



THE BEACON

MT. GREYLOCK MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER-FEBRUARY 16, 2006



“Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom”.

Thomas Jefferson-



Violence Prevention at MG

Last week, our middle school and encore teachers received training from the Mass. Department of Education staff in the Violence Prevention Curriculum, ‘Second Step.’ Our middle school teachers will conduct lessons during their advisory classes, which will kick off after the February break. The curriculum is not only designed to promote social, emotional education through formal lessons, but it will also be supported and reinforced by all middle school faculty and staff who interact with students.

Its premise is based in social-emotional learning to: identify and manage emotions; teach people how to get along with others in a civil fashion; teach life skills; and teach students how to develop successful relationships. Lessons are designed to develop problem solving techniques, empathy, impulse control, frustration tolerance and anger management. Parent support is integral to the success of the ‘Second Step’ curriculum. With this in mind, we are planning an information session, which will be held within the next few months.

For further information, or to address questions or concerns, please contact School Adjustment Counselor, Deb Cole-Duffy at ext. 159 or at dcole@mgrhs.org.

“Cybercrimes”

On **Monday, March 13th**, the PTO will feature **Sergeant Steve DelNegro**, Internet Crimes Against Children Coordinator for the Massachusetts State Police. He will discuss the children’s use of the internet, the many dangers posed and safety considerations. The PTO meeting will be held at **7 P.M.** in the library. **For further information, contact Lynn Penna at ext. 103**

Silent Auction a Success!

Dear members of the Mount Greylock community, we would like to thank all of you who contributed to the success of the “At Your Service” silent auction held on Sunday, January 29th. So many helped to plan, promote and staff the event, contributed creative gifts and services, prepared and served delicious refreshments, and bid on the over 90 services and items offered.

We give a special thanks to the students who performed throughout the afternoon. It was truly a wonderful community event. As you may have heard, we reached (and even slightly exceeded!) our goal of \$5000. We can now proceed with efforts to improve communications systems at the school.

Co-Presidents:

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* Minutes from the PTO Meeting on Feb. 13 to follow in upcoming Beacons.

I Am Not Who They Think I Am

I am not who they think I am
They think I will tremble beneath their feet
They think I want to be just like them
They think I’m weak, brought down by harsh words
I am my own person
I shine in my own way
I am strong and confident
I am not who they think I am
I am not **them**.

Alyssa Tomkowitz

A History of President's Day

Washington's Birthday, popularly known as Presidents' Day, is a national holiday in the United States celebrated on the third Monday of February (celebrated on February 20 in 2006). Previously George Washington's birthday was observed on February 22. By popular opinion the holiday also honors at least Abraham Lincoln and often other Presidents of the United States as well.

Lincoln's birthday is February 12, and although it was never a federal holiday, many state and local governments that had observed a "Lincoln's Birthday" holiday have since abolished it in favor of a "common" holiday. Public celebrations for George Washington's birthday actually predate his term as president, in honor of his service during the American Revolutionary War.

Observance on the third Monday of February dates to the Uniform Holidays Bill of 1968, which became effective in 1971. A draft of that bill called for a Presidents' Day to honor both Washington and Lincoln, but the final version only moved Washington's Birthday from the 22nd to the third Monday without changing its name.

There is an urban legend that in 1971, President Richard Nixon issued a proclamation calling for a Presidents' Day on the third Monday to honor all U.S. presidents, but no evidence of this exists in his official papers. As of 2006, the federal government and many state and local governments still officially designate the holiday as "Washington's Birthday." Yet most private employers and calendar makers refer to it as "Presidents' Day."

Adding to the confusion is that George Washington's birthday was actually on February 11 of the Julian calendar, in use before England's calendar reformation in September 1752. His birthday is equivalent to February 22 in the Gregorian calendar used since 1752. Washington himself considered the 22nd his birthday later in life. The third Monday in a month always falls between the 15th and the 21st, so the official holiday now never occurs on the 11th, the 22nd, nor on Lincoln's birthday.

In American schools the days leading up to the holiday are often used to educate students on the history of the Presidents of the United States, especially Washington and Lincoln. In recent years Presidents' Day has become well-known for being a day in which many stores hold sales.

SPORTS

Boys Basketball

Tues. Feb. 21 at 5:30 pm vs. Lee-away

Girls Basketball

Mon. Feb. 20 at 6:00 pm vs. Lenox-away

Wed. Feb. 22 at 5:30 pm vs. St. Joe-HOME

Hockey

Sat. Feb. 18 at 8:00 pm vs. Drury-HOME

Fri. Feb. 24 at 7:30 pm vs. Ludlow-HOME

Wrestling

Fri. & Sat. Feb. 17-18 D-3 States at Hudson

Fri. & Sat. Feb. 24-25 All States-away

Fri. & Sat. Mar. 3-4 New England-away

GOINGS ON

Mon. Feb. 20 thru 24-WINTER VACATION

Mon. Feb. 20-President's Day

Wed. Feb. 22-President Washington's birthday

Starting Thurs. Mar. 2 thru 4-School Musical at 7 pm in auditorium

Please send items for the next issue of The Beacon by **noon, Tuesday, February 28 to:**
Larsolaris@yahoo.com / 458-8015 or
Lizcostley@adelphia.net / 458-5894

Enjoy Winter Break!
See You Back On February 27!