



# Patriot Post

Volume 4, Issue 7  
May/June 2012



## Notes from the Principal's Desk

We will continue to focus on making Gordon the best school for our families

The end of the 2011-2012 school year is quickly coming to a close. This newsletter will be a combined May - June publication considering there are only nine academic days in June. I ask that you help keep your children focused until the final day of school. Spring fever typically starts in May, but students who continue to work hard will be ready for next year.

I do request that all of you review upcoming calendar items listed in this newsletter such as parent conferences. This is a great opportunity to discuss any academic or behavioral concerns with your child's teacher. PreKindergarten and Kindergarten registrations is May 3 - 4. Registering your child early helps administration plan for staffing next year. The last day for PreKindergarten students is June 13, and the final day for K -5 is June 14.

Gordon Elementary has offered award assemblies this year for K - 5 students. Both students and parents have enjoyed attending the assemblies. The fourth quarter awards will be done differently due to time constraints. It is physically impossible to print awards and hold an assembly for this large of school during fourth quarter. Consequently, award assemblies will be held in each classroom. Each grade level will set a date for their awards and notify parents.

In December I held a parent coffee and invited all

parents to attend, but unfortunately only one parent attended. Coffees are used to get feedback from parents on the school. I also received low turnouts at my last school. On April 3 I held another coffee to get feedback regarding the school but took a different approach by inviting one parent from every classroom to attend. Ten parents attended from Gordon. They provided me positive feedback, shared areas of concern, and asked many wonderful questions. My staff is using this information to make improvements at Gordon. I will be holding more parent coffees next school year.



Joel Grim

I've enjoyed getting to know the students, staff, and parents at Gordon Elementary this year. We have a beautiful facility and highly motivated teachers who care deeply for the well-being of the students. The after school clubs along with the numerous activities offered at the school has enriched the lives of our students. Many of these activities would not be possible without the involvement of the PTA. You are encouraged to become actively involved with this wonderful organization.

Have a great summer and continue reading with your children!

## Gordon students, staff support soldiers with snack drive

The military groups at Gordon ended the Snacks for Soldiers Drive in April. They would like to thank all the students, parents, and staff who donated snacks to be sent to deployed soldiers. Because of your generosity more than 1,000 snacks were collected and sent to two of our students fathers' units who are currently deployed. Included with the snacks, students sent cameras, letters, and cards. **Anissa Peoples, Military and Family Life Consultant**



## Gordon students are moving full **STEAM** ahead

**D**oDEA recently announced a Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) initiative for schools worldwide, to provide real-world, problem solving opportunities for students. To embrace the power of creativity, the DDESS-Fort Bragg schools have added the Arts to STEM and Gordon Elementary students will be participating in **STEAM Week May 7-11, 2012**.

STEAM activities have been planned by grade level teams and will take place throughout the week:

**Pre-K** – Egg drop with assistance of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students

**Kindergarten** - Sink and Float experiments with a variety of materials

**1<sup>st</sup> Grade** - Using recycled materials to build a robot that holds a tennis ball

**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade** - Exploring the properties of matter by making ice cream

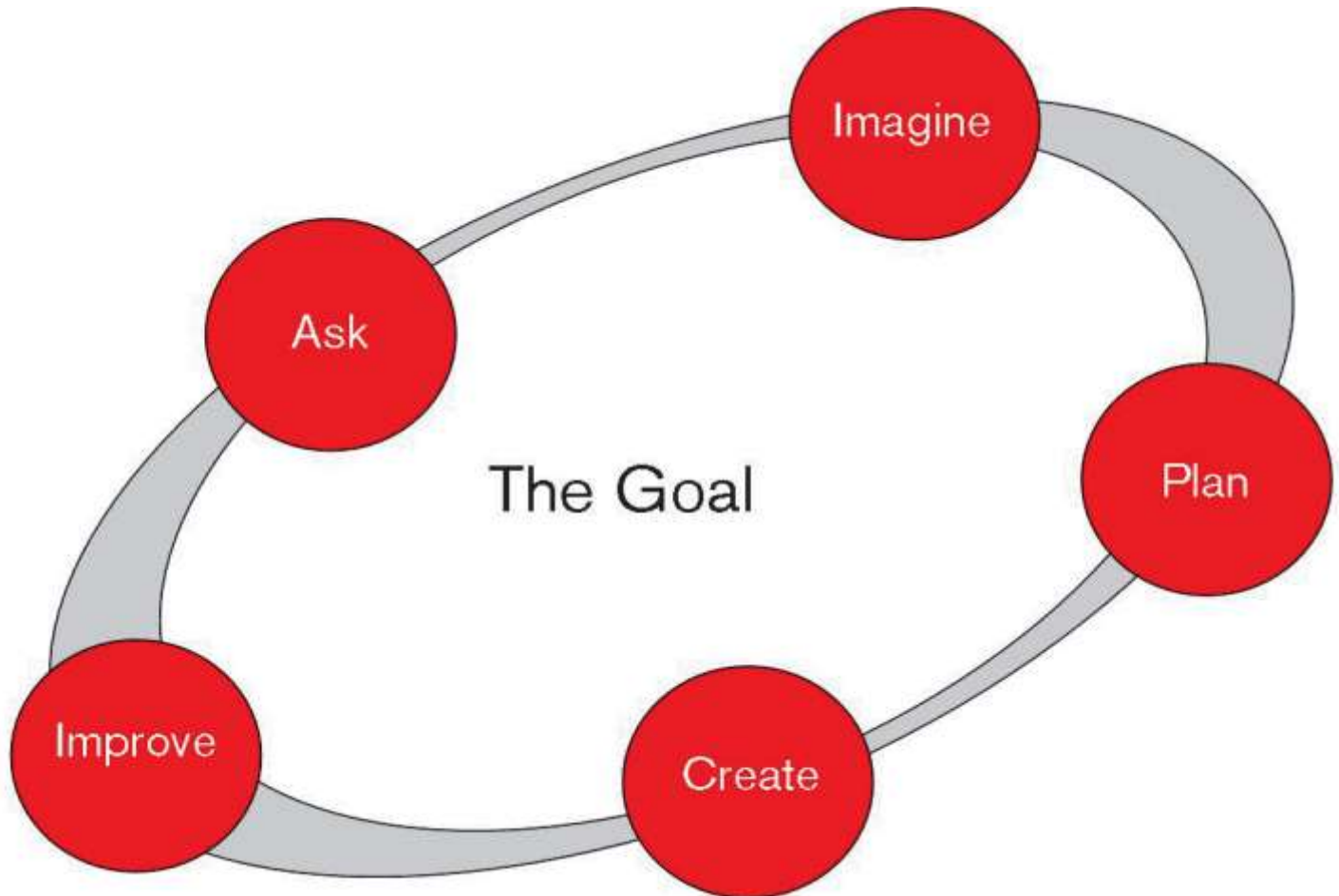
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade** - Creating environmentally friendly can holders and building a table from newspaper

**4<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Building a table from newspapers and exploring concepts of circuits and electricity

**5<sup>th</sup> Grade** - Building activities to include bridges from fettuccine, balloon racers, towers with marshmallows and straws, and creating musical instruments from a variety of materials.

Dr. Debra Barrickman, GT Teacher  
Amy Adamski, Administrative Intern

### STEAM activities will follow the Engineering Design Process



## 'Kids on the Block' teach Gordon students how to be bully busters

On Friday April 20, Gordon was visited by Eddie and Melody from "Kids on the Block." Eddie and Melody talked about bullying and demonstrated different things students can do when they feel they are being bullied, or when they see someone else being bullied.

These puppet shows are provided by [Army Child Service](#) to all schools at no cost to the schools or community programs. The Kids on the Block program on Bullies & School Safety is designed to create awareness of what constitutes bullying, present problem solving strategies, encourage empathy for the targets of bullies, and explore ways that students may be involved in promoting safety in their school. **Anissa Peoples, Military and Family Life Consultant**

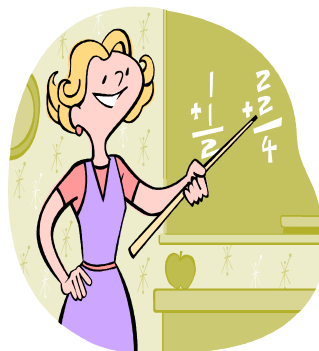


## PTA notes, upcoming events

### Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7 - 11

Please check your child's backpack for notes about how the PTA will help your children show their teachers how much he or she is appreciated.

PTA



### Scholastic Book Fair is May 14 - 18

The May book fair is the last one for this school year, and it's **buy one, get one free!** This includes books, book marks, pens, and all other products. Watch for the book fair flyer!

PTA





# Make reading a special time for the entire family

Don't miss out on the next great story. Make reading time a special time for everyone in the house! Block out 20 minutes each evening when EVERYONE sits down to read. While your student is reading a book on his or her own Lexile level, grab that newspaper

or magazine article *you've* been dying to read. Make reading an important habit for yourself and your children will follow your example!

Laura Festa, Read 180

**Congratulations to the following classes for having 100 percent participation in Home Reading for the month of March.**

### Pre K

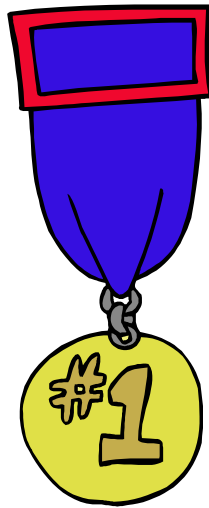
- Jillard AM
- Jillard PM

### Kindergarten

- Harrison
- Marks
- Maull
- Upton

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- Schmotzer



**Congratulations to the following classes for having 80 percent or higher participation during March.**

### Pre K

- Merritt AM
- Merritt PM

### Kindergarten

- Grant

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

- Colley

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade

- DeBruhl
- Goodrich
- Munsell



### **Flag Team**

The flag team is responsible for raising the American flag every morning, and lowering it every afternoon. Students are chosen by their teachers to serve on the flag team based on their responsibility, and the citizenship qualities they demonstrate at school.

Expect the Extraordinary!

# Children's Book Week

SCHOOL  
LIBRARY  
INFORMATION  
CENTER



## Reading Counts at Gordon

The third, fourth, and fifth grade classes competed in a Reading Counts competition, entitled March Madness. Classes went head to head to see which could read the most books. For the month of March, students read more than 3,000 books. So far Gordon Patriots have read more than 8,000 books, which exceed our school-wide goal of 7,500. I think **that's cause for celebration!**

Congrats to the following classes the winners of March Madness for their grade levels: 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with 586 books, Mrs. Goodrich; 4<sup>th</sup> grade with 292 books, Ms. Fleming and 5<sup>th</sup> grade with 498 books, Mrs. Moore.

## Special Note

Recently, there have been a number of books returned to the information center sticky, wet and moldy, crayon or pencil scribbling, and pet marks. Please encourage your child to use proper book care when it comes to library books. Damaged books not only prevent others from reading them, it also decreases our school's resources. Here are a few simple rules to help keep books damage free.

- \*Handle books with clean hands
- \*Don't leave books outside
- \*Keep away from food and drink
- \*Don't give books to baby brother/sister or pets
- \*Use a bookmark
- \*Handle pages with care
- \*Check book bag for spills
- \*Keep in safe place

## National Children's Book Week

May 7-13 is National Children's Book Week. This annual event was created to promote higher standards in children's books. Established in 1919, it is the longest running literacy initiative in the country. Administered by [Every Child a Reader](#) and sponsored by the [Children's Book Council](#), young people and caregivers are encouraged to explore the world beyond their own experiences through the covers of a book. This is the absolute perfect time to revisit old favorites and make new ones. A list of the [Best Books of 2011](#) for K-12 by the School Library Journal can be found by just clicking on the link. If you are not

sure which books are located in the Gordon School Library Information Center just click the [SLIC](#) and type in the desired title.

## Bookmark Contest

To celebrate Children's Book Week, the information center will sponsor a bookmark contest. The contest will be grade level specific, with the overall goal being to promote reading in one of the STEAM areas; Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. More information will be presented to students prior to May 7th.

## Top Five Patriot Picks

# March 2012

### Everybody Fiction

1. No David!
2. The Dumpster Diver
3. One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish
4. Did I Ever Tell You How Lucky You?
5. We're Going on a Lion Hunt

### Fiction

- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Ugly Truth
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Last Straw
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Cabin Fever
- Ms. Hannah is Bananas
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Greg Heffley's Journal

### Non-fiction

- Baby Mouse
- I Spy Spooky Night
- Bone: Great Cow Race
- Where's Waldo? Wonder Book
- Bone: Crown of Horns

## May 4: A day packed with presentations, performances

### *Patriot Day is coming!*

On Friday, May 4, we will spend the day participating in many activities, presentations, and performances provided by military and civilian volunteers.

Festivities will begin at 8:45 a.m. with the All American Freefall Team, and end after the 1 p.m. performance by the Fayetteville City Police Rollerz Band. PM-PreK students will arrive at noon.

Families are welcome to enjoy this day with their students. Due to activities and limited time for lunch; we are unable able to offer lunch to parents and other siblings. We will serve Gordon students at their normal lunch times. Please make other lunch arrangements if you plan to attend Gordon's Patriot Day.

Due to limited parking we ask that you consider walking to school. If you planned to donate food for the presenters, please drop it off by 10 a.m. and use disposable serving dishes. Thank you for your continued support!

**Sarai Maull, Patriot Day Committee**



The photos on this page are from Patriot Day 2011.



# School Snapshots





## Families Making the Connection

### Let's Move to a Healthier Future

Let's Move! brings common sense, healthy lifestyle strategies to our communities. Everyone has a role to play! Start by celebrating Let's Move! and Physical Fitness and Sports Month:

- Plan a safe walk to and from school a few times a week.
- Allow your child to take part in sports, dance or fitness programs.
- Create a family park, swim or bike day.
- Take on a family challenge to achieve the **Presidential Active Lifestyle Award**. Get your family members started at [www.presidentschallenge.org](http://www.presidentschallenge.org).
- Volunteer to help with afterschool physical activity programs.

For more ideas, go to [www.letsmove.gov](http://www.letsmove.gov)

## Families Eating Smart and Moving More

Research points to seven key behaviors that can help children, youth and adults eat healthier and be more active:

- Prepare and eat more meals at home.
- Turn off the tube.
- Choose to move more every day.
- Right-size your portions.
- Re-think your drink.
- Enjoy more fruits and vegetables.
- Breastfeed your baby.

### May

- Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- Asparagus Month
- Strawberry Month

## Fit Foundations

### Penne with Asparagus and Tomatoes

Makes 4-6 servings

Serving Size: about 1 cup

#### Ingredients

- 8 ounces penne pasta
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 pounds thin asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1 inch pieces
- Black pepper
- 2 cups (about 9 ounces) cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup shelled peas, fresh or frozen
- 1/2 cup low sodium chicken stock
- 1 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves

#### Directions

- Bring a large pot of water to a boil over high heat. Add the pasta. Cook until tender but still firm to the bite, about 8 to 10 minutes.
- Drain the pasta, reserving about 1/2 cup of the pasta water.
- In a large sauté pan, heat the oil over medium-high heat. Add the garlic and sauté about 1 minute. Add the asparagus and season with pepper. Sauté for 3 minutes, or until slightly soft. Finally, add the tomatoes and peas, sautéing for 2 minutes.
- Pour the chicken stock over the asparagus mixture. Bring to a simmer. Simmer 3 minutes, or until stock is reduced by half.
- Transfer asparagus mixture to a large serving bowl. Add cooked pasta and 1/2 of the Parmesan. Toss well, adding reserved pasta water if needed to loosen the pasta.
- Garnish with remaining cheese and basil.



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# Menus for May 2012

## Fort Bragg Schools



Monday, May 7	Tuesday, May 8	Wednesday, May 9	Thursday, May 10	Friday, May 11
<b>Breakfast</b> Pancake N Sausage Or Cereal Appleauce Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tender w/ Roll Or Baked Pork w/ Meat & Cheese Sauce w/ Roll CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Green Beans Steamed Broccoli Fresh Peas Fresh Strawberries Choice OF COLD MILK	<b>Breakfast</b> Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal Orange Udders Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Meatloaf & Cheese w/ Roll Or Turkey Deli Sandwich CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Baked Pork Corn on Cob Cauliflower w/ Broccoli Florets Orange Udders CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Breakfast</b> Sausage Breakfast Omelet Or Cereal Sliced Peaches Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Cheese Pies Or Sloppy Joe CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Garden Peas Steamed Carrots Tomato Salad Sliced Red Delicious Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Breakfast</b> Ham Breakfast Omelet Or Cereal Appleauce CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOICE TWO Creamed Potatoes Rib Beans Coleslaw Orange Udders CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Breakfast</b> Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal Sliced Red Delicious Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fish w/ Roll Or Taco's CHOICE TWO Baked Beans Corn on Cob Shredded Lettuce w/ Diced Tomatoes Fresh Carrots CHOICE OF COLD MILK
<b>Monday, May 14</b> Baked Pork w/ Cream Cheese Or Cereal Sliced Peaches Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tender w/ Roll Or Baked Pork w/ Meat & Cheese Sauce and Roll CHOICE TWO Green Beans Steamed Broccoli w/ Carrots Fresh Strawberries Sliced Peaches	<b>Tuesday, May 15</b> Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal Sliced Red Apples Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Spaghetti w/ Meat Sauce and French Bread Or Turkey Deli Whole Wheat CHOICE TWO Garden Peas Steamed Squash Tomato Salad Fresh Strawberries	<b>Wednesday, May 16</b> Sausage Breakfast Omelet Or Cereal Fresh Strawberries Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pies Or Sloppy Joe CHOICE TWO Lima Beans Steamed Corn Strawberries w/ Carrots Fresh Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Thursday, May 17</b> Breakfast Pies Or Cereal Carrots Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOICE TWO Parsley Potatoes Pink Beans Red Jell-O w/ Mixed Fruit Fresh Peas CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Friday, May 18</b> Pancake N Sausage Or Cereal Fresh Strawberries w/ Banana Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Fish w/ Roll Or Taco's CHOICE TWO Oven Baked Rice Baked Beans Coleslaw Fresh Strawberries Shredded Lettuce w/ Tomatoes
<b>Monday, May 21</b> Vanilla Yogurt w/ Fruit Mixed Or Cereal Peaches Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Sandwich Or Lunches w/ French Bread CHOICE TWO Steamed Corn Garden Peas Tomato Salad Fresh Strawberries CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Tuesday, May 22</b> Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal Strawberries Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH CHICKEN SALAD U/CRACKERS OR CHEESEBURGERS CHOICE TWO Oven Baked Rice Green Beans Fresh Peas Orange Udders	<b>Wednesday, May 23</b> Pancake N Sausage Or Cereal Appleauce Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pies Or Sub Sandwich CHOICE TWO Garden Peas Steamed Broccoli Tomato Salad Fresh Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Thursday, May 24</b> Scramble Eggs w/ Grits Or Cereal Peaches w/ Strawberries Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOICE TWO Mashed Potatoes Green Beans Fresh Strawberries CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Friday, May 25</b> Sausage Breakfast Or Cereal Orange Udders Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Taco Salad w/ Chips Or Fish Nuggets w/ Cornbread CHOICE TWO Baked Beans Oven Baked Rice Fresh Carrots Diced Tomatoes CHOICE OF COLD MILK
<b>Monday, May 28</b> NO SCHOOL  Memorial Day	<b>Tuesday, May 29</b> Pancake N Sausage Or Cereal Appleauce Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Chicken Tender w/ Roll Or Hotdog w/ Chili CHOICE TWO Parsley Potatoes Green Beans Fresh Strawberries Peaches CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Wednesday, May 30</b> Sausage Breakfast Omelet Or Cereal Fresh Strawberries Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Pies Or Sloppy Joe CHOICE TWO Lima Beans Steamed Corn Strawberries w/ Carrots Fresh Apples CHOICE OF COLD MILK	<b>Thursday, May 31</b> Breakfast Pies Or Cereal Carrots Whole Wheat Toast CHOICE OF COLD MILK LUNCH Oven Baked Chicken w/ Roll Or Cheeseburger CHOICE TWO Parsley Potatoes Pink Beans Red Jell-O w/ Mixed Fruit Fresh Peas CHOICE OF COLD MILK	  