

# THOMASTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## SEPTEMBER UPDATE

### A Note from the Principal . . .

It is hard to believe that four weeks have already passed since the end of summer vacation. What a busy four weeks it has been. Teachers have been working to complete beginning of the year assessments to see where their students are at and set goals with them for the year. Teachers get a lot of helpful information from those assessments. We have been focusing on some of our habits for success through Social Skills Time first thing every morning in grades K-3 and through CREW on Friday afternoons in grades 4-5. We have all been enjoying our new facility and playground. Soon the playground fence will be installed, and new lights throughout the building started to be installed on September 21st. The building and grounds are looking great. What a wonderful September it has been! Summer is officially over and October is nearly upon us. Please check out our upcoming events section to see what is coming up.

### REMINDER

Students should not arrive at school before 8:00 AM (unless they are in the Before School Program)



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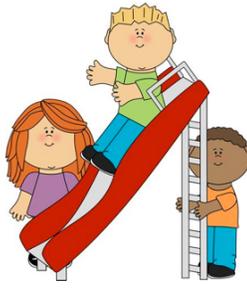
The telephone number for the Thomaston Grammar School is

354-6353



### Important Dates

Important Dates	
Grade 5 Band Information Night 6:00pm at South School	9/26
Grades 1-4 Field Trip to The Conservation Fair	9/29
Lifetouch School Pictures	10/3
Teacher Workshop - No School	10/7
Columbus Day - No School	10/10
Maine Author, Chris Van Dusen, Visits	10/18
Parent Group Meeting 6:00	10/18
Kindness Counts Assembly 2:00	10/28
Halloween Costume Walk 1:15	10/31
Trunk-or-Treat 4:30-5:30	10/31
Fall Fest 9-12	11/5
Turkey Trot 1:15	11/22



## TGS Playground After School

The TGS playground is in use by the YMCA aftercare program, a paid program, from the end of school until 5:30 p.m. Students who are not a part of that program should not be on the playground at that time unless an adult is on the playground closely supervising them. If students who are not part of the program are on the playground, even with an adult, and are deemed to be causing a problem, they will be asked to leave. The playground at the Lura Libby location is a great alternative for play that could be used during that time.

## Dictionary Donation



Thank you to the Rockland Elks Club for their generous donation of dictionaries for all of the TGS third grade students!



## WHAT AN ARTIST!

Dear Family,

Your talented child has been creating artwork for you that you will see soon on their personalized catalog coming home!

Celebrate your child's artistic achievement! You'll be able to order timeless keepsakes to cherish for years to come. Check out [www.square1art.com/shop](http://www.square1art.com/shop) for gift ideas!



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## News from Mrs. Howard's Class

First graders in Mrs. Howard's class have been working hard transitioning back into school. In literacy, we have been reviewing letters, sounds, and letter formations.

We have also been working with students' names, helping us to further review literacy skills. Each day we focus on a different student. We sing a song with their names in it, make a class chart about what we notice about our friends' names, do a name puzzle, and rainbow write the name. These rainbow names will get put together in a book, so each child will have a book of his/her friends' names. In writing, we have been reviewing "small moments", or personal narratives, and getting ready to take those stories to the next level. Math also began with a review of counting, writing numbers, and comparing numbers. We are off to an excellent start in 1H!



## News from Miss Wotton's Class

Our class was so excited to be in the new school building! We have been getting used to where everything is and, of course, enjoying the new playground. In class, we have been practicing each of, what will become, our literacy centers. We have practiced both reading to ourselves independently and reading to a buddy. We are working on increasing our stamina as readers, and tracking this progress with a graph. Each day, we hope to become a bit stronger! Before long, we will be ready to independently rotate between centers.

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## Pointers from the GT Corner

By Ms. Bonnie Nielson

I have just started seeing my students last week here at TGS because I have been busy getting my schedule set. I provide services in all district elementary schools for students who have been identified in grades three through five as able to do advanced work as well as offer consulting with teachers who have students in the younger grades who need extra challenges. I worked with some of the students at Lura Libby last spring, and thanks to Mrs. Riley, I now have a space here at TGS so we will have permanent home this year for the students I see.



I am often approached by parents looking for suggestions for books for a student who is reading above grade level. While it may be terrific to find your second or third grader loves to read and is reading above grade level, it poses a challenge. As teachers and parents, we want to find interesting, challenging books for these students, but we don't want them reading material that is beyond their experience or understanding. As a bookseller at Barnes and Noble, I had customers buying the popular teen titles such as Hunger Games and Twilight for their eight and nine year olds. The dystopian society of the first and the romantic situation of a vampire who looks like a teenager but has the experience of a 90 year-old in the second is not really great reading for young elementary-aged children even when they are capable of reading the books.

I suggest a look at older books (published with new covers!) such as Misty of Chincoteague, A Secret Garden, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, Phantom Tollbooth, Matilda, The Incredible Journey, and many others. These books have interesting plots, complex sentences and vocabulary, and were written about children for children. Even children who may not be capable of reading these stories by themselves will enjoy listening to these books read aloud and most the adults usually enjoy the books too.

If you have questions about the GT program, or would like other recommendations for reading material, please feel free to email me at: [bnielson@rsu13.org](mailto:bnielson@rsu13.org).

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MEMO FROM THE SCHOOL NURSE:  
COLD & FLU SEASON

by Lynne Hall



We are fast approaching cold and flu season and I am pleased to hear that some children have already received their flu vaccine.

Regretfully, there will be no RSU 13 school located flu clinics for children this year. However, there are lots of convenient ways to access flu vaccine- your doctor's office, local pharmacy, Wal-Mart, Hannaford and community clinics.

Let's pledge to be flu-free this year by following these few healthy steps:

1. Wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.
2. Avoid touching the T-zone of your face. (The mucous membranes of your eyes, nose and mouth.)
3. Cough into your elbow, not your hand.
4. Stay home when sick. Drink lots of water and get plenty of rest.
5. Get vaccinated against the flu.

