

**Conway Grammar School**  
**Newsletter**  
**March 2018**



Greeting CGS Families!!!

Welcome to March! Well, March is coming in like a lion, that's for sure. Let's hope that it goes out like a lamb!

We have many events coming up so please be sure to look at the updated "Dates" section. I made it into a separate page so that you can hang it on your refrigerator.

My favorite part about the warm days that we had at the end of February was watching and listening to the children out at recess running around, laughing, using imagination play, without being snug in their snow pants, jackets, hats and mittens. Children are so joyous and joyful.

Becoming the Conway Grammar School principal is truly one of the best things that has ever happened to me and I am endlessly thankful for your confidence in me and our collaboration.

Best,  
Kristen

**Read Across America**

We had a snow day on our planned Read Across America celebration! We are rescheduling our celebration to Tuesday, March 6. We are allowing children to wear their pajamas for a fun day of celebrating reading.

**MCAS**

MCAS will take place in April and May. Last year our students participated in the trial Next Generation 2.0 MCAS on the computers. Our students achieved very well on the assessment. We are very proud of our students and school and the teaching and learning that takes place in our school. This year we are confident that our students will continue to be successful with the MCAS. Our goal is 100% participation as our school score will be reduced if we do not have 100% participation. Our number one goal during the MCAS for grades 3-6 is to make the students feel comfortable and confident and to reinforce that we ask students to do their best work.

If you would like to view sample questions from last year's MCAS, please go to the following link and look for "MCAS Resources."

<https://katherinearsenault.wixsite.com/media/tech-resources>

**School Safety**

School safety and positive school climate are our top priorities. We have worked closely with law enforcement, the fire department and the safety team to plan drills, meetings and trainings on school safety and climate. We are fortunate to have great collaboration with our partners so that we can implement the most effective practices in school safety and positive school climate. We want children feeling safe coming to school every day.

### **Website**

Please be sure to check out our website on a regular basis for resources, dates and school happenings. Kate Arsenault, our new Library/Media Specialist has done an excellent job updating the website and maintaining currency with the website.

### **PTO**

Here's a "shout out" to our fabulous PTO who have been instrumental in helping to maintain a positive school climate. The PTO has been involved in a bit of fundraising. They have offered several family events at CGS- Movie Night; Reading Event; Staff Luncheon and Breakfast. Most recently, the PTO planned a spaghetti dinner that had to be rescheduled due to the weather (snow day). The Officers and members have become a wonderful part of the CGS family! Thank you for all that you do to help promote a positive, welcoming environment. Please watch for the next PTO meeting and event and consider joining both.

### **Budget**

We have presented to the School Committee a "level service" budget. The school committee will vote on the budget on March 15 at 6:00 at the school committee meeting. We offer an excellent, individualized education for our students.

The town meeting for voters from the town of Conway will be on Monday, May 14 at 7:30 in our gymnasium, at Conway Grammar School.

### **ASCD Conference**

It is with great pride that I inform you that our classroom teachers and I have been invited to present at the ASCD teacher conference in Boston on March 24th. Our team will be talking about using student choice to help students feel more accountable for their growth as well as a strategy to motivate students.

It is an honor to be a presenting group at this international conference. I'm so proud of the work that our staff has done and continue to do for our students. BRAVO!

### **Report Cards**

Report cards will be going home on Friday, March 23. Please remember that we have a "Standards Based" report card rather than a traditional, grades-based report card. We teach to the standards, as outlined by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Therefore we 'grade' to the standards. Please note that you cannot take the current ratings "Mastery, etc" and think about those as "A, B, C, D, F." That's not the purpose of the report cards or the way that they are designed. Some of the standards are not meant to be "Mastered" by every child at the point of the first or second report card. The standards cover the entire grade level year.

Many of us grew up with the traditional grades report card so it's a difficult transition, however it makes perfect sense to report to parents the progress that children are making toward the state mandated standards.

**-Important Dates on Separate Page-**

## Conway Grammar School Dates

- Tuesday, March 6- Read Across America Celebration- Children are invited to wear their pajamas for this day of celebrating reading
- March 8
  - 8:45- All School Meeting hosted by grades 1 and 5. Please come at 8:30 for coffee and muffins in the cafeteria. Immediately following the meeting, please visit your child's classroom for 10-15 minutes!!
  - 2:00- Musician Tyler Conroy will be performing for our students. His performance is an Anti-Bullying performance. The performance is titled, "BE YOU!" Fantastic!
- March 23- Report Cards
- April 4 - 1:40- Jump Rope Show
- April 4- 7:00- Strings Concert at Frontier Regional Middle/High School
- April 6- 6:00- Jump Rope Show
- April 10- 7:00- Band Concert at Frontier Regional Middle/High School
- All School Meeting Dates (Please come 15 minutes prior for coffee and muffins and please plan to stay 10-15 minutes after the meeting for classroom visiting)
  - April 13- 8:45
  - May 18- 2:00
- Early Release Dates:
  - March 9; March 16; March 23; March 30; April 4; April 13; April 27; May 4; May 11
- April 13- 9:30ish (Immediately following the 8:45 All School Meeting)- Grade 6 Basketball game (Grade 6 students vs Staff)
- April 16-20- Spring Break
- May 14- 7:30- Town Meeting- Conway Grammar School
- May 24- Grade 4 trip to the Zoo
- May 20- 9:00- CGS 5K and Fun Run
- May 31- Kindergarten Visit Day (No school for current kindergarteners)
- June 1- Spring Concert - 1:45
- June 4- Grade 5 and 6 Junior Olympics
- June 5- Grades 3 and 4 Junior Olympics
- June 5- Step Up Day- Grade 6 to Frontier 9-12 (Lunch at Frontier)
- June 6- Rain Date- Junior Olympics
- June 7- Grade 6 Trip to Boston and Red Sox Game
- June 12- 1:45 and 6:00- All School Show!

- Last Day of School TBD as well as Grade 6 Graduation (Depending on whether or not we have further snow days)