



# STREAMline

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3 MARCH/APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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- ✓ STREAM's Friday Lunch Club went to McDonalds in March and Burger King in April.
- ✓ The Book Club read "Black Beauty" in March and "Charlotte's Web" in April.
- ✓ STREAM members started typing lessons during Computer Lab classes in March.
- ✓ Pet Therapy started back up in April with the return of Joe and his therapy greyhounds, Moon and Lucky. This class will be held every Thursday at 10:30 am.

## This Month in STREAM...

The month of March started off with classes being themed around St. Patrick's Day and Ireland. The STREAM members learned about the "Luck of the Irish" and the history of Ireland. Some interesting facts that were taught about Ireland were a lure about Leprechauns, that they were tiny little fairies about 3 feet tall and danced in the gardens. They were said to be magical! If you were lucky enough to catch one, he would give you silver and gold coins to let him go but if you are not careful, those sneaky little green fairies would steal that treasure back without you even knowing. We also learned that the Irish alphabet has only eighteen letters. They don't use the letters J,K,Q,V,W,X,Y, and Z. Ireland's largest Church is St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin. The food in Ireland is similar to ours but they also enjoy a big glass of Guinness beer with their meals. Ireland is a very green and damp place. It is overcast almost every day. The four leaf clover is considered to be good luck. As time went by, brides and grooms would wear them in their bouquet's and boutonniere's. The clovers were also eaten in salads! Lastly, we learned that Ireland is known as "The Emerald Isle."

In addition to learning about Ireland and their tradi-

tions we also had some craft activities with Irish themes. We decorated a Shamrock shaped from cardboard with colored tissue paper and green ribbons cut into small strips. Some of the other crafts we did this month were writing "What we are lucky for" on leaves also shaped into a Shamrock. We made butterfly's out of tissue and popsicle sticks. We even constructed tote bags out of regular t-shirts that we colored pictures on with permanent markers. Each t-shirt needed to be sewn closed about four inches from the bottom of the shirt across the middle. We then cut half inch strips to the sewn line and then tied the strips into knots. Next we cut each sleeve & neckline leaving the seam attached. The last step was to cut a sleeve into long strips and tie each shoulder with knots. They make great everyday totes for personal items. We will be selling these at the Farmers Market this year. A few other craft projects included: Rain Sticks, Scratch and Sniff Paintings, Spring Time Slime, Tin Can Cows, Cats Eyes made in Knitting, Colored Rice Bottles, Egg Shaped Yarn Balloon's, and Yarn Dolls made for the Farmers Market.

In April, we started off the month by celebrating the Easter holiday as well as the STREAM programs anniversary. There was a party, complete with decorations,

games and delicious food. April 1st marked the STREAM Programs One Year Anniversary! One year certainly flew by and the program has certainly come a long way. April also had some new classes and activities for the members to participate in including a Planning Committee group that meets twice per month. Stream started a planning committee so that the members could help come up with new ideas and activities for the program that they would be interested in. We are searching for job opportunities and places we can volunteer our services. Some of our new committee members include Denise C., Curt G., Kevin L., Grant G., Dylan G., John H., and Kayla S. We are also looking for ideas to raise money for special field trips and entertainment over the summer months. Everyone looks forward to providing their input and ideas.

With the Spring season under way, the STREAM program also began preparing for gardening and on 3/10/15 we held our first Garden Preparation class of the year! Every STREAM member is eager to watch our garden grow and excited that the warmer weather is finally here! There will be plenty of outdoor activities to participate in and enjoy. Let the outdoor festivities begin!

## The STREAM Program's Offsite Adventures

### City Hall Trip

Our Stream Members recently visited the Gardner City Hall. When we got there we entered the building and proceeded up the stairs where we viewed a big directory on the wall. It told us where all the offices were. Once we knew where some of the offices were located, we looked around the first floor, peeking into some of the offices to see who was there and what was going on and we caught a glimpse of some blue prints on a table, they must be planning some new construction somewhere in Gardner! Then we got to go in and take a look at the Mayors Office even though he was away on official business that day! His office was very nice. Next, we saw Representative Zlotnick's Office and Senator Jennifer Flanagan's Secretary as well. After that we all piled into an elevator and went up to the second floor. It was very quiet up there as people were busy working. Some of the things we learned that can be done at City Hall are: Buying copies of Birth Certificates, Fishing Licenses, Building Permits, Dog Licenses, Pay Taxes and Water Bills, Trash Removal and much, much more. Before we left, one of our STREAM members, Mike, offered his services to Mayor Hawkes Secretary to volunteer. It was very interesting and we all enjoyed the trip.

Written by Curt G.

### Gardner Fire Department Trip

STREAM took a trip to the Gardner Fire Department

on March 17th. When we arrived we entered the main building. As soon as we walked through the front door there was an antique water truck on display as well as a variety of pictures to look at. Three Firefighters greeted us and led our group into the big garage where they keep all the different fire trucks. Gardner has 10 trucks total, including 2 ladder trucks ( a 75 ft. ladder and a 95 ft. ladder). One of the firemen was the leader and as he showed us each truck he explained what each one was used for. We learned that three engine trucks carry water and that the rescue truck carried everything else, including the Jaws of Life and a boat! He stated that they all work on their own trucks mechanically. It was very interesting. The firemen then nominated STREAM staff, Renee C., to dress up in a "quick hitch" as if she was going to a fire call. They had her put on all the equipment that they must wear when responding to a fire. She said it was very heavy and we took some pictures of her all dressed up. To end the trip, the firemen brought the 75 ft. ladder truck outside and extended the ladder so that we could all see how high it went. It was incredible! Everyone really enjoyed the trip and asked plenty of questions. Thank you to the GFD for hosting us! Written by Denise C.

### Post Office Trip

STREAM had the pleasure of a private tour through the Gardner Post Office this month. The Post Master

herself, Pam, conducted the tour. She showed us the entire facility and showed us the process of how a letter is mailed from start to finish. We even got to sit in a postal truck and in it is a large tray to put the mail in. STREAM members Kyle R. and Melissa C. got to beep the horn and we also gave a customer their mail. We then brought letters of our own to mail into the customer service area. We put a stamp on them and then put them in the correct slot and watched the postal crew do their jobs. We met a worker named Joe, he is a Sorter and knows over 8,000 addresses! He sorts mail every single day and loves his job. What a busy and amazing place! Written by Denise C.

### Fitchburg Art Museum Trip

STREAM recently got word that the Fitchburg Art Museum had set up a new exhibit so the Art Museum trip was added to the monthly calendar again with one trip available each week. Multiple groups went and the general consensus is that it is truly beautiful. There were actually three new exhibits to view! The first room was filled with gorgeous large mural's displayed nicely along the walls. The second room was filled with about five different brightly colored sculpture's. They were made from thousands of tiny different colored pieces of wood, plastics & rope. The third new room was brightly filled with shimmering colored designs. The exhibits are visually stunning and we highly recommend that everyone visit these wonderful new exhibits! Written by Curt G.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE EDITORS OF THE STREAM NEWSLETTER!!!



Pictured above is a photo taken at Clark University during Denise and Curt's awards presentation.

Pictured to the right are photos of Denise and Curt receiving their citations from the CEO of GAAMHA, Inc., Tracy Hutchinson.



On April 17th, 2015, STREAM's Co-Editors Denise Carter and Curt Gauthier, were invited to Clark University in Worcester, MA to accept plaques for their 2015 Community Works Awards. These awards were presented to them from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in appreciation for their successful transition into becoming fully participating members of their Communities. They treated Curt and Denise to a nice brunch along with an awards ceremony. Curt and Denise said "We were privileged and honored to have many State Representatives, friends and family join us in this celebration." Denise and Curt should feel honored. The Stream family is very proud of them and feels that they truly deserve these wonderful awards! They are such kind, hard-working individuals and the STREAM program is blessed to have them be part of our team. Congratulations, Curt and Denise!



*"We went to the Post Office and they gave us a tour. It was a very big place and a fun trip."*

- Kevin L.

*"It was a lot of fun to visit the Mayor's office and see where he works."*

- Michael R.

*"My favorite trip so far was the one the Friday Lunch Club took to McDonalds."*

- Curt G.

*"The Show and Tell activity was my favorite, it was a new group and I got to bring in my photo album to show everyone the picture of myself with Ex-President Jimmy Carter and his wife!"*

- Denise C.

## STREAM Attends the Health & Wellness Fair!

On Tuesday April 21, 2015, a group of us went to a Health & Wellness Fair in Gardner. It was held at the Waterford Street School in their gymnasium. It was not what we thought it was going to be, but despite that fact we all enjoyed ourselves. STREAM Staff, Renee C. signed us all up for a free raffle. There was a table that had different plants displayed on it, these plants were all prizes and we now all had a chance to win one! They gave out bags so that we could fill them up with the free things available at all the different tables. We got some water bottles, pens, pill cases, pamphlets, etc. They

were from different agencies in the Greater Gardner area. As it turned out the fair was geared more toward the elderly and their needs but it was very interesting to see what was available in the area. When I went to each table with my bag to collect free things, I felt like it was Halloween! I had a lot of fun doing that. After we had our fill of free stuff we stayed and enjoyed having lunch in the cafeteria. Later that day, after we had left and returned to GAAMHA, STREAM staff Renee got a phone call saying that we had won a plant in the raffle and to please come to pick it up. A few days later, Renee

brought the plant that we had won into work. It is called a Kalanchoe Plant, it has all orange flowers with green leaves. It's a really beautiful plant. Renee asked me to show everyone the plant that we had all won from the Waterford Street School Health & Wellness Fair, so I did. Everyone was very excited that we had won and now as we enter the STREAM area each day we can see our beautiful prize on display inside the media room on a window sill. We get to see the beautiful Kalanchoe Plant grow larger every day and we all enjoy it. Written by Denise C.

## STREAM Word Search

G	F	V	A	R	T	M	U	S	E	U	M	O	Z
V	O	I	X	R	D	B	N	Y	X	T	M	D	E
R	U	P	R	K	C	O	R	M	A	H	S	E	C
Y	E	C	F	E	W	Y	Y	Q	P	U	Q	O	I
A	R	T	T	G	E	Z	K	J	S	P	N	T	F
V	C	A	H	N	W	N	R	Z	W	S	U	N	F
Q	E	I	S	G	H	X	G	J	L	J	A	O	O
Y	X	I	T	R	I	P	V	I	B	T	H	E	T
J	K	W	D	Y	E	F	P	P	N	A	C	E	S
M	I	C	A	C	H	V	E	M	S	E	E	A	O
L	F	U	U	I	U	A	I	R	U	Z	R	T	P
A	H	C	V	L	H	B	L	N	I	R	P	D	D
N	R	E	A	S	T	E	R	L	N	F	E	P	N
Z	J	D	Z	A	O	H	M	N	Q	A	L	L	R

## Upcoming Birthdays

- Grant G. - March 12
- Michael R. - March 13
- Barbara L. - March 17
- Wendy T. - March 26
- Ashley E. - March 31
- John M. - April 3
- Diane C. - April 13
- Cliff T. - April 21

Anniversary  
Art Museum  
City Hall  
Easter  
Fire Engine

Firefighter  
Leprechaun  
Lucky  
Post Office  
Shamrock