Science, Art & Technology Fair
There’s still time to enter the 2013 Science, Art & Technology Fair! Registration forms and additional information are available online. This year’s fair will be held Tuesday, March 12 from 6:30-8:00pm in the GW APR with a snow date of March 19. As a reminder, projects can be dropped off Monday, March 11 between 3:00-6:30pm. Questions can be addressed to Heather Fennessey (hxm103@psu.edu) or Denise Rill (crill@hmc.psu.edu).

Movie Night a Wild Success
Question: What do you get when you mix sleeping bags, blankets, pillows and stuffed animals with pajamas, slippers and an overdose of Mr. Lloyd’s popcorn? Answer: Grays Woods Movie Night!

On February 1, families battled the cold to watch Madagascar 3: Europe’s Most Wanted on the ‘big’ screen, in what has become a winter tradition of movie watching in the Grays Woods All-Purpose Room. As commented by Ben Williams, 5th grader, “My friend Justin wanted me to come with him! I am so glad that I did.” Students watched Alex, Marty, Gloria and Melman in their escapades as they tried to return to the Central Park Zoo from Europe. But how did this wild crew cross Europe without garnering any attention? They joined a traveling circus making students laugh as each of the animals performed their various acts. Fourth grade student, Amanda Rill, has been attending Movie Night since second grade. She stated, “It is just a fun night with my family and friends, and I really enjoy it.” Special thanks to: Dionne and Joe Adams, Ricki Sodergren, and Jamie Barbarich for set up, popcorn distribution, and clean up duty; and, to Mr. Lloyd and his student teacher, Lauren, for pre-popping popcorn. Until Movie Night 2014!

Garden Groundbreaking & Seed Starting Report
A groundbreaking ceremony for the new GW vegetable garden will be held on Thursday, March 14th at 9:30 am. We have received a grant from Lowes to begin a vegetable garden. We envision this garden as a teaching opportunity to help kids understand sustainability, and also to make multiple connections within our elementary curriculum. This ceremony will be a way for us thank Lowes and also recognize multiple community partners, such as our PTO, Kish Bank, Centre Foundation, Hawbakers, Patton Township, Boalsburg Farmer’s Market, the Borough of State College and Calvary Baptist Church. You are welcome to join us. We will be inside in the rotunda if it is cold. If we have a warm day we will be outside!

We are also excited to report that we had a very successful “Seed Starting Workshop” at our school on Feb. 11th. Many teachers and staff from Grays Wood’s attended the district wide workshop led by Chip Clark. We are now starting seeds for our very own vegetable garden. If you are interested in helping the children plant seeds, or have any questions please contact Celeste Newcomb at 814-234-5588.

Primary Division Becomes Pirates
Kindergarten through 2nd Grade had the opportunity to travel to the Penn State campus to view the play “How I Became a Pirate” at the Eisenhower Auditorium on Monday, February 25. Many classrooms tied in pirate themed lessons throughout the week preceding or following the outing. A favorite activity was a day of dressing like a pirate themselves! The PTO is proud to have been able to fund this field trip for these GW students.
Family Fun Game Night Planned
The entire family is invited to break the winter cold streak with a warm night of old fashioned games! (Old fashioned meaning you don’t have to plug them in or have wifi to play.) This year Game Night is being held March 15th from 6:00-8:00pm in the GW APR and it is Going Green. Please wear as much green as you can to the party and we will serve green ice cream! Our goal will be to create zero trash from the event (going green). Attendance is free. Please bring your favorite game or play some of the ones provided onsite. A free raffle giving away fun prizes will also be held. Go Green with the whole family at Gray's Woods Family Fun Game Night! Please contact Megan Gregor (megamoo72@hotmail.com) with any questions.

Coast to Coast Comes to a Close
The 2013 Coast to Coast Challenge was a huge success. During the months of January and February, 109 kids accumulated 5,769 miles/hours of activity, with each child averaging 50 miles over the 6 week period.

Gift cards were presented to Mrs. Bryan and Mrs. Gilberti's classes for the highest number of C2C participants who recorded time. In addition kids and their families were able to participate in a Family Fit Night at GWE and a GWE Skating Party at Penn Skates. And best of all, the whole program was done without paper- all communication and logging of time was done online! Thanks to all the kids and families who participated!

GW Classroom Websites Reminder
Interested in learning about what's happening in your child's classroom? Visit their classroom website, to catch up on all of the great things the teachers and students have been doing.

PTO Survey Online Now
The PTO would like to know how we are doing. Please take 5 minutes to complete the online survey. This is your chance to tell us what you like about the PTO and its events, give suggestions for changes and learn more about how you can get involved. There is also a chance to win dinner for your family! With completion of the survey you can be entered into a drawing to win 2 Papa John's pizzas! Deadline for completion and entry in the prize drawing is March 15. Thanks to all who have already provided their feedback!

Box Top Submissions
As a reminder, please be sure to submit only Box Tops for Education in the collection boxes. At this time, Campbell’s Soup Labels for Education are not being accepted. Also, as a safety precaution to our students, staff and volunteer counters, please be sure no other materials make their way into the Box Top collection sites. Your help is greatly appreciated! If you have questions about the Box Tops for Education program or you’d like to be added to the volunteer list for counting, please contact Angela Petrick (ajppt@aol.com).

All Pro Dads Program Underway
A brand new program at Gray's Woods, All Pro Dads, kicked off their inaugural meeting on Friday, February 22 with a great turn out. This is a terrific resource for you to be the best Dad you can be and you’ll get to enjoy quality time with your child while having breakfast once a month. If you’re interested in checking out the group formed for Dads and their GW students, please plan on attending the next meeting scheduled for March 26 in the GW All Purpose Room.

Breakfast costs are $2.35 for adults and $1.25 for students. Email Kevin Briggs (kevintbriggs@gmail.com) for more information.

Lip Sync Fun for All
After a snow delay, the 8th annual Lip Sync event went on without a hitch on Saturday, February 23. Acts from all grade levels as well as some GW staff took the stage to dazzle a packed audience. A special appearance by Dr. Dewitt with some of the staff and interns performing Gangnam Style was a huge crowd favorite and had everyone on their feet. Many thanks go to all who participated and those who came out to support the performers to make it a great evening of fun.

School Directory
The GW directory is available online as well as on the GWE website. Please contact Cathy Rouse (cebr@comcast.net) with any questions or to add or make changes to your information in the directory.
Want Free Vegetables?
Adopt The Garden For a Week!

We are now making summer plans for our new vegetable garden! Our new garden will include an automatic watering system. We want to make sure we have an abundant crop of vegetables ready for the children ready to harvest when they return in the fall. If you sign up to “adopt” our garden for a week all you have to do is come check on it a few times, pull a few weeds, and enjoy a lot of vegetables! You do not need any gardening experience. We provide all of the tools. All you need is 15 minutes, two times during the week. We plan to plant tomatoes, lettuce, corn, broccoli, peppers, basil & more. If you are interested in adopting the garden for a week this summer please contact Celeste Newcomb at 814-234-5588.

Groundhog Day Celebration Recognized
This year Mrs. Drapcho’s 5th Grade class’ celebration of Groundhog’s Day was picked up as a published story by the Associated Press (AP). Mrs. Molly Neal, a Punxsutawney native, was able to bring a touch of Gobbler’s Nob to her daughter’s classroom sharing treats, contest prizes and information about her hometown and the holiday centered on the most famous groundhog in the world. The full article can be viewed online here.

Winter Soup & Sub Sale Successful
The Bonfatto’s winter fundraiser was another success, with sales bringing in around $800 for the Gray’s Woods PTO to be put back towards school events and activities. This is approximately a $200 increase in profits from the 2012 winter sale. Thank you to all who supported this fundraiser by purchasing items as well as those who volunteered their time to help ensure a successful event.

GW Staff Appreciation Lunch
Special thanks go out to all of the Grays Woods’ families that contributed to the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Lunch held on Wednesday, February 27th. Without all of your help, the lunch would not have been possible. The teachers were very appreciative of your kindness and generosity.

Win Free Papa John’s Pizza
Thank you to Papa John’s on North Atherton for donating enough vouchers for use as raffle prizes for the PTO monthly meetings. There are still chances to win! Come out to the next meeting held on Wednesday, March 13 at 7pm in the GW Library. Everyone in attendance is entered into the prize drawing. As a reminder, free childcare is offered during all PTO meetings in the GW APR. Hope to see you there!

Get Involved with the GW PTO
Looking for a way to get more involved? There are plenty of opportunities within the GW PTO! Immediate needs include help planning the 2013 FUNdraising Fair, Donuts with Dad, and Coast to Coast programs. Handling the Giant A+ Rewards, the new Labels for Education collection for 2013-14 among other events are also in need of volunteer support. Contact grayswoodspto@gmail.com if you’re able to help or would like more information on any of these opportunities.

Talent Show Date Set
Calling all jugglers, dancers, singers, and everyone with a talent to share! The Gray’s Woods All School Talent Show is set to take place on Friday, May 17 at 6:30pm. To work around the startup of spring sport schedules, auditions will be held after school on Tuesday, April 2nd. Permissions slips and more information will be coming home soon. If your child is planning on participating, please be sure to have a signed permission slip returned by April 1st.

Spring Book Fair Upcoming
Make sure to give yourself extra time during the upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences on March 27-28 to stop and browse all the wonderful selections at this year’s Spring Book Fair. The event will be set up in the GW Rotunda for you to look over at your convenience. Books and other items will be available to purchase for your own family or to donate to your child’s classroom. Proceeds will be used to supplement classroom libraries within Gray’s Woods. Thank you for your support.

Newsletter Content
Is there something you’d like to see in the GW Gazette? Contact Beth Edgar (BethEdgar@comcast.net) with any ideas or suggestions. April submissions are due by Monday, March 18.
Receiving PTO Information
If you’d like to receive PTO information (including the GW Gazette) please email grayswoodspto@gmail.com and request to be placed on the PTO listserv. This request is separate from the contact information collected for the school-wide directory.

Missed the February PTO meeting? Review the meeting minutes at the GW PTO website.

Giant A+ Rewards Reminder
If you haven’t already, please register your Giant BonusCard to earn money for Gray’s Woods every time you shop! Log on to www.giantfoodstores.com/aplus to designate our school online using ID# 00749. Remember, even if you had registered your card last school year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Gray’s Woods will receive a check at the end of the program, with the money being used towards any of our school’s educational needs.

Race for Mini Field Day
Standings

1st PLACE: Kindergarten (3, 865 total Box Tops)
2nd PLACE: 2nd Grade (3,501)
3rd PLACE: 3rd Grade (3,321)
4th PLACE: 4th Grade (3,105)
5th PLACE: 1st Grade (2,687)
6th PLACE: 5th Grade (2,272)

Kindergarten has taken the lead! 5,949 Box Tops were counted for this collection period (Jan/Feb). Thank you to all who volunteer with the counting process. Keep cutting those Box Tops and sending them into your child’s classroom. Thanks for your continued support!

A Few “Girls on the Run” Spots Still Available - Register Now!
Parents, we still have some spots open for the inaugural spring season at Gray’s Woods! For more information, visit www.gotrhappyvalley.com.

Upcoming PTO Events

- **Mar 12**: Science, Art & Technology Fair (6:30-8pm GW APR)
- **Mar 13**: PTO Meeting* (7pm GW Library)
- **Mar 14**: Garden Groundbreaking (9:30am GW Garden)
- **Mar 15**: Family Game Night (6-8pm GW APR)
- **Mar 26**: All Pro Dad Meeting (7:45-8:25am GW APR)
- **Mar 27-28**: Book Fair (GW Rotunda)
- **Apr 2**: Talent Show Auditions (3pm)
- **Apr 3**: PTO Meeting* (7pm GW Library)
- **Apr 5**: Visiting Illustrator
- **Apr 22**: Earth Day (more info to come)
- **Apr 26**: All Pro Dad Meeting (7:45-8:25am GW APR)
- **May 1**: PTO Meeting* (7pm GW Library)
- **May 17**: Talent Show (6:30pm GW APR)
- **May 24**: All Pro Dad Meeting (7:45-8:25am GW APR)
- **Jun 5**: PTO Meeting* (7pm GW Library)

*Childcare is provided free of charge in the GW APR during all PTO meetings.