



Volume 4

Issue 5

The G-DAY Newsletter

www.g-day.org

March 2011

Letter from the President

We all experienced a snow filled February and continually show our Groton and Dunstable children what it means to be a New Englander with hearty shoveling and safe driving. You may have used many ways to take advantage of the February winter month with your child(ren). Whether skiing, snowboarding, sledding, walking, skating, or other extracurricular activities, it's important to think of ways to encourage family activities. G-DAY hosted both a daytime and evening book discussion on the 5 Love Languages of Children (and Teenagers). The discussion was thoughtful and gave time for participants to reflect as parents on how we are connecting with our children and teens. It gave many of us a new perspective on different personalities within our families. Most often our children are telling us exactly how they feel through verbal and nonverbal language, and we can learn to pause to be present in the moment to listen to what our children are really saying—with or without words. Thanks so much to all those who read the book and joined in our book discussion groups.

Now it's March UnMadness...we hope you enjoy all the activities listed on G-DAY's March UnMadness calendar. Special thanks to Michelle Hutchins for her work on this year's calendar of fun and interesting daily family ideas for the month of March~~ Betsy Dolan

G-DAY & "Brighter Days" April 9th, Groton Country Club

G-DAY members ask you to join the Bozcenowski family and TADS (Teenager Anxiety, Depression, and Solutions) group as they kick off their first fundraiser gathering at the Groton Country Club, Saturday night, April 9th at the Groton Country Club. We encourage you to join this event for what promises to be a fun night of swing band dancing, appetizers, and socializing with friends new and old all for a great cause. Come learn more about TADS' new initiative to benefit the citizens of Groton and Dunstable, to create more efficient access to mental health resources. Tickets will be available prior to the event at the Main Street Café and Blackbird Café in Groton, or you may email Betsy Dolan at bdolan@g-day.org for more event information.

Half-Day Network

March 16 is a Middle School Half Day. Remember to check the Friday Folder the week before for half-day programs. If you are looking for a way to give back to the community, GDAY is looking for a Middle School Liaison or someone to take over the Half-Day Initiative. GDAY is a low-key group, and the commitment level required for this position is only what you want it to be. If you are curious about what it entails, please contact Ardie.

March UnMadness Calendar

What is MARCH UNMADNESS? GDAY bases its varied programs and activities on the concept of *Positive Youth Development (PYD)*. PYD is based on the Search Institute's forty experiences and qualities called the Developmental Assets. Many of the 40 Developmental Assets pertain to connection, support and time spent at home with family and in the community. These assets, in turn, empower children, enabling them to become more resilient individuals. In an ongoing effort, GDAY is providing our revised month-long MARCH UNMADNESS campaign in Groton and Dunstable. The goal of the campaign is to encourage busy families to pause and focus on being together, enjoying each other's company, and reconnecting. It is designed to raise awareness of how busy our lives have become and to recognize the value of spending time together as a family.

For a color copy of this year's 2011 March UnMadness Calendar go to www.g-day.org

COMMUNITY READING DAY, March 10th

Community Reading Day sponsored by G-DAY, will be underway the morning of Thursday March 10th in classrooms at Florence Roche, Swallow Union, and Boutwell Early Childhood Center. This is G-DAY's 10th year sponsoring this event and we look forward to many more years of seeing smiling faces as community volunteers and difference makers read to a captive audience! A special thank you to the members of the parent organizations of Florence Roche and Swallow Union for helping coordinate this event as well as our many readers who volunteered their time to read!

SAFEHOMES DIRECTORY

The 2010-2011 Safehomes Directory has been emailed out to all those that signed the pledge. If you did not receive your copy, please contact Michelle.

Contact Information – Groton Dunstable Alliance for Youth (G-DAY)

Website: www.g-day.org

President: Betsy Dolan bdolan@g-day.org

Treasurer: Karen Gingras kgingras@g-day.org

Clerk: Michelle Hutchins mhutchins@g-day.org

Middle School Liaison: Ardie Henry ahenry@g-day.org