



I have enjoyed my first several days with the students here at Graymont School. I appreciate their eagerness to learn and the way they get along so well together. The 2008-2009 school year should be a great one!

We have three new employees that I would like you to be aware of. The first is Roger Zehr who will serve as a bus driver this year. He is from Graymont originally and has just moved back to Flanagan recently after working for the Tri-Valley School District. The second is Tara Ores. Tara lives in Pontiac and was a teacher at Graymont the year before last. She returns to our school as a Physical Education and Health teacher this year after being a teacher in Pontiac last year. The other new employee is Judy Shubert. Judy retired from Head Start after working there for 19 years. She lives in Flanagan and will serve the district as a teacher's aide this year. We feel very fortunate to have these fine individuals join the staff here at Graymont. As you are aware, I am also new this year. I live in Gridley and served as an administrator in the Gridley and El Paso-Gridley School Districts for 20 years prior to becoming the superintendent/principal at Graymont this year. I feel very fortunate to be here as well.

I also want to extend a warm welcome to our 10 new students. In kindergarten; Jacob Bressner, son of Jeff and Jill Bressner, Alaska Bennett, daughter of Steve and Megan Bennett, Eli Embley, son of Patrick and Kelli Embley, Adam Jacobs, son of Matt and Sarah Jacobs, and Tatum Runyon, daughter of Ali Runyon. Other new students include Timothy Runyon in 1st grade, son of Ali Runyon, Travis Schopp in 7th grade and Gerald Holzhauer in 3rd grade, sons of Chris and Angela Holzhauer, and the daughters of Jaime Ridgway, Julia Ridgway in 3rd grade and Courtnie Ridgway in 1st grade. We hope the new students are getting settled and enjoying their being a part of Graymont Grade School.

When you come to school, we hope you will notice the new concrete play area on the south side of the building. Volunteers put it in for us and the project was funded by the PTO. We also refinished the cabinets in the kitchen along with the usual cleaning and maintenance work this summer. The spirit of cooperation that I have seen since my arrival here in June has been terrific. The Rooks Creek School District and Graymont School have lots of folks who care deeply about it and want to see it continue its tradition of excellence. With the care and support I have seen, I believe we have something truly unique here in this day and age. Thanks in advance for your continued support for the school district and the youth of this community. Graymont School will continue to shine in 2008-2009!!

Bill James

Fundraisers

The following is a list of fund raiser programs that Graymont Grade School currently participates in which provide the school with extra funds. It's amazing at how every little bit adds up and can help make a difference. Take some time to look through the programs to see if you can help our school by participating.

County Market Max Dollars: A letter is attached to the newsletter explaining how to participate in this program. Basically, complete the registration form attached to the letter and submit it at the customer service desk at County Market. Every time a purchase is made and your card is scanned, money is given to the school.

Cartridges for Kids: Graymont Grade School is once again collecting empty inkjet cartridges and laser printer cartridges. We send these in and receive cash back for each one sent.

Box Tops for Education: Collect the General Mills box tops found on cereals and other items like Betty Crocker fruit snacks and roll-ups. Each top is worth ten cents.

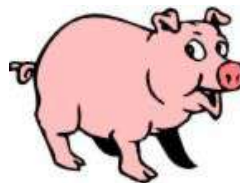
Campbell's Soup Labels: These are collected every year and redeemed for school equipment.

Soup Supper: The PTO organizes an annual soup supper each held in February this school year. This event is always a great success. The event takes a great deal of work in planning, so everyone is invited to participate.



Athletics

Graymont Grade school has the opportunity to co-op athletics with Flanagan school. As a result, Dallas Burns, Shane Burns, and Justin Rich are participating in baseball and Abby Jacobs, Kylee Bier, Lindsay Rich in softball. I would like to encourage everyone to attend the games that have our students involved, and cheer them on to victory. These students work hard to keep their grades up and stay active in school sponsored events. They do a great job and deserve to have a cheering section. An activity calendar can be viewed on the website, and one will be sent home each month with all the game dates and times. Hope to see you there!



PTO Pork Chop Dinner

PTO will be sponsoring the 2nd annual Pork Chop Dinner on September 26, 2007 serving from 4:30 to 7:00 pm. Ticket sales will begin the first week in September. We will be offering pork chop sandwiches, green beans, applesauce, chips, drinks, and dessert. Carry outs will be available.

Teacher News



Mrs. Erickson - Kindergarten

The 2008-2009 Kindergarten class is off and running. There are 5 students this year- 2 girls and 3 boys. We are all becoming friends and learning to listen, help, and respect one another. This year Kindergarten has 15 min of P.E. daily. Everyone is very excited about P.E.

Our reading readiness program which involves Jolly Phonics is going strong. We have already covered 9 letters/sounds/motions. There is a bit of homework each night. We work on words that begin with our new sound and practicing the correct way to write the letter. There is also a lot of rhyming going on in our room. The class also has rhyming homework that involves a nursery rhyme. Everyone is being very responsible about bringing back their homework.

Math has the class totally involved with all of the mechanics of the calendar. There is lots of counting, patterning, odd/even, place value, money, weather watching and recoding, and basic addition. We are also working with unifix cubes, pattern blocks, and mirrors. We will be adding listening story problems involving food very soon.

Science has us mixing colors and now we will begin working on the five senses. We will do several experiments as we weave our way through the senses. We will be wearing scientific attire when we complete an experiment!!

Me, myself, and I - that's what we have been talking about for Social Studies. We have been working on a "me" book involving families, homes, favorite foods, etc. Now, we will be working on Johnny Appleseed and how important he was to our country. There will be many activities involving apples, measuring apples, graphing apples, and cooking with apples.

Our field trip to the Threshermen's Reunion was awesome. We saw Mr. Davis shearing sheep. We decided that we wouldn't want to get a haircut like that!! The sawmill was operating - it's lot different than going to Menard's for lumber. We visited the one-room school house - pretty tiny by today's standards. The steam engine train ride was definitely a favorite. We even got to see Abraham Lincoln!! Thanks to Mr. Embley for accompanying our class as a chaperone.

We are looking forward to a great year. We know that we h

rn in order to be ready for first grade!!

Mrs. Hinz - 1st/2nd



Welcome back. I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. We have two new students in our class that came to Graymont this year, Courtnie Ridgway and Timothy Runyon. With these students the 1st/2nd grade class has 9 students total this year. Parker Bennett, Courtnie Ridgway, Timothy Runyon, Robbie Young, and Rosalee Zehr are in first grade. Our second graders include: Daniel Embley, Hannah Pulliam, Rebecca Rich, and Hunter Robinson. The students and I are very excited to get another fantastic year started!

First and second graders are working really hard on adjusting to new rules and routines this year. We are having lots of fun developing our love of school and learning. In the upcoming month, we have lots of exciting work planned.

Mrs. Hinz cont...



A big chunk of our time during the day is donated to reading. Both grades will be working a lot with learning the sounds for all the letters and letter combinations. Furthermore, we are learning and reviewing strategies good readers use to decode words.

In math, we are focusing on addition and subtraction in first grade. The second graders will be reviewing place value to prepare us for two digit addition. Our class will be using a daily program called "Rocket Math" to help us memorize all those math facts.

We will be beginning this month with a science unit on habitats. We are going to discuss five different types of habitats: forest, wetland, ocean, desert, and artic. We will learn some of the different plants and animals that inhabit these areas. Furthermore, we will discuss some adaptations the plants and animals have made to live in a certain area.

Our class will be continuing to use guided reading in the classroom. Guided reading is important because it places readers in their exact level. With this, students will get a one-on-one opportunity to read with me. I will be sending books home everyday in their "book buddy" bag. The books will be changed on Tuesday and Friday of each week. Please take time to have your child read these books to you. Reading and rereading text is the best way to build great fluency in a reader. So reread those books at school and at home.

Finally, don't forget to check the school website! We love to update it with new pictures of what is happening in our classroom, as well, as other helpful information.

Ms. Rients – 3rd/4th



Welcome back to another great school year! The students are already working hard and back into the swing of things after just a couple weeks of school. They are a fun group, and I look forward to getting to know them this year.

In reading we are working on sequencing, drawing conclusions, author's purpose, and cause and effect. Please have your child read at least 15 minutes a night, along with read their A-Z book three times a week. This may seem like a lot of reading, but as with everything, practice makes fluent readers.

In language arts, we are reviewing what makes a complete sentence. Also we are picking out the subject and predicate of the sentence. In writing, we are starting our Flat Stanley project. During our read aloud, I read *Flat Stanley* to the students. Have your child give you details about the story. We are going to write a class letter to send out with our own Flat Stanleys. Watch for more details on this to come.

3rd graders in math are reviewing addition and subtraction. They are also studying place value through the hundred thousands place. This includes writing numbers in standard, expanded, and word form. The next chapter will be about comparing, ordering, and rounding numbers. 4th graders are working on place value through the hundred millions place. They are also writing numbers in standard, expanded, and word form. Next they will also be comparing and ordering numbers. Both grades are also practicing their Rocket Math to memorize their math facts.

In science we have been studying natural resources. We've discussed renewable and nonrenewable resources, conservation, recycling, and solar energy. We've done a few experiments by making recycled paper, seeing how different colors absorb heat, and done a recycling challenge. Social Studies will be starting shortly, and we will start by learning how to read maps. This will include a map project where students will be making maps using their handprints. Then we will do an overview of our country's land, government, and culture before starting our trip around the regions of the United States.

It is important that all students get their assignment book signed each night by a parent. This counts as a participation grade, and it allows parents to see what the student is responsible for completing during the day. Also, as a reminder, I am using SnapGrades again this year, so I encourage you to check on your student's progress throughout each quarter.

Mrs. Hott – 5th – 8th

Welcome back to another great year at Graymont!! We especially welcome our new student – Travis Schopp as well as our 5th graders who have moved up to join us.

Hopefully you all had a fun and relaxing summer and are ready for all the fall activities. Please see the school website for much information about what we will be studying this year, links to our textbooks online as well as homework assignments. Here's what we have done so far this year:

5/6 Social Studies - We are beginning our study with the Neolithic Era – check out the link to a real archeological site for a city we are studying – Catal Huyuk. We also have welcomed Mr. Bear to our classroom. He will be joining us in our studies and the students will be dressing him in outfits in line with what we study.

5-6 Science - We are starting a study of Earth's structure including tectonic plates, volcanoes and earthquakes. Students have participated in making an edible model of the Earth's structure as well as making a substance to show how the inside of the Earth can be both a liquid and a solid.

7-8 Science - We are beginning with a study of animals – some that we are familiar with and some that we may not have been aware of. We had an interesting lab called Wet, Wiggly Worms where we observed earthworms under various conditions. Thanks to the kindergarten students for helping put our worms in the flowerbed when we were finished with them. We just completed the first chapter on Animal Behavior and are moving on to Invertebrates.

Math – The order of chapters for each of the grade levels is posted on the school website. We will try to make sure we cover the topics we are weakest in as well as any we may not have been able to spend a lot of time on the previous year. Parents of 5th graders – ask them about reading the binary clock we have in our room!



Ms. Wilson – 5th – 8th



Welcome Back! A special welcome to my new 5th graders who are adjusting to their new lockers and switching classes. They are doing a fabulous job!!!

5th/6th Reading: We have started Unit 1: Relating to Others and Discovering ourselves. We will be focusing on the reading elements: author's viewpoint, cause and effect, generalizing, character, and sequencing. Their selection test that goes along with every story will be every Thursday morning. The students will have a spelling pre-test every Monday morning with opportunities to practice their words throughout the week. Their spelling test will be every Friday morning.

7th/8th Reading: We have jumped right into our books and started our focus on Science Fiction and Fantasy literary genres. In addition we also focus on a story's theme and the author's purpose for writing a selection. The students will have vocabulary words to learn and will be faced with thinking critically when answering questions from each story. Please check with your students periodically during the first month or two of school to ensure they are working well with the reading material. In addition to our reading textbooks, from time to time we will focus our attention on reading novels. This reading should be a nice change for the students.

5th-8th – Language Arts: We are working on the four different types of sentences, subjects/predicates, conjunctions, run-on sentences, compound sentences, and complex sentences. Within the next week we will switch gears and focus our attention on nouns: common/proper, singular/plural, and possessive.

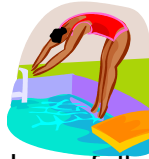
7th/8th Social Studies: We have started Unit 1 in our World Cultures and Geography book. This year we will be focusing on the United States and Canada, Latin America, Southern Asia, Europe, Russia, North/South America, etc. There will be many opportunities for students to work together in class and perform hands on activities.

Accelerated Reader: Each student has been given an individual quarter AR goal. If a student reaches their quarterly AR goal they will receive a 100% in the grade book towards their reading grade. If a student does not reach their quarterly AR goal they will receive a ZERO in the grade book toward their reading grade. Students must reach all four quarterly goals in order to attend the pizza/bowling party at the end of the school year.

Ms. Ores – 5th-8th Health



Our first year of 5th-8th grade health has started off with the students understanding their own health and wellness. The students have been working very hard to prepare for the first tests. 7th and 8th graders have looked at good and bad health influences. We have taken the time to look at influences in the media and tell about the positive and negative effects of those issues. The 5th and 6th graders have been talking about making healthy decisions. They too have looked at influences in the media to help them realize what good decisions to make. 7th and 8th graders will be taking their first test on August 29th and the 5th and 6th graders will have their first test on Monday, September 8th. I hope all of you received the parent letter that I sent home with your child. I will send these letters out for every new chapter that we begin to keep you informed about what your child is learning. 7th and 8th grade parents should be expecting a second letter very soon.



Our first year of kindergarten PE has been full of loco-motor movements. The students are learning different ways to move. They have started to learn how to slide, gallop, skip, hop, and jump. We have also included some of our own silly ways to move. The students are also beginning to play tag games. It's wonderful that the kindergarteners get to take some time to get up and move.

All of the students at Graymont started their first week of school participating in cooperative activities in PE. They had to start working together and encouraging each other right off the bat. 1st-4th and 5th-8th started different activities the second week of school. 1st-4th started with throwing Frisbees and got to play Frisbee golf. The 5th-8th graders had the chance to try golfing with the help of Pontiac High School's golf equipment. This is a great chance for the students to find a new activity that they may have never experienced before.



Special Dates to Remember

- Sept. 1 – No school
- Sept. 4 – Dibels Testing
- Sept. 17 – Progress Reports
- Sept. 22-26 – STS Testing
- ~~Sept. 26 – Pork Chop Dinner~~