

# GATES GAZETTE



September 2009  
Volume 22 • Issue 1

## Monthly Happenings

PTO Meeting  
Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
7:00 pm - Gates Library

School Committee Meeting  
Thursday, September 17<sup>th</sup>  
Gates School

Family Photo Day  
Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup>  
(Rain date, September 20<sup>th</sup>)

Meadowfarms Fundraiser Begins  
Monday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

Back to School Night  
Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
7:00 pm - Gates School

Chorus Rehearsal  
Wednesday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>  
8:00 am – 9:00 am  
Gates 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Pod

Auction Meeting  
Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 pm

No School  
Monday, September 28<sup>th</sup>  
Yom Kippur

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Next Issue October 2, 2009



## Newman's Notes

Welcome Back! There was great excitement as the kids entered Gates on the first day of school. I took the opportunity to meet with all of the students; welcome them, answer their questions, and share my expectations for them. I encouraged students to work hard and to treat each other with kindness. Students are

expected to follow all school rules and were reminded that I will be working closely with their teachers and parents throughout the year. On Thursday we celebrated our first week with our annual Gates pep rally. This gave the students the opportunity to meet the staff and we sang the G-A-T-E-S song!

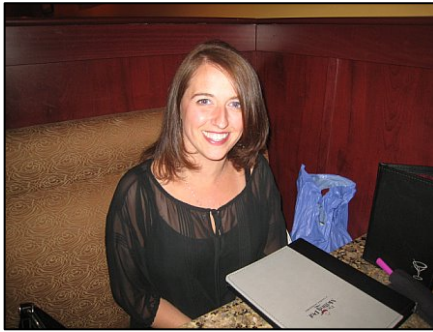
Last year in late March the School Committee accepted a new Wellness Policy and Life-Threatening Allergy Policy. I thought it would be helpful to share some of the guidelines that we will be following this year.

- Soda and candy will not be provided for students in school.
- Food shall not be used as a reward or given out as a treat by school staff with the exception of approved celebrations and in situations where food is part of an Individualized Education Plan.
- Fundraising activities that include selling or providing food to students on school premises during school hours will only include items approved by the Food Service Director.
- In instances when food is served as an integral part of the curriculum it is important that staff, through reasonable communication with parents or appropriate health care professionals, work to reduce risk and create an inclusive experience.
- Food will only be used as a student manipulative in lessons when the purpose is directly related to the food (i.e. studying onion cells in science or surface area and effect of buoyancy of oranges peels).
- Whole class or group non-curricular celebrations involving food should be used sparingly and should be an inclusive experience.
- When celebrating birthdays at school we strongly encourage families to consider healthy options or low cost alternatives to food. Schools will communicate a list of alternatives to families.

Notes continued on page 3

Welcome to a New School Year at Gates! I hope you had a relaxing and enjoyable summer and are ready for an exciting new school year.

I would like to take this time to share all the wonderful and exciting things we have planned at Gates this year. On August 20th the PTO hosted the second annual Kindergarten Play Date for kindergarteners and their families at the Gates playground. Principal Newman even made an appearance!



Carolyn McDonough  
PTO Co-Chair  
camcdonough@comcast.net

The second annual Gates Welcome Back Picnic will be held on Sunday, October 4th, 2009 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm at the Gates Playground/Fields. This is a time for the whole Gates community to come together and celebrate a new year.

Then get ready for the fall social. It is going to be a Halloween Carnival held on Friday October 30th! Start thinking about your costumes and get ready for a night of fun and "spooktacular" games!

Also look forward to events in 2010 like the Auction, the Ice Cream Social, the Lowell Spinners Game, and a day at Coco Keys Water Resort. And we are adding a night at the Lowell Devils for all of the hockey fanatics!

Arriving home soon will be the PTO "back to school" packet. This year we are breaking it up into two deliveries so it is not so overwhelming. Please go through the information and fill out the appropriate forms and return them to school by **Friday September 25th**.

Two years ago Gates decided to "go electronic" by sending home PTO flyers, notices and the monthly Gazette via email. Communicating this way to Gates families and staff saves trees, money and volunteer time. Be sure to subscribe to the gates email list by going onto the PTO website at [www.gatesschoolpto.org](http://www.gatesschoolpto.org).

If you don't have access to email there is a form on the next page to request paper distribution. Notices

and the Gazette will be sent home with the youngest child in your family.

Even if you opt to "go electronic" all official school notices will be sent home via paper distribution in your child's backpack.

**Please remember this will be this will be your last paper copy** of the Gazette. Beginning in October, the Gazette will be

delivered via our email system as a PDF file attachment, and there will be a link to on the PTO website.

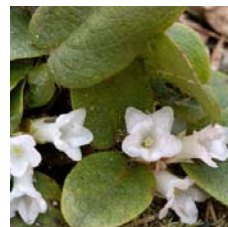
Please consider volunteering to be a committee chair, there are several openings. Volunteering is a great way to meet new friends as well as help our school. Remember without volunteers our events cannot run. For more information on how to volunteer and what committee positions we have available please refer to the PTO packets or email me.

As always if you have any questions, comments or ideas please feel free to email me at [camcdonough@comcast.net](mailto:camcdonough@comcast.net).

I hope to see you at our first meeting on September 15th at 7:00pm in the Gates library!

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The state bird of Massachusetts is the Black Capped Chickadee.



The state flower of Massachusetts is the Mayflower.



## Health Office Update

From Diane Spring

The Gates Health Office experienced its smoothest start to the school year since my arrival here at Gates. This is encouraging but I'm ready for more action if and when the tide changes. : )

On this happy note, I have the following few routine reminders and requests:

I am missing asthma and other emergency medications and doctor's orders for quite a few children who did have them last year. These orders are renewable each school year and you should have received blank forms when school recessed. Please contact me ASAP and let me know if something has changed in your child's condition or if I can help with a plan.

Please remember that all medications must be transported to school by parents; I can arrange to meet you early or late in the day if dodging a work schedule is an impediment to your bringing in the meds.

Cough medicine can be given at school without your own doctor writing an order. If you bring in the cough med and a signed note indicating your wishes in keeping with label directions. Your completed on-line emergency card has a section that allows me to give other basic non-prescription medications. See the full medication policy on the School District web site or see me.

I am hoping that some K through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class parents might donate a few boxes of 100% juice, smallest sized cans or bottles of ginger ale and saltine crackers for sick tummies (kids love the new little bite-sized crackers); individually packaged cracker and cheese snacks and granola bars would be welcome by the little ones who visit me because they either forgot a snack or are going through a growth spurt and need a little extra food. I'll draw upon the generosity of the families of the 4<sup>th</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> graders in a few months. Thank you.

**Health Office** continued on page 4

## Notes continued from Page 1

- Each school will establish a Health Advisory Council that will consist of the building Principal, School Nurse, Teacher representatives (2), Parents (2), Food Service Director and/or Food Service Building Manager, and may include a student Council Representative (if appropriate). The Council will meet a minimum of two times during the school year and will submit an action plan to the Superintendent.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me. It is also important to note that in some classrooms we have students with life threatening allergies. Birthday procedures may vary and will be communicated by your child's classroom teacher. For more details of the APS Wellness Policy and Life-Threatening Allergies procedures and guidelines go to the district website:

<http://ab.mec.edu/wellness/wellnesspolicy.shtml>  
<http://ab.mec.edu/about/policiespdf/ADF-R.pdf>  
<http://ab.mec.edu/about/policiespdf/ADFA-R.pdf>

This year the staff and I will be looking at our school core values, student handbook, and reading programs and assessment tools used in grades K – 6. It is exciting to be beginning my second year as the principal of the Gates School. I will continue to keep everyone informed throughout the year and look forward to working with the students, staff, and parents.

## The Gates School Store

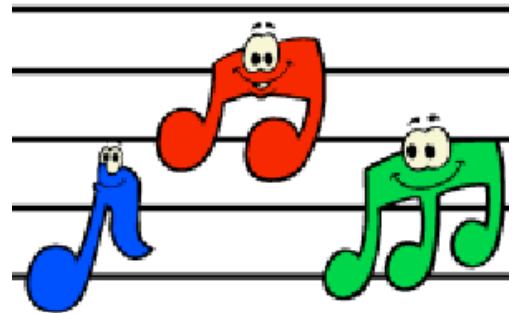


**Open Tuesday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>**  
**from 8:45-9:15**

**Many items for \$ 1-\$ 2, such as pencils, pens, key chains, bookmarks, erasers, water bottles, and many other trinkets.**

## Music Notes from Mrs. Ward

Music is, of course, a very special part of my life both during the school year and during vacations. And, I usually have a very amazing musical experience during the summer that I like to share with all of my students. This summer, my amazing musical experience came out of a book that I read. The book is called "The Elegance of the Hedgehog" by Muriel Barbery. I would like to share a paragraph from that book in which 12 year old Paloma is reflecting on her experience in her school choir.



"Every time, it's the same thing, I feel like crying, my throat goes all tight and I do the best I can to control myself but sometimes it gets close: I can hardly keep myself from sobbing. So when they sing a canon I look down at the ground because it's just too much emotion at once: it's too beautiful, and everyone singing together, this marvelous sharing. I'm no longer myself, I am just one part of a sublime whole, to which the others also belong, and I always wonder at such moments why this cannot be the rule of everyday life, instead of being an exceptional moment, during a choir. When the music stops, everyone applauds, their faces all lit up, the choir radiant. It is so beautiful. In the end, I wonder if the true movement of the world might not be a voice raised in song."



Gates School Chorus is open to all students in Grades 4, 5 and 6. There will be a sign-up paper coming home next week. Rehearsals will be on Wednesday mornings from 8:00 to 9:00 in the sixth grade pod, with the first rehearsal on Wednesday, September 23. In addition to our before school chorus, all of the fourth graders will be learning chorus music during our regular music classes on Friday. Our December concerts will feature both the Fourth Grade Chorus and the Gates School Chorus.

The theme for our December concerts is "Songs that Changed the World". This will include traditional folk songs, classical music, rock and even a little disco. Singing in a choir is a really amazing experience. And, as I tell the students, it's the only time during the school day when it's okay for everyone to use strong voices at the same time. I encourage EVERY student to give it a try!!!

## Health Office continued from page 3

Be alert for head lice. No one is immune. These hearty critters love everyone. Check your children at least weekly. I'll never forget the day 20 years ago when my daughter's school nurse called me to say my daughter had them. Despite being a nurse, I remember the emotion that accompanied the disclosure and the ensuing amount of work to remove the critters and their off-spring from my daughter's tightly curled hair. Please let me know if you have this pesky experience and if I can help you if you are not certain what to do. The [www.headlice.org](http://www.headlice.org) website is a great resource for many parents too.

As always, I am available to you for questions, comments or concerns. It is an honor and a joy to be able to once again care for the children, families and staff of Gates School.

## Calling all 3rd, 4th , 5th and 6th graders! Do you have school spirit? Then consider joining student council!

Student Council is a group of representatives from 3rd to 6th grade in charge of sponsoring school spirited activities, community and civic projects and running the school store.

Student Council will hold monthly meetings before school from 8:45 am to 9:15 am on the first Tuesday of every month. The meeting is open to anyone at Gates, but the representatives will be responsible for relaying information to their classmates.

The elections will be held on September 23, 2009 and if you are interested in running please pick up an application and speech form in the Student Council Mailbox in the office at school. Applications are due on Friday, September 18, 2009.

Please contact Mrs. Hoggard [cynhoggard@aol.com](mailto:cynhoggard@aol.com) or Mrs. Clark [barbieclark@verizon.net](mailto:barbieclark@verizon.net) with any questions. We are excited to get to know you and work with you this year.

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### Gates Email Distribution List

Are you receiving Gates email notices?

The Gates email distribution list is used by Principal Newman and the PTO to update the Gates community on upcoming events, meetings, and other school related information. All PTO flyers, sign-up sheets, even the Gazette go out via the Gates email list.

The Gates email list is moderated - only messages sent by the Principal or approved by the PTO chairpersons can be posted to the list. Only the List Administrators can add or remove members from the list. This is done for privacy and security reasons. This information is used solely for Gates School purposes and will not be shared with other organizations. Families may unsubscribe at any time.

To Subscribe or Unsubscribe to the list:

Use the "Sign up for Email" section of the Gates PTO website ([www.gatesschoolpto.org](http://www.gatesschoolpto.org))

Note:

\* To update/change your email address, you need to unsubscribe the old email address and subscribe the new email address.

\* If you completed the School/PTO Permissions portion of the on-line emergency form, your email address has already been added to the Gates email distribution list. In this case there is no need to re-submit your email address via the Gates PTO website.

Please contact the List Administrator with any questions: Lisa Benati at 978-264-9145 or [mhenati@yahoo.com](mailto:mhenati@yahoo.com)

## Wanted: PTO Co-Chair

Fun, energetic, team player to take on the PTO Junior Chair position for 09-10 school year and be Senior Chair for the 10-11 school year.

This is great time to hop on board to learn the ropes of the PTO. The job consists of planning events, running meetings, and helping to better our school and school community. It's also a great opportunity to make some new friendships with parents, teachers, the principal and staff of the school.

Please contact Carolyn McDonough at [camcdonough@comcast.net](mailto:camcdonough@comcast.net) or call 978-263-1249 for more information!

## 2010 Gates Auction/Social

Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010  
Devens Marriott



## First Planning Meeting Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

at Chris Fenniman's House - 29 Kinsley Road

All our welcome! Bring a Friend.

Come join the fun! Help pick a theme! Meet new people!  
Help plan this fun adult evening, big jobs and small jobs.

Any help is much appreciated.

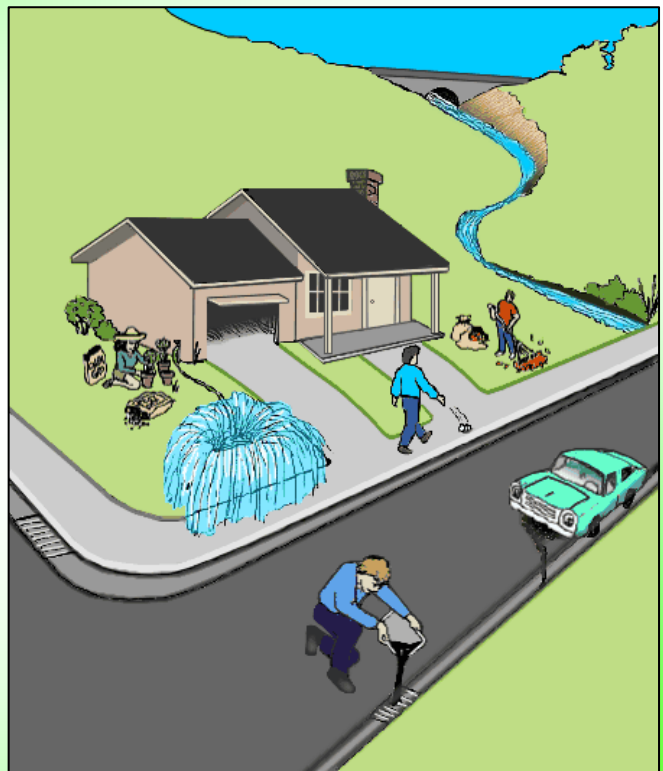
### **Green Corner**

#### **Nonpoint Source Pollution Awareness What's Wrong with This Picture?**

The people in the picture are taking care of their home and car, but they are doing many things that can damage the environment, especially our water.

Answers in the October Gazette.

*Taken from the USEPA for Kids Web Page*



## PTO FUNDRAISERS

### Donelan's Receipts



Gates School is proud to announce that we are saving Donelan's register tapes for educational equipment. Register tapes can be collected from any of the Donelan's Supermarkets and redeemed toward valuable educational equipment for the school.

You can help Gates earn credit for free equipment by placing your Donelans register receipts in the school's collection box. The program runs from September 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

Last year, Gates accumulated \$57,000 worth of register tapes which the school used to purchase an Oak Podium, note pads and pencils. This year our goal is \$65,000 worth of receipts. Start saving those receipts but make sure you only submit receipts dated after September 1, 2009.

For questions or more information, please contact Susan Donaldson at [sdonaldson4@verizon.net](mailto:sdonaldson4@verizon.net).

### Note Cards for Sale

This fall the students will once again create their own colorful note cards, which can then be printed and purchased as sets. These cards make meaningful souvenirs of the students' creativity and are especially suitable for family gifts.

This project generates pride and excitement in the children, as they look forward to seeing the outcome of their artistic endeavors. It also gives them a direct hand in helping to support the Gates Community.

Within the next few weeks, you will receive originals of your children's cards, along with a sample note card and an order form. If you place an order, please remember to return the original cards, as they will be used to print the card sets. We plan for the shipment to arrive in time for Holiday distribution.

We hope you will enjoy seeing the artwork and that you will support this unique fundraiser.

Lorri Langin, Student Art Fundraiser Chair

[lrmlangin@aol.com](mailto:lrmlangin@aol.com)



### Boxtops for Education

Please send in any Boxtops you've been saving over the summer. It's a terrific program, and easy to participate. *Simply purchase General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Yoplait, Juicy Juice, Ziploc, Saran Wrap, Cottonelle, Kleenex & Scott products* (just to name a few), *clip the Boxtop for Education logos and send them to school with your child.* You may also drop them in the large collection box in the lobby, next to the office.

**We receive 10 cents for every Boxtop we submit to General Mills. The deadline for the fall submission is October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009.**

Please ask grandparents, aunts, uncles and friends to clip them too – get everyone involved and EARN CASH FOR GATES SCHOOL. During the 2008-2009 school year, we earned \$850.00. Gates School has earned a total of \$6,695 since we started submitting Boxtops in 2000. For more information, and the complete list of participating products, go to [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com). Please contact Susan Bartow at 978-264-2014 or [sbkajbartow@comcast.net](mailto:sbkajbartow@comcast.net) if you have any questions.

## AB Silicone Wristbands for Sale

A limited number of AB silicone wristbands are available for only \$2.00 each! All bands are size medium (approx. 7" in diameter). They are yellow with blue imprinting, which reads "ACTON-BOXBOROUGH." These make great party favors, small gifts, etc.

*A portion of all proceeds will go towards this year's 6th grade send-off.* For more information, or to purchase bands, please contact Susan Budd at 978-263-4632 or [s.budd@verizon.net](mailto:s.budd@verizon.net) or complete the order form below. We will also be selling the bands at Gates Back to School Night on Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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### ACTON-BOXBOROUGH WRISTBAND ORDER FORM

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade/Room # \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Qty \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$2.00 per band  
Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Check one box:

I prefer to pick up my band(s) at Gates School office.

I prefer to have my band(s) sent through my child's backpack.

Thank you for supporting Gates class of 2010!

Please tear off and send completed order form and payment (checks payable to Susan Budd) in an envelope to:

Susan Budd, c/o Griffin  
Room 12 - Mrs. Granado  
Attn: AB Wristbands

# **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT THIS IS YOUR LAST PAPER GAZETTE**

## **PTO Communication Paper Subscription**

Please fill out this form if you **do not** have access to email and would like to receive paper copies of all PTO announcements, including the monthly Gates Gazette. Paper distribution will be to the youngest sibling in your family.

Official school communications will still be delivered in paper form.

PTO Communication Paper Subscription
Youngest Child's Name _____
Grade _____
Child's Teacher _____
Your Name _____

**Please return by September 25, 2009**