morning departure of 7:30AM, on Wednesday, September 29th is scheduled to accommodate the tides. The rain date is Wednesday, October 13th. Anyone interested in chaperoning on this trip please let either Mrs. Moore or Ms. Wilson know. This trip gives the students the opportunity to experience what real marine biologists do in that we explore the habitat, collect data, compare data from previous years against what we find and predict the outcomes for our spring excursion. In preparation for this trip we will be focus on a variety of academic skills; observing, measuring, averaging and writing about our experience, just to name a few.



Seining on the shores of LIS

From the Reading Resource Center



Welcome back to all our returning students and to all our new families! I hope your summer was filled with family, relaxation and lots of great books. As the building Literacy Specialist, it is my mission to ensure that all students reach their full potential in reading and writing. The month of September includes getting to know our students personally and academically. Teachers will be assessing students in reading, writing and math. These assessments are an integral part of planning for instruction and for tracking a student's growth as a reader, writer and mathematician.

Please take the time to send back a list of books your child read over the summer. If you misplaced the Governor's Summer Reading Challenge form, don't worry. Books read (or listened to, for our youngest students) can be sent in and given to your child's classroom teacher on any paper. We want every child to be recognized for summer reading.

I wish everyone in EHGEMS community an exciting and successful year.
Happy Reading!

Mrs. Sliva, Reading Specialist



EHGEMS SCIENCE ZONE

Science Through the Seasons~

The fall is a time for students to explore the outdoor world; students will be investigating the pond or ocean, woods, fields, streams or schoolyard environments. Do you know what animals and plants live in Connecticut? Do you know how to care for animals?

Winter is a time for physical science and inventions for our young engineers. Students will have opportunities to study snowflakes to electrical circuits and also build an invention to help the world.

Springtime will bring children outdoors again to observe new life bursting onto the scene as they visit the farm, grow a garden, and raise chicks, tadpoles, or butterflies! Look also for students to explore a Glastonbury quarry for minerals or students to release the Brown Trout raised in the science lab into the Blackledge River and also to seine Long Island Sound for life in the ocean!

Go to the school website (look under "classes", science) to keep up with all the science activity at EHGEMS.

There is information for parents (calendars, schedules and rescheduled events) and students (Fluffy the Science Dog adventures and student experiments) and there are lots and lots of photos of students working throughout the school day! sciencelabkids.wordpress.com. We look forward to an exciting year in science at EHGEMS!

Science Curriculum Topics for Sept.-Nov.

Grade K : Earth's Amazing Animals! Diversity in Living and Non-living Things.

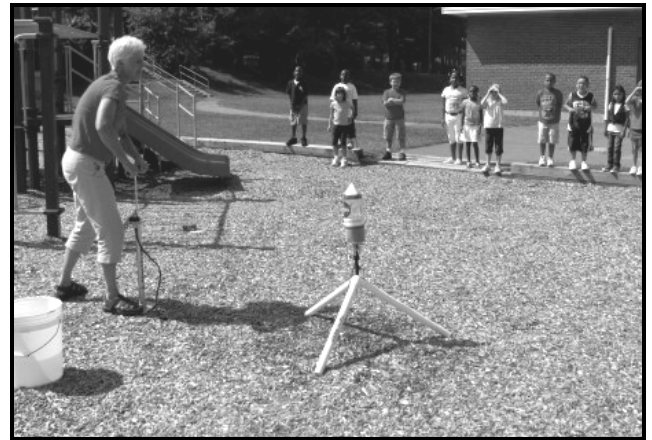
Gr. 1: Survival: Life Needs, Creature Features on Land, Air and Sea.

Gr. 2: Botany: Plants are Living Things!

Gr. 3: Schoolyard Habitats: Animal & Plant Adaptations

Gr. 4: Energy in an Ecosystem: Ponds & Rivers

Gr. 5: Sensory Pathways: Sight & Light: Animals on Land and in the Water.



Ground control helps Ms. Rand blast off a water bottle rocket in honor of NASA team-work and experiments in space during the first week of school!

What a great way to start off the new school year!

Sept. 29- 5th Grade Long Island Sound Trip

Meet at school 7:30 am, Back at School for Regular 3:15 Dismissal.

We are in need of parent chaperons! Please contact Donna Rand if you are interested in helping out.



Physical Education ~ Being Fit is Fun!

As we start off the school year, let's keep that in mind. With the right attitude, fitness can be fun. Students should be prepared for school by sleeping well, eating healthy foods at meal time and snack time, and finding time every day to exercise vigorously. Be prepared for physical education classes by wearing sneakers (tied!) and shorts or pants. The first few weeks of PE will focus on procedures, fitness activities and recess games. Fourth grade students will be asked to complete a daily fitness journal to prepare for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment in October.



Check the PE wiki page for updates and special events! Parents who wish to assist in PE classes, please contact Donna DuBaldo ddubaldo@crec.org.

REMEMBER: Healthy Kids Learn Better!



The PE Schedule for your child's class for 2010-2011 is listed at right. Please be sure to send your child in with sneakers and comfortable clothes on their PE days. Thank you!

P.E. Schedule

KP Tuesdays	KR Wednesdays
1C Tuesdays	1M Wednesdays
2R Thursdays	2Y Wednesdays
3B Thursdays	3M Thursdays
4G Wednesdays	4S Tuesdays
5M Thursdays	5W Wednesdays

Japanese/Global Studies

Konnichiwa (hello)! Welcome to another exciting year of learning Japanese/Global Studies! We begin our new year with fun activities to get to know each other and to learn or review rules and useful classroom expressions. Our first major school wide event is the Japanese School Day on Wed. October 6th. We need some volunteer parents that day, so please mark the calendar. A note on Japanese School Day with more specific information will come home soon. We are also looking for parents who are interested in running the New Year Celebration (ShinNenKai) on January 22 with Mrs. Crooks, Musall Sensei and Tsuji Sensei.

I made a new CD and a booklet of songs we sing in Japanese class to learn the vocabulary. If you are interested in getting a new CD, please let me know. Domo arigato! (Thank you very much!)

Tsuji Sensei & Musall Sensei



The entire school is outside for morning exercises on Japanese School Day. Children dress and participate as if they were going to school in Japan.



Library/Technology News

We are all very excited to start the 2010-2011 school year. Stop in the library and tell me about your summer reading. I will be placing a big book order soon, so I am interested in hearing suggestions.

If you still have overdue books, it is important that you return them as soon as possible. Students who have not returned books from last year will not be able to check out new books until they are returned or paid for. I will be sending out notices during the first couple weeks of school.

We still subscribe to Grolier Online. Grolier is an age-appropriate, academically-relevant online research reference resource. It gives the students online access to encyclopedias, dictionaries, an atlas, and countless other resources they can use in their studies.

To access at home:

Username: ehgms---note there is no second "e"

Password: home

Hope everyone has a wonderful school year!



What's Your Theme Song?

Welcome to the wonderful world of Music! Do you have a favorite song that makes you come alive? What piece of music inspires you? Makes you happy? Feel invincible? When you're famous, what melody do you want playing in the background as you're introduced on stage? Let's start the school year off by finding that special tune that helps motivate you throughout the school year! Start thinking and listening to all the music out there and be ready to share YOUR theme song in music class!

What a great musical year this will be!

Mrs. Hickel



What Does Art Mean to You?

Welcome back to art class! I hope you had a fun summer and some time to be creative too! All classes will start off the year sharing some of the creative things they did over the summer. Maybe you had a chance to draw, paint, color with sidewalk chalk or even visit an art museum. You may also bring in any art project you would like to share with the class. We will talk about what art means to you and post our thoughts on the bulletin board across from the art room. I look forward to a year full of imagination and creativity!

Mrs. Reiger

FALL FEST



Let's Make it the Best Ever!

We are looking for someone to chair or co-chair this event.

If you are interested, please contact Lisa Johnson at: cjohnson65@hotmail.com or the office for more information.



Pizza Night 9/10 is a great "Welcome Back" school event for families and faculty to socialize and get to know each other. Please join us to meet up with old friends and make some new ones! 5:30-7:30pm



McDonald's Night 9/23 5:00-7:00pm
The Main street, Glastonbury Restaurant donates a percentage of all meals sold in that time period to our school! This also includes all drive-thru purchases!



On the left kindergarten students meet Fluffy the Science Dog. On the right they line up after recess.



In July students viewed the video of Astronaut Terry Caldwell-Dyson conducting an experiment that was designed by our students aboard the International Space Station. The experiment, which was designed in the spring by EHGMS fourth and fifth grade students, was conducted in late June following the end of school. The students designed the experiment to better understand how small objects would react in a microgravity environment. For the experiment the astronaut put 50 jelly beans into a 2' x 2' zip lock bag and blew air into it. On the video the students saw that the jelly beans tended to move as a whole rather than as individual objects.

