

Travel Agents at Mt. Greylock

-Peggy Talbot

All eighth grade students in Mrs. Talbot's science classes have been assigned a biome to explore with the purpose of creating a travel brochure. There are 6 major terrestrial or land biomes and 2 aquatic biomes. A biome is a type of region with a distinct climate, a

major plant type, and other organisms adapted to living in that region. The students are to research, make notes and discuss the characteristics of their assigned

biome. In the travel brochure would be information about their area and its characteristics.

Special Thursday Night

Middle School Dance

-Amy Moore-Powers

The middle school Student Activities Organization (SAO) is planning a dance for **Thursday,**

December 16 from 6-9 p.m. Students will have the opportunity to stay after school to see the Sarah Hirsch Musical, buy a pizza dinner and then come to the dance where the Holidays' Trees will be on display. A bus will be available for students from Lanesborough leaving the elementary at 5:30 p.m. Due to the unique nature of a Thursday dance, teachers have agreed to give little or no homework on this evening.

Festival of Holidays' Trees

-Amy Moore-Powers

During the first two weeks of December, middle school students will be learning about the November and December holidays of different countries around the world. The purpose of this activity is to help students become aware of celebrations and traditions that take place in different parts of the world. During extended learning, students will study the holidays celebrated by a particular country and then create decorations representing the countries traditions to place on a tree. The trees will then be displayed for the middle school dance on December 16th.

Mt. Greylock Teachers Performs Dickens

A FREE performance open to the public of Charles Dicken's *A Christmas Carol* will be presented by storyteller and Mt. Greylock high school history teacher Drew Gibson on **Dec. 5th at 5:30, at First Congregational Church, Main Street, Williamstown.** Refreshments (sandwiches, pizza by the slice, cider, cookies) will be for sale prior to the performance to benefit the GAP fund. Mr. Gibson is a former actor and is known for his dynamic presentation of material in his classes. This will be a great family event!

Website Advocates Parent Involvement:

12 THINGS PARENTS SHOULD KNOW

-Amy Moore-Powers

The complete title of this excellent handout from Parent Leadership Associates, Inc. is "*As a Parent, Here are 12 Things You Should Know About and Expect From Your Schools and Yourself.*" It describes why parent involvement is important, what parents should expect from schools, and what schools hope for from parents. Poorly run schools will want to avoid this one! Here's a quote: "You're more likely to get what you want for your child if you work with other parents. If you are in a school that is not parent-friendly, administrators might perceive you as a fruitcake or a member of a powerful organization, depending on how many allies you have." Find out more about PLA and parent advocacy training here:

www.ptotoday.com/0803parented.html

For more info on *12 Things A Parent Should Know*:

www.plassociates.org/twelve.html

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SPORTS

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Sun, Dec 5, 4-7:00pm: BANQUET for X-Country Team in school Cafeteria

Mon, Dec 6, 5-9:00pm: BANQUET for Volleyball Team in Cafeteria

Sports Forms Due

-Nurse Dubendorf

Winter sports began practices this week. **Health forms were due on Monday, Nov 29.** Athletes must have a completed EMERGENCY FORM and documentation of a PHYSICAL within the last year before they begin team practices. Feel free to check with me to see what forms you need.

Questions: **Dianne Dubendorf 458-9582 x 154** or *ddubendorf@mgrhs.org*

Wrestling Team Starts

-Coach Raymond Miro

The Mt. Greylock Wrestling Team welcomes middle school students. The team is divided into weight classes so that kids can be evenly matched. Both boys and girls may join. We presently have the nation's #1 high school wrestler on our team: Nicole Darrow! We have a very successful program that helps the kids in areas other than the actual wrestling. Our first meeting was Nov 16 but interested students should come see me in my classroom E-48; call me at

458-9582 x 191 and leave a message; or email me at: *rmiro@mgrhs.org*

Participate in Superintendent Search

-Robert Petricca, Chair of School Comm.

The MGRHS School Committee invite you to participate in the identification of the characteristics we will be looking for in our new superintendent by completing a ***Leadership Profile Assessment*** form. The form was sent home in *The Forum* or **copies of the form are available on the school's website: www.mgrhs.org** Please complete the ***Leadership Profile Assessment*** form and FAX (847-724-8467) it directly to the search firm Hazard, Young, Attea & Assoc. **ASAP!**

Please send items for the next issue of *The Beacon* by **noon, Tues, 12/07/04** to **debbydane@ aol.com** or to **stomberg@adelphia.net**

Holiday Shopping?

Use schoolpop.com

If you're shopping on-line this holiday season, earn money for Mt. Greylock and go to **schoolpop.com** first. Register your name and the organization you would like to benefit (Mt. Greylock Regional High School), then pick the merchant you want to shop with and begin shopping.

This website donates a percentage of your on-line purchases to Mt. Greylock's PTO. Over 200 companies participate, including Target, Old Navy, Eddie Bauer, J. Crew, Barnes & Noble, Staples, Orvis, LLBeans, Lands End. Some donate as much as 10% of your purchase! Questions? Contact Melissa Brink: **onthebrink89@yahoo.com**

Support WES 6th graders

On **Sunday, December 12, 8:00am—noon** at the **Williamstown Elementary School**, the 6th grade class hosts their annual **Pancake Breakfast!** Please come enjoy pancakes, sausage, fruit, juice, coffee and tea, and help the 6th grade students raise money for their annual spring trip to Cape Cod. The "All You Can Eat" breakfast is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.00 for seniors and children under 13. See you there!

GOINGS ON

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TONIGHT, Thu, Dec 2, 6:30: Special Town Meeting #2 in Mt. Greylock Gymnasium to vote on bond to pay for extending W'town's water line to Mt. Greylock.

Tue, Dec 7, 7:00pm: Mt. Greylock School Committee Meeting in school library

Wed, Dec 8, 7:30 am: Mt. Greylock School

Committee Meeting in room S-1

Wed. Dec 8: EARLY RELEASE (11:49)

Fri, Dec 10, 7-10pm: JAVA JIVE at American Legion Hall in W'town.

Mon, Dec 13, 7:00pm: PTO meeting in MGRHS library

Penna's Pride

Louise Smith & Jeffrey Agostini, both 8th graders, were added to Penna's Pride this week. Congratulations!