

Groton Daily Independent

School Newsletter ! Sat., Oct. 4, 2014 ♦ Vol. 17 - No. 075 ♦ 1 of 17

Groton MS/HS Newsletter

Greetings from the Office of the Superintendent.

Welcome to the early stages of another school year!

We've recently learned the good news that Groton Area High School was selected by Newsweek Magazine as a top school in the nation, #158 to be specific. Congratulations to all of the students and faculty on their ongoing efforts to make the most of our time together in preparing students for what life brings them. This recognition for you is well-deserved.

During the week of September 15, letters were mailed to all families in accordance with the requirements set forth in the No Child Left Behind Legislation. The letters contain a brief summary of certain indicators of school performance, namely attendance, graduation rates, high school completion rates, and ACT results. Typically, this report also includes information about student performance in the areas of mathematics and English-language arts. Last spring students participated in the pilot of the new Smarter Balanced Assessment (replacing the former Dakota STEP test). As a result, no data is available to report this year. We believe that this data will be included in the report card released next fall. The entire report card is available online at http://www.grotonarea.com/School_Report_Cards.html.

Thank you all for your support of the students and faculty of Groton Area Schools. We are lucky to be in a community that values our young people and support the education that helps them transition into adulthood.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me any time.

Sincerely,

Joe Schwan

Local youth joining Destination Imagination teams to learn creative problem solving, critical thinking

Aberdeen and surrounding area— Local students in schools throughout the United States are now signing up to join teams for the 2014-2015 challenge season of Destination Imagination. They are starting an exciting journey that could lead them to compete against the world's top problem-solving teams in the program's Global Finals tournament in May.

So far, teams are forming in Groton, Aberdeen, Doland, Watertown, and Tiospa Zina. For information about how to form a team to take part in the world's largest collaborative problem solving program for youth, please go to the South Dakota affiliate site at <http://www.disouthdakota.com> or the national website at idodi.org

Destination Imagination (DI) is an educational program in which student teams solve open-ended Challenges and present their solutions at a tournament. DI is designed to teach students the creative process from imagination to innovation. Students also learn essential 21st century skills needed to fuel the economies of tomorrow, including creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking and project management.

Come see and learn what it's all about at the Northeast Region Team Managers Training, to be held on October 13th, from 5:30pm-8:30pm at Groton Area Elementary, 810 N 1st St Groton, 57445. A light supper will be served at 5:30 PM. Please send RSVP by October 10th, 2014, for the meal to: julie.milbrandt@k12.sd.us

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MS/HS Principal – Anna Schwan

John Dewey, an educator known for his progressivism and educational reform commented, "Education is not preparation for life, but life itself." As I see our students and staff back in the swing of things, it's easy to understand Dewey's poignant perception. School manifests itself into a unique state of mind for each of its students so much that it does indeed become each of their lives. As educators and parents we strive for an exceptional quality of life for our kids, and I truly believe that's what we have within our school.

I hope you have had a chance to read that our school was ranked nationally as one of the top schools in the United States by Newsweek magazine. The list, that ranks schools solely on achievement, places Groton in the 158th slot, the highest ranking of four schools in South Dakota. Essentially, our kids are graduating with a preparedness for college that is illustrated by high ACT/SAT scores, graduation rate, and college acceptance numbers. It is truly an honor to be included amongst some very notable schools across the country. We are here due to our stellar teaching staff, outstanding students, and strong community support.

On a similar note, I am proud to congratulate Luke Smith who was named a Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Luke was named after taking the 2013 preliminary test, the PSAT which serves as an initial screening of program entrants. The pool of semifinalists represent less than 1% of high school seniors. After an application process, it may become possible for Luke to become a finalist and compete for one of the \$2500 scholarships as well as the notoriety that befalls a National Merit Scholar, sometimes resulting in substantial additional collegiate scholarships.

Fall activities are more than underway keep the doors continually swinging in the school building. On October 20th we will be hosting our first Family Night to be held in the GHS gym during which we will showcase academics throughout our classrooms. Families will have the opportunity to see content, lesson plans, student work, activity promotion, as well as booths sponsored by several post-secondary institutions. We hope to see you there; stop by to enjoy a free meal and compete in the "Battle of the Wits" for an array of prizes.

The ICU program is fully implemented in the middle school and high school. By requiring that every student complete every assignment we are encouraging a foundation of holding students accountable. In order for students to continue through the curriculum successfully it is necessary to build upon prior knowledge. Without utilizing and practicing that prior knowledge it's unreasonable to expect success in assessment. ICU is an extensive support program meant to convey to our students that we care enough to never leave them alone.

Be sure to stay in touch through the district website (www.grotonarea.com) that will give you links to the daily announcements (Principal Schwan Blog) as well as my website (www.annaschwan.com) that includes numerous links from Common Core to Dual Credit to our MS/HS Handbook. Don't forget to add the Infinite Campus app to your smartphone that will notify you of changes to your child's attendance, grades, etc.

I look forward to another great year in Groton. I have appreciated getting to know you, and am continually grateful for the opportunity to have joined such a great team of educators. Always feel free to stop in or call anytime.

Anna Schwan

Groton Area MS/HS Principal

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7th Grade Art - Janene Harry

This year there is another new schedule for the Middle School students and different classes for them to take. While they are in Art during the first quarter they will touch on all seven of the Design Elements: Line, Color, Shape, Form, Value, Space and Texture. They will be doing projects that will include one or more of the elements to show them that more than one is used to complete a project. They will be doing a short unit on Pottery also. They will learn to hand build something, how to fire it and the proper way to glaze it.

ART I - Janene Harry

They started out the year learning about different mediums they will use for their sketchbook assignments, which are due every week. The first projects were of 3 -D Ribbons using charcoal and then using carbothellos. They drew two different vases/bottles and finished one with charcoal and the other one with pastels. They are currently learning how to do a linoleum print using one color or multiple colors. They frequently use their laptops to search for ideas to draw for class projects and for their sketchbooks.

ART II - Janene Harry

They will be doing weekly sketchbook assignments using a variety of mediums. They are working on a new project which includes researching a variety of art styles and /or artists. They chose a theme that would be used for four projects such as a giraffe, elephant, ninja turtles, and horse. Then they had to decide on which four styles they would use to do their projects for example: abstract, tribal or realism. They are really turning out great!

ART III - Janene Harry

These students have weekly sketchbook assignments using their choice of mediums. During their time in this class they can choose projects that they would like to do and they are also given mediums that they have to do. The first project was to reuse one of the old frames that I have in the room for a new project. This is their time to really grow in a new style or strengthen one they have already done.

Algebra I - Mrs. Johnson

Graphing Calculators were used extensively in the opening weeks of this new school year. Students tested equivalency of algebraic expressions by comparing their tables and graphs.

They also determined the mean absolute deviation of a set of data by storing a list of numbers, verifying the mean, and applying formulas.

The current chapter has brought a review of the distributive properties and applications for simplifying algebraic expressions. Algebra has also been used to explain number puzzles. Preparation is now being made for solving linear equations and inequalities. It is important that the textbook be carefully read, as excellent and complete examples are provided.

Informal Geometry - Mrs. Johnson

Students have been relying on simple geometric drawings of points, line segments, rays, lines, and planes to show possible relationships among them. They have used the compass and straightedge to bisect a line segment. In the second chapter, measurements and midpoints of line segments were determined, and points were graphed on the coordinate plane.

This geometry course will soon provide students with a comprehensive study of angles. They will

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name, measure, draw, and classify them. Additional construction work with triangles will be included in their math journals. Students will continue to review and use algebra concepts throughout the school year.

Pre-Algebra - Mrs. Johnson

The basic language of algebra has been introduced. Students have translated word forms into numerical and algebraic expressions and simplified them by following the order of operations. They have also graphed ordered pairs on the coordinate plane.

Several properties have been reviewed: the commutative, associative, distributive, and identity properties. They serve as foundation for solving simple algebraic equations and inequalities in order to restore the value of the variable. Throughout the course, students will rely on their problem solving skills as they encounter more complex equations and inequalities. They will often present their work on the board for class discussion.

Transition Mathematics - Mrs. Johnson

The school year began with a review of numbers: how they are used in everyday life, integers and rational numbers, powers of ten and scientific notation. There has been much practice using the order of operations in evaluating numerical expressions. Along with plotting points on the coordinate plane, students have also graphed simple algebraic equations on the graphing calculator. They have then compared and contrasted the equations and their graphs.

Already, this class has experienced a transition from primarily working with numbers to now translating words into algebraic expressions. Students will experience how formulas can be applied to real-life situations in our Candy Counts activity using an Excel spreadsheet on the computer. Simple algebraic equations will soon be written, and inequalities will be graphed. Pre-checks are available that help students focus on places still needing attention.

MathCounts - Mrs. Johnson

Groton will again host the first Aberdeen Area MathCounts competition of the 2014-2015 school year on Wednesday, October 1. Practices for middle school students are held on Tuesday mornings, beginning at 7:45 a.m. In order to prepare for competitions, it is important that students complete the MathCounts worksheets, study the vocabulary list, and come to practices.

MathCounts is a nationwide coaching and competition program for middle school students that promotes success in mathematics achievement. It encourages good problem solving skills and provides opportunity for learning additional math concepts. During the school year, sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students have the opportunity to participate in area competitions sponsored by 3M Aberdeen.

K-8 School Counselor – Ashley Seeklander

Hello! My name is Ashley Seeklander and I am the K-8 school counselor. What's going on in the school counselor's office? Lots! Here's the scoop on what we've been doing and what are planning on doing for the rest of the fall semester in classroom guidance:

In September we focused on our Responsibility character pillar and learned about organization. October will bring us to our Respect pillar and will focus on bullying behavior and internet safety. For November, the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade will be moving into career exploration while focusing on our Citizenship pillar. November happens to be National Career month. Utilizing SDMyLife our Middle School

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students will work on career interest inventories, career assessments, and post-secondary searches.

We have a special guest this year- her name is Ms. Toril Sanford. Ms. Sanford is a graduate student at Northern State University and will be completing a year-long practicum and internship at Groton Area. She will graduate in May with her Master of Science in Education: School Counseling. Right now she is working a few days a week with me as I go into the classrooms and with Lunch Bunch groups. As the year goes on she will be here every day and will be teaching lessons by herself. Please help me in welcoming Ms. Sanford to our school.

~Ms. Seeklander

World History - Mr. Thorson

The freshman started out the year by learning about the Greeks and what they have contributed to modern society. It was interesting to hear their ideas in class discussions when learning about gods and goddesses as well as the stories of Homer and the teachings of Socrates and Plato. This course runs all year long and will cover many important world events, such as Roman Empire, the building of the European nations, the beginnings of the American nation, world revolutions, both world wars and terrorism in our world today. The students will be asked to do projects, make creative posters complete tests and quizzes and partake in class discussions.

World Geography - Mr. Thorson

Geography is a semester course so it gives me very little time to cover the important information required. While we do study cultural differences in both the Americas and Western Europe, I do think it is more important to learn about physical regions of the world. When this subject ends in December, all my students will become familiar with where each country is located on the globe. My hope for these students is that when they hear about a place in the news they will be able to recognize where in the world this region is located. Too many kids across the world and even our country still believe South Dakota is located somewhere in the Deep South!

U.S. Government - Mr. Thorson

My goal for each senior is to help them understand what their role is in a community. To take part in change or as I like to say, be the rock that causes the ripple. Get out there and make a difference and develop a passion to help make that change. I do this in a number of ways like class discussions, current events and community service projects. We are looking at a project that hopefully will involve landscaping the football field. Hopefully this project will take wings and will have something accomplished by the end of the year. We are also busy in the classroom talking about the Legislative, executive and legislative branches of our governments. We will end the semester talking about civil rights and how minorities had to overcome huge obstacles in American history to achieve equality. It's hard to believe these students are finally seniors. It will be hard to see them go at semester time.

3RD/4TH/5TH/6TH GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BRIAN SCHURING

The physical education classes have been actively participating in their games unit and fall fitness testing. The games we have been playing are: Capture the Pig, Pin Guard, Dodge Ball, Kickball and Mat Ball. Fall fitness tests consists of sit-ups/curl-ups, push-ups/pull-ups, sit and reach and shuttle run/mile run. Being physically fit means having the energy and strength to perform daily activities vigorously and alertly without getting run down, and to have energy left over to enjoy leisure-time activities or meet emergency demands.

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8th/9th GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION - BRIAN SCHURING

These physical education classes have been participating in fall fitness testing, games unit and archery. The fall fitness tests include: mile walk/run, sit and reach, curl-ups and push-ups. With these tests, we can gauge their class rank in cardiovascular endurance, agility, flexibility and strength. We are trying to convince our students how important it is to be physically fit. The games unit so far have included Flag Tag, Kickball and Mat Ball. The 9th grade students have also started the activity of archery. With the activity of archery, the students learn everything from bows and arrows to stance, hand/arm positioning and scoring accuracy towards the target.

6th Grade Reading – Mary Johnson

Sixth grade reading begins in our textbooks that have fun and interesting short stories in them. We finished with a story that tells about the discovery of Machu Picchu in Peru. The students also had to listen to Mrs. Johnson tell about her bucket list and this is on it. Since I talked to about a "bucket list", they think I'm really old!! Our current story is nonfiction about some strange things that science has proven to work. Ask a student why they would want to use "gecko glue" or how a cockroach can become a spy or why a Kevlar vest could be replaced by spider silk!

6th grade Social Studies – Mary Johnson

The sixth graders have travelled back in time to the start of the human race. They have learned that people long ago had the same basics that we enjoy now. They even had technology! But to the ancient civilizations, technology was the invention of a new weapon or tool. We are currently going to begin the chapter about World War I and II. They will be studying the causes to the wars as well as other concepts such as trench warfare, mustard gas, the holocaust, different battles, and the impact of these wars on the world.

7th grade Social Studies – Mary Johnson

This year the students will be learning about geographical terms. Then we will begin our adventure studying physical features and the history of the United States. After the US, we will learn about Canada. This will continue with chapters about different places in the world. If anyone has been anywhere exciting, please let me know if you would be willing to share your adventure with my students!

Computers – Cara Dennert

The fall semester in the computer lab has sophomores as well as seniors working with the Office 2013 programs. We are reviewing Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint touching on Access. The Advanced Computer class will be working in-depth with Google and all it has to offer. Many college students find it easier to do collaborative work through the Google platform, so students will get some insight as to how Google's Docs, Slides, and Sheets work and compare to the Office applications. Later on in the semester students will be completing School Service Projects – putting skills learned to use for classroom teachers. Last year students created Jeopardy games and put classroom storybooks into slideshows for elementary students. It's good to give back and pay it forward!

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Elementary Principal ~ Dan Dalchow

I would like to start off this newsletter by saying thank you to all the parents for your support, patience, and cooperation in getting our school year off to a great start. The start of this school has went off without a hitch. The back to school picnic and open house was a great success! Having our open house before school starts allows students and parents to see their new classroom and teacher. It also helps our younger students feel a bit less apprehensive about their first day of school. Being able to come into the school, meet their teacher, see the classroom, and find their desk before the first day of school puts a lot of nervous young student's minds a bit more at ease.

I would also like to say thank you to all of our community businesses and supporters. We have groups that donate time and money to various school causes. The Methodist church spent a considerable amount of time gathering up supplies from a teacher wish list they asked for. Our teaching staff loved it when they saw these items delivered last Friday.

A number of you have signed up for the program that Target sponsors and Groton Area Elementary received a check for approximately \$1400 dollars because of it. Thank you Target Shoppers! The Elementary PAC has again done a great job of raising money and contributing to our school. At the first meeting of the year, they went ahead and funded all of the elementary field trips for the entire year. This will allow all of the classes to again go on their scheduled field trips without having students bring in money to fund these trips. The PAC also helped fund our library staffing over the summer, funded the Accelerated Reader reward program, the lyceums we have throughout the year, as well as a number of incentive programs aimed at motivating students to do their best. Again, thank you to everyone for helping our school. Studies have shown that parents and communities that participate and are a part of their community's school show higher student achievement. I am looking forward to another great year.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me during school hours.

Mr. Dan Dalchow ~ Principal Groton Area Elementary School
Elementary Phone # 397-2317 E-mail: dan.dalchow@k12.sd.us

Preschool – Paula Johnson

With the beginning of school brings many new and exciting experiences for preschool. One of the most exciting things is that we now have our own room!! We are now able to expand and incorporate many more centers into our day. The first couple months of school our themes will include welcome to school, apples, Bears and body parts, Chicka Chicka Boom Boom, fire safety, fall, and halloween. We do many songs, games, and finger plays to go along with each theme and have lots of fun dancing to many different songs.

Fall is in the air and we are trying to get outside as much as we can before we are no longer able to do so. We also enjoy all the fun centers that go along with our themes each week. Our goal is to make each center as inviting as possible so the children can use their imaginations and learn to communicate and play with each other independently. Being able to play with peers, while using the same materials, is a very important skill in preschool. We will continue to learn through play and exploration throughout the year.

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Kindergarten - Ann Gibbs and Renee Swisher

The Kindergartners are learning that school is a fun and exciting place to be! We have so many things to learn-how to take turns, how to be a good listener, how to raise our hand, how to walk quietly in the hallways and how to find our way around the school!

At the beginning of our school year, it was wonderful to see so many visitors during Open House. It was an opportunity for the children and their families to look around their classroom. We had so many visitors! Thank you to all of you who attended. It was great to visit with all of you!

Our theme in Kindergarten, for the beginning of the year, has been The Farm. We have read many stories about the farm and farm animals and we have filled our classrooms with beautiful "works of art"-pigs, corn, and sunflowers. At the writing center we can write farm words and draw farm animals, and at our technology/puzzle center, we can play fun farm games on our iPad and put together farm puzzles. We are having a "Rootin', Tootin'" good time in Kindergarten!

In Reading class we have already learned two new letters-Mm and Aa and we have learned to read five new sight words-I, we, the, am and can. Can you believe we already know this much? We have only been in school for 19 days and we are getting so smart already! Math class has us classifying and sorting colors, shapes and objects. We have now moved on to the chapter about patterns-we love making and seeing patterns in our world! This chapter also teaches us about right and left. We learned a fun chant to help us remember which is our right hand, and which is our left!

Handwriting is an especially difficult skill during our day. We have begun writing the numbers 1-10. We are also concentrating on writing our names and holding our pencils correctly. It takes the whole year of Kindergarten to become good writers. Keep practicing at home! Practice makes perfect!

Thank you to Loren Bahr and Randy Hjerstad for teaching us about Bus Safety. We practiced walking a safe distance away when entering and leaving the bus. We also talked about the safety of sitting in our seats when the bus is moving and listening to the driver. We even practiced exiting the bus through the back emergency door. After all of this learning, we came back to our classrooms and painted big, yellow school buses. How fun! We love to paint in Kindergarten!

Happy Fall!

2nd Grade – Jane Kroll and Anne Zoellner

The 2nd grade school year began with a Picnic and Open House. What a great turnout!! It was a time of fun, visiting and good food. A big Thank-You goes out to all who made the meal possible.

Following the picnic, parents and students headed to the Elementary school to attend the Open House. The second grade students and parents found their room, lockers, desks and moved in! Many hours were spent getting the school room ready for the students, it was very rewarding to see how excited our new students were. It is a great way to start the new school year!

Forty students came on the official first day of school. Thanks to the Open House, they knew which side they were on, locker numbers and their book bags were unpacked. They were ready to begin!

The Reading series we use is Treasures. It is an excellent series that covers a vast area of reading skills. Grammar, spelling, writing, phonics are just a few. What a great way to begin the school year.

The first few chapters in Math are spent reviewing the skills learned in 1st grade. Lots of hands on work is done in 2nd grade. The use of flash cards and time tests, help to improve our addition and subtraction skills.

The first two days of school were very warm. Then the cooler weather came - what a relief! Our days are busy from start to finish and the warmer weather just "slowed us down". We like it a little cooler!

The Elementary enjoy homecoming week as much as the high school kids. We join in with dress-up

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days, the different athletic groups come to eat with the kids, as well as the Royalty!! It is a fun-filled week for all age groups.

The end of the first quarter is mid-October, the time has been flying by – filled with lots of learning, fun and laughter for all in 2nd grade – both students and teachers!!

4th Grade – Sue Feldheim and Joel Guthmiller

Salutations from the class of 2023! We have forty fourth graders this year. Welcome everyone! And a special welcome to new student Joe Achen.

On Thursday, September 25th, we will be attending the annual Northern Prairie Water Festival at Northern State University in Aberdeen. The primary goal is to educate children about water. Sessions will be held on ground pollution, wetlands, buoyancy and density, WEB water, and many other interesting topics. Students have the opportunity to design rain sticks and will enter one from each class in the contest at Northern.

Please help your child memorize addition and subtraction facts. The students need a solid foundation with the beginning basic facts to be successful in Math. We will soon be starting multiplication and division facts.

Encourage your child to read. There are many good books for the children to choose from. Our goal this year is 40pts. In order to get an AR t-shirt they need 55 pts. Don't forget www.SpellingCity.com for all our spelling words.

If you are not familiar with our online viewing of your son or daughter's grades, please stop or call Mrs. Krueger at the elementary school to get set up for this. A newsletter is also sent home or emailed to you every week to let you know when tests are and what's going on in the classroom. Also don't forget that our Science, Reading, and AR are now online.

Title I -Lynette Grieve, Jill Helvig & Bonnie Schimmel

Reading

Our kindergarten Title 1 students are having so much fun using games, activities, and computers as we practice and reinforce the phonics skills of letter recognition, letter names, and phonemic awareness.

Our first, second, and third grade Title 1 students also use many different activities, games, and computer games to work on and reinforce their sight word recognition, phoneme segmentation, phonics skills, phonemic awareness, vocabulary, reading fluency, and comprehension.

As the students are successful in their learning process each day, they earn chips that they can use to 'shop' at our Title 1 store on Fridays. They all love Fridays!

The fourth and fifth grade students started the year on 'Success Maker' and 'Read Naturally', a computer program that they get to pick a story, make a prediction, learn vocabulary words, read, read, and reread the story, take a quiz on the story, and retell the story all before they can pass out of it with a teacher.

As we progress monitor on our weekly probes, the kindergarten probes are letter sounds. The first graders are doing nonsense words, and the second through fifth grader probes are doing oral reading fluency.

It is very important to your child's success in school and life, that you have your child read every night. We all know that everyone is busy, but is there anything really more important than your children???

Suggestions: While you are making supper, doing dishes, washing or folding clothes have them sit at the table or nearby and read out loud to you. When you are driving to a game or another activity,

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have them read to you or to themselves. This is much more important to your child's success in life than watching a movie or playing a video game. Any waiting time your child may have, have them read, even if it is only five to ten minutes at a time. In the grand scheme of life..... it will be worth it.

Math

Throughout the first few weeks of school, the Title 1 Math teachers have been giving short assessments to find the strengths and areas that need improvement. In grades K-2, we have been working on forward and backward counting from different numbers (ex. start at 48 and count forward to 61 or start at 22 and count backwards to 15) number after and before a number (ex. What comes after 12, what comes before 34) and identifying and recognizing numbers.

Some different activities to help your child improve on these skills:

Counting forward and backward beginning at different numbers (this can be done individually or with a partner called shared counting

Give them a number and have them tell you what comes after or before it

Identifying and recognizing numbers around the house, stores, town, etc.

Writing numbers

Playing Bingo to recognize numbers

Count steps forward and backward from one room to the next or around the block, etc.

In the upper elementary, we have been comparing numbers using different place values from the hundred millions place down to the thousandths decimal place. We are adding and subtracting decimals. This becomes tricky for some as we forget to line up the decimals or add zeros to the bigger numbers.

Guidance – Ashley Seeklander

Greetings Groton! My name is Ashley Seeklander and I am the K-8 school counselor. I am super excited to be starting my 2nd year at Groton and my 6th year as a school counselor. One week I have side A and the next week I have side B K-5 for Classroom Connections; 6-8th grade have me every other week. We focus on one of the six Character pillars each month: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. September's pillar was Responsibility and in October we will be focusing on Respect. By the end of the year all our students will be "professionals" at knowing the six pillars and what makes each pillar so important.

In January we started Lunch Bunch groups for our 1-5th graders. We are continuing these groups this year. Lunch Bunch is a small group session designed to boost self-esteem, social skills, and increase peer relations. Any student can be nominated by their classroom teacher to attend. These groups are held during the grade level's lunch period. No classroom or recess time is used. Teachers assign 2-3 students from each side to the Lunch Bunch group who may need a little extra boost in that week's topic area. Students may be referred to Lunch Bunch as many times (or as few times) as necessary. Our most recent topics have been about asking questions in class and homework headaches. So far the students have loved the opportunity to participate.

We have a special guest this year- her name is Ms. Toril Sanford. Ms. Sanford is a graduate student at Northern State University and will be completing a year-long practicum and internship at Groton Area. She will graduate in May with her Master of Science in Education: School Counseling. Right now she is working a few days a week with me as I go into the classrooms and with Lunch Bunch groups. As the year goes on she will be here every day and will be teaching lessons by herself. Please help me in welcoming Ms. Sanford to our school.

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Groton Community Calendar

Saturday, October 4

Birthdays: Fred Wolken • Josh Atherton • Gabriel Kjellsen • Trixie Schwabe • Rick Hofer • Malerie Yeaton

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, October 5

Birthdays: • Brent Swenson • Jeanne Wanous • Judy Feser • Dianne Schelle • Cole Thurston • Sandy Osterman • Julie Shilhanek

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with Communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Church

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

Monday, October 6

Boys State Golf at Hot Springs

Oral Interp at Milbank

School Breakfast: French toast, links, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Submarine, corn chips, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, broccoli or carrots, garlic toast, orange sherbet.

Birthdays: Mary Ann Sippel • Jan Dedrickson • Dianne Schelle

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

4:30pm: JV FB hosts Milbank

5:00pm: 7th Grade VB host Langford Area

6:30pm: JV followed by Varsity VB - host Langford Area

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 7

Boys State Golf at Hot Springs

Elementary Picture Day

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Lasagna, corn, tean bun, tossed greens, fruit.

Senior Menu: Ham, baked potato and sour cream, green beans, peach cake, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Cal & Billie Wagner

Birthdays: Allen Walter • Brenda Craig • Lance Fliehs • Ramona Helgeson

8:45am: Jr. REAL Experience at GHS

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

4:00pm: 7th Gr. VB at Leola Frederick

5:00pm: 8th VB at Frederick

6:30pm: JV VB at Frederick followed by Varsity Match

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Wednesday, October 8

MS/HS Picture Day

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: BBQ chicken, flatbread, sweet tots, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hot roast beef combination, carrots, mandarin oranges, peanut butter cookie

Anniversary: Lars & Kelli Hanson

Birthdays: Christopher Podoll • Gloria Pharis • Scott Vedvei • Shane Reich

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Luther League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation with youth and parents

7:00pm: United Methodist Sr High UMYF

Thursday, October 9

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Walking taco, refried beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, noodles roman off, lemon buttered broccoli, pineapple strawberry ambrosia, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Clint Jacobson, Jr. • Jerry Johnson • Eileen Schuelke • Janet Harder • London Bahr • Joseph Smith

4:00pm: NEC XC at Webster

5:00pm: JH VB hosts Sisseton

5:00pm: JV FB at Aberdeen Central

6:30pm: Groton Lions Club meet at Dakota Brush, Downtown Groton

6:30pm: JV/C VB hosts Sisseton followed by varsity match

Friday, October 10

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Chicken Quesadilla, tossed salad, California blend, fruit.

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on wheat bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, crunchy cranberry salad.

Anniversaries: Charity and Scott Hinman • Dan and Marjae Schinkel

Birthdays: • Jenn Gustafson • Erica Swisher • Mandilyn Krueger Flieds • Megan Erickson

10:00am: Band Festival in Groton

Saturday, October 11

State Soccer at Mitchell

Birthdays: Ricky Thurston • Donna Bahr

9:00am: Volleyball Tourney at Redfield

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

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Sunday, October 12

Anniversaries: Marc & Jane Johnson • Charles & Sabrina Padfield

Birthdays: • Tyler Holm • Heather Merkel • Carroll Nehls • Cadance Jo Tullis • Michaela Kavanaugh

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Worship

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Church

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

Monday, October 13

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY - NO SCHOOL

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, green beans, spinach salad, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: • Carna Atherton-Pray • Carter Jondahl • Michael Shilhanek • Kay Olson

Columbus Day

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:30pm: Northeast Region DI Team Managers Training at GES

7:30pm: School Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 14

Milbank Novice Oral Interp

School Breakfast: Cereal, long john, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Hamburger, French fries, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, potatoes carrots onions, gravy, honey dew melon or peaches, dinner roll.

Birthdays: Angel Lorenz • Lois Pasch • Laverna Houdek • Grady O'Neill

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

5:15pm: 8th VB host Hitchcock-Tulare

6:30pm: JV VB hosts Hitchcock-Tulare followed by Varsity Match

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Church Council

Wednesday, October 15

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Chicken noodle soup, grilled cheese, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: BBQ chicken, rosemary red potatoes, old fashioned slaw, strawberry Jell-O dessert, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: Mark & Tammie Hanson

Birthdays: • Brad Morehouse • Kourtnei Stumpf • Rhonda Foote • Teal Schinkel • Jaymie Overacker • Russell Davidson

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

12:30pm: Sixth Grade MathCounts at Warner

1:30pm: United Methodist Women Meeting

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3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation
6:30pm: United Methodist Jr High UMYF
7:00pm: Emmanuel Luther League
7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation
8:00pm: United Methodist Ad Council

Thursday, October 16

School Lunch: Nacho grande, refried beans, tossed greens, fruit.

School Lunch: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Herbed roast pork, baked potato with sour cream, lemon buttered broccoli, cinnamon applesauce, whole wheat bread.

Anniversary: John & Chris Wheeting

Birthday: Nancy Larsen

1:30pm: WELCA (Final day of packing stewardship projects)

2:00pm: Region XC at Webster

6:30pm: C/JV VB hosts Hamlin followed by varsity match

Friday, October 17

END OF FIRST QUARTER

School Breakfast: French toast, links, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Popcorn chicken, sweet tots, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, creamy potato salad, fruited Jell-O, ice cream sundae.

Birthdays: • Gladys Dirks • Judy Fliehs • Laura Ptacek • Dylan Krueger • Tyler Rossow • Jackson Bahr

7:00pm: FB at Tiospa Zina

Saturday, October 18

Oral Interp at NSU Festival

Birthday: Chelsey Luecke

10:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran Serve at Kids Against Hunger

3:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Pastor at Rosewood Court

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, October 19

Birthdays: • Paula Pray • Lorrie Weber • David Anderson • Brian Sundstrom

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with Communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

3:30pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship at Golden Living Center (Young Adults Serve)

5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Church

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

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Monday, October 20

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Taco salad, baked beans, carrots and dip, fruit.

Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, banana cake with icing, whole wheat bread.

Birthday: Jackie Quiggle

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

5:00pm: Family Night at GHS

6:30pm: Groton Garden Club at Linda Gengerke's home

7:00pm: City Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

School Breakfast: Cereal, yogurt, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Turkey gravy, whipped potatoes, corn, tossed greens, fruit.

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff noodles, mixed vegetables, cake with strawberries, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Gary Heitmann • Mary Rix • Paige Harris • Jackie Hein • Kathleen Engel • Tony Lyren

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

4:15pm: JH VB at Northwestern

5:15pm: C match VB at Northwestern

6:30pm: JV VB at Northwestern followed by Varsity match

Wednesday, October 22

School Breakfast: Mini pancakes, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Green beans, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Hot pork combination, mashed potatoes and gravy, green and gold beans, carrot-raisin salad, pear halves.

Birthdays: Adam Grams • Margaret Sippel • Savanna Larson • Kara Kettering • Dustin Falk • Bill Shilhanek • Kara Pharis • Nathaniel Geist • Janice Hanson • Sherry Hanson • Shane Haskell

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

7:00pm: Emmanuel Luther League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

7:00pm: United Methodist Sr High UMYF

Thursday, October 23

School Breakfast: Cinnamon roll, yogurt, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Chicken patty on hamburger bun, oven fries, tossed greens, fruit.

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, brownie, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Duane Kurtz • Carrie Cole • Melodee Lane • Brooklin Nordine • Tricia Kurth • Whitney Krueger • Shay Rossow • Kassie Dunbar • Randy Stanley

7:00pm: FB hosts Sisseton

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Friday, October 24

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, orange sherbet, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Robbie Thurston • Darac Harry • Barb Lesher • Beth Ankeny • Nick Weber • Karla Davidson

8:00am: Faculty Inservice - NO SCHOOL

5:00pm: JH VB at Britton

6:30pm: C/JV VB at Britton followed by varsity match

Saturday, October 25

ACT Testing at GHS

Robotics at GHS GYM

State Cross Country at Huron

Anniv: Brad & Darliss Larson

Birthdays: Lars Hanson • Sarah Leonhardt • Tasha Dunker • Joshua Dennert • Paige Heintzman • Alan Bell

4:30pm: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

Sunday, October 26

Anniv: Harry & Gloria Pharis

Birthdays: Ethan Charles Briggs • Marie Sternhagen

9:00am: Emmanuel Lutheran School

9:00am: St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church Mass

9:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran Fellowship

10:00am: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Pierpont (LCMC) worship

10:00am: United Methodist School

10:15am: Emmanuel Lutheran worship with Communion

11:00am: United Methodist Church Worship

5:00pm: Worship at Trinity Church

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Choir

Monday, October 27

Oral Interp at Brookings

School Breakfast: Cereal, long john, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Italian dunkers, green beans, veggie cups, fruit.

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Dick & Judy Flihs • Lars & Darinda Tunby

Birthdays: Tina Kosel • Matt Groeblichhoff • Randy Hjermsstad • Dylan Anderson • Molly Jordan • Lars Tunby

6:30am: Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study

7:30pm: School Board Meeting

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Tuesday, October 28

First Round FB Playoffs

School Breakfast: Breakfast bagel, fruit, juice, milk.

School Lunch: Boneless wings, mashed potatoes, gravy, mixed veggies, fruit, tea bun.

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, peas, acini dePepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

10:00am: United Methodist Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, October 29

United Methodist Jr UMYF Food Drive Night

School Lunch: Chili, cornbread, carrots and dip, fruit.

School Lunch: Pancake on stick, fruit, juice, milk.

Senior Menu: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes and gravy, California blend vegetables, lemon tart bar, whole wheat bread.

Anniv: Gilbert & Rochelle Hinkelman

Birthdays: Connie Nilsson • Sheryl Hanlon • Shelby Hjernstad • Jeremy Price • Butch Radke • Marcene Bruckner

7:00am: United Methodist Men's Bible Study

12:00pm: Kiwanis meets at the Community Center

3:45pm: United Methodist Confirmation

6:30pm: C/JV VB hosts Redfield followed by varsity match

7:00pm: Emmanuel Luther League

7:00pm: Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation

Thursday, October 30

School Breakfast: Egg omelette, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Meatballs, oven potatoes, corn, tossed greens, fruit.

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, peas and carrots, peach cobbler, whole wheat bread.

Birthdays: Laurie Pray • Bob Swisher • Breslyn Hinman • Holden Sippel • Sarah Hofer

Friday, October 31

All State Chorus and Orchestra in Sioux Falls

School Breakfast: French toast, links, juice, milk, fruit.

School Lunch: Halloween nuggets, Jack-O-Latern potatoes, fruit, veg cups, pumpkin.

Senior Menu: French dip sandwich, macaroni salad, seasoned cabbage, Waldorf salad.

Birthdays: CJ Barton • Becky Washnok • Marion Mortenson • Marshall Lane • Kristie Tullis • Shelley Freeman • Dawsyn Dinger • Andee Geist

Halloween

The cardboard/paper

recycling trailer at the school is **OPEN**

Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is at 10 East Railroad Ave. Don't forget, there is also a dumpster at the city shop for aluminum cans with the proceeds going to the pool.