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Multi-Age Info Night

Teacher Mary O'Meara and Principal Walt Fitzpatrick will host a Multi-Age Information Night from 7-8 p.m., Tuesday, June 14 at Trombly Elementary for prospective parents of any 1st, 2nd or 3rd grade student for 2011-12. If you have questions, please call 313-432-5000.

District awarded DTE grant

GPPSS was awarded \$2,000 from the 2011 DTE Energy Foundation Tree Planting Grant Program administered by the Department of Natural Resources Urban Forestry Program.

Representative Bledsoe hosts Open Enrollment forum

At 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 13, Representative Timothy Bledsoe will host a community forum at Brownell Middle School, 260 Chalfonte in Grosse Pointe Farms, to discuss Governor Rick Snyder's proposal to require school districts to accept out-of-district students to fill available seats. This event is free and open to the public.

National essay contest

Dora Juhasz was awarded the second place prize in Stossel in the Classroom's first student essay contest for her essay on "What's Great About America." Dora won a cash prize and an all-expense paid trip to New York for a taping of John Stossel's shows. Other local winners are Emily Hoshaw and Renata Szymanski (semi-finalists) and Paige Abdella and Olivia Ritchie (honorable mention). All are students of Todd Manns at Parcells Middle School. In total, 7514 essays were submitted.

Online registration for secondary students

For the 2011-12 school year all secondary school families will be asked to follow a two-step online pre-registration process.

Step 1 involves the mandatory review of District Technology Acceptable Use and Code of Conduct as well as grade-specific required documentation.

Step 2 provides opportunity to visit our online "e-store" to purchase items formerly ordered using the school voucher form (gym uniforms, yearbooks, PTO dues, participation fees)

The summer mailing will only contain school-specific registration dates/times, and an emergency form for each student. Flyers and additional school information will be located in our e-store and/or on school websites.

To attend School Registration, a Pre-Registration receipt for each student must be printed and presented along with the signed Emergency Form. Schedules will not be released without these documents. This change means:

- All families will need to Pre-Register each student on line. If online capability is not available at home, parents may come to school at scheduled times to complete Pre-Registration.
- All fees will need to be paid online with a credit or debit card. Visa or MasterCard debit cards may be purchased from a variety of retail stores. Checks will not be accepted at school registration.

The link to online registration will be available on the school and district websites in early August.



Grosse Pointe Public School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
phone: 313/432-3000 fax: 313/432-3002
www.gpschools.org

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GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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Thank you for your input

Thank you to the hundreds of parents, staff, and community members who participated in focus groups and surveys during April and May. Their input is being used in strategic planning and the superintendent search. The district will continue to gather constituent feedback through surveys and informal methods like the "Contact Us" button on the website.

Both high schools in top 3%

The Washington Post released its Top Schools list based on Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate tests taken. This year North moved up 260 spots over last year's rankings. This puts North in the top 3% of public high schools in the nation. North was the 7th highest ranked high school in Michigan. South is in the top 2% nationally and ranked third in the State.

2011 Graduation Dates

High school graduation will be celebrated at Grosse Pointe South Wednesday, June 15, and at Grosse Pointe North on Thursday, June 16.

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Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Spring 2011

A year in review: celebrating student success

As field days, concerts and class picnics in our municipal parks mark the transition from classroom to summer activities, we have an opportunity to celebrate students' successes this year.

These successes are possible because we have kept funding focused on the classroom. Careful budget decisions by the Board of Education and administration have ensured the Grosse Pointe Public School System is in a better financial position than many across the state. As you know, we have had to make difficult choices over the last six years and have been wise stewards of the funds entrusted to us.

Through this, the myriad of programs and educational opportunities have remained strong, and new programs like all day kindergarten have opened. Our students, such as those pictured above and inside, have continued to enjoy programs and services that go well beyond the basics.

This is also possible because our community has remained supportive of every avenue at our disposal to raise funds—from bond and sinking funds to generous support of PTOs, booster groups, and the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

We will continue to provide programs that make Grosse Pointe unique and attract families with similar educational expectations to the area.



The district's commitment to the arts remains strong. For example, Maire students performed *A Fairly Good Mother* this spring, an original play by Sara Fischer Hodges.

When we speak to potential new residents we can share:

- Both high schools are in the top 3% nationwide according to Washington Post rankings
- Brownell Middle School is among the top 10 in the State for writing scores.
- Analysis of reading scores over the past four years show scores over 90% for every grade level.
- Grosse Pointe's already high math scores also improved, and now over 74% of elementary students pass the MEAP at the advanced level.
- MEAP scores in science and social studies remain strong.
- A year-long Elementary Study brought forth recommendations to improve elementary foreign language instruction, while maintaining instrumental music, vocal music, and physical education at current levels.

Education remains priority one here.
- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

Musical talent showcased across the country

Myles Harlan, pictured bottom left, was one of a select number of youth invited to the White House as part of "The Sound of Young America: The History of Motown" where he met Michelle Obama and spoke one-on-one with Barry Gordy. Myles plays the oboe and is a student at North High School. He is one example of

how GPPSS musical talent has been showcased across the country this year. The North Jazz band earned a superior rating at Cedar Point's Music-in-the-Parks Festival. South Jazz band played at Hard Rock Cafe. Five North students were invited to perform with the All-State Honors Choir. Enjoy the local concerts of these talented youth.



GPFPE exceeds the Boll Technology Challenge

This spring, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) presented the Board of Education of the Grosse Pointe Public School System with a gift of \$350,000. With this presentation, the GPFPE not only met, but exceeded its goal to raise \$750,000 for technology in the Grosse Pointe Public Schools.

Simply put, the GPFPE couldn't have done it without you! Thanks to you, we were able to raise a total of \$830,000 to be used to accelerate the district's technology plan.

The GPFPE's Technology Campaign was fueled by gifts from parents of current students, parents of past students, grandparents of current students, students, caring citizens, alumni, PTOs, district staff members, teachers, administrators, local businesses, philanthropists, foundations, and those who do not reside in Grosse Pointe but who care about the quality of the education we provide for our children. You gave your time to plan

events, shared your many talents, and climbed mountains (both literally and figuratively), all to ensure our success. You also worked as part of parent groups, PTOs and assorted other volunteer entities to fund a variety of technology projects for your schools; something that gave the GPFPE a leg up at the start of our campaign!

So, from the entire board of the GPFPE, thank you for your support. We are incredibly fortunate to be a part of community where education is valued so highly by so many. We are delighted to be able to count on you as we continue working to enhance our students' educational experiences. After all, our success means success for our children and our community.

Sincerely,
GPFPE Trustees Bob Bury, Barb Bierbusse, Jeff Broderick, Pat Burke, John Danaher, Joan Dindoffer, Laura Huebner, Mary Beth Nicholson, Marian Roberge, Cat Ruffner, Christie Scoggin, Lisa Vreede and Lois Warden

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All GPPSS schools are Green

For the second year in a row, every GPPSS school earned Michigan Green School certification. Every school also celebrated Earth Day on Arbor Day due to spring break. We turned lights out in classrooms where it was safe to do so, and encouraged students to walk or bike to school. Watch for green ideas on our school websites.



Call for your Gold Card

Free admission to various athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the support they have provided the school system. If you are 60 years of age or more and wish to obtain a Gold Card or event calendar, please call 313/432-3007.

Enroll now for 2011-12

Call 313-432-3083 today to set up your enrollment appointment. All forms are at www.gpschools.org.

BOARD BULLETIN

We take leadership seriously in GPPSS

Preparing for transition

When Superintendent Suzanne Klein announced her plans to retire at the end of the 2011 calendar year, it set into motion a series of events. Thankfully we have adequate lead time to establish criteria, conduct a national search and establish protocols for a smooth transition.

The board recognizes that Dr. Klein's leadership and expertise have been instrumental in the successes of our district. Finding a comparably talented successor will be a difficult but not insurmountable task.

I am sure the board as a whole considers this a priority one issue. Indeed, the hiring of the superintendent is the most important function of the Board of Education.

We have already selected Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates as the search firm. Focus groups and surveys have collected information on what our community is looking for in the next superintendent. And now applications are coming in and the interview process will begin mid-June. Our timeline is to preferably have the new superintendent in place by the end of the summer which will allow adequate time for transition.

Our expectations for the next leader are high. They must be to ensure excellence in education. All candidates, whether internal or external, will be judged against the community profile and will follow the same application procedures.

Our progress on this front will be transparent as we hold public meetings and invite participation throughout the process. Together, we will find

the next leader for our schools who understands the culture of our community and its high expectations for the education of our youth.

In addition to the Superintendent search, we will also be finding new leaders for Maire Elementary, South High School, and Parcels Middle School in the next six months.

2011-12 budget update

Through continued wise stewardship of the funds available, we have maintained our tradition of excellence. The most recent Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores are yet another indicator of this fact. In this current round of budget discussions, we continue to work with our staff and community to find better ways of offering the education you expect and our children deserve in our neighborhood schools.

At each monthly televised meeting (Comcast channel 20/902 or AT&T channel 99), Assistant Superintendent Christian Fenton and Board Treasurer Brendan Walsh share a budget update.

Together we are watching closely as details emerge from Lansing regarding school funding. The latest figures predict a \$475 per pupil cut, which when combined with increases in the State-mandated retirement rates and other rising employment costs will total a \$4 million shortfall our district will have to address in our 2011-12 budget.

That is after the most recent contract negotiations are taken into account, and certainly no small feat to overcome. However, our conservative budgeting has left our district in a better spot than many. The Board fully anticipates using some of our fund

equity to address a portion of this and we encourage all of our constituents to become familiar with the budget reporting we share in meetings and online so they have the full picture.

If you look for this transparency symbol on the front page of our website

www.gpschools.org you will find our budget modeling utility (BMU),

contracts, and budget documents posted throughout the development process. You can also access this information by using the School Board dropdown menu and clicking *School Finance*.

Transparency Reporting

Budget and Salary/Compensation

We want you to know these details because the quality of our public school system affects us all. Please know that public opinion is always welcome at the televised monthly board meetings or by emailing budget@gpschools.org.

- John Steininger, Board President

2009-10 Board of Education

Board meetings are typically held at 8 p.m. the fourth Monday of the month. Meetings will be held at South High School's Wicking Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Boulevard, until otherwise notified. Agendas and meeting times are posted in the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Avenue, and on the district website www.gpschools.org.

The Board of Education welcomes input through their email schoolboard@gpschools.org.

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Camp Invention

This summer, Parcels Middle School is hosting the Camp Invention INNOVATE program June 28-July 2, 2010 from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for students entering grades 1-6. To learn more, call 800-968-4332, visit www.campinvention.org, call director Debra Duffey at 313-432-5341 or email debra.duffey@gpschools.org.

Safety Town

Safety Town will again be offered through the Grosse Pointe Schools and community partners. This two-week course for students entering kindergarten and first grade teaches safety and good citizenship. Topics include fire, water and bike safety, when to dial 911, and recycling.

Call 313-432-3009 or visit the website for details on this program housed at Barnes Early Childhood Center. Half-day sessions start June 21, July 12, July 26, and August 9.

There is also a reduced rate if you combine Safety Town and Camp O'Fun for all day care.

Camp O'Fun

Camp O'Fun is open from 7:15 a.m. until 6:15 p.m., Monday through Friday from June 21-August 27.

The cost is \$210 per week per child for residents and \$225/child for non-residents. The daily rate is \$50 including days with scheduled field trips. Advance notice and payment for daily use is required.

Preschool, elementary and middle school options are described at www.gpschools.org. Enroll online or call 313-432-3067 with questions.

Elementary Summer School options

Grades Kindergarten-6

Dates: July 18-August 4

Days: Monday-Thursday

Times: Session 1: 8:15-9:45 a.m.

Session 2: 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Location: Richard Elementary

Pricing: Varies \$100-\$240/course

For more information contact Sara Delgado at 313-432-5446, email

sara.delgado@gpschools.org, visit

www.gpschools.org and click "Summer School."

K-2 Courses: Grades K,1,2 Readiness, Building Blocks for Math, Author's Workshop, F.A.S.T. Reading, Art Explorations

Secondary Summer School options

Middle Level Summer School

Dates: July 11-August 4

Days: Monday through Thursday

Times: Session 1: 8-10 a.m.

Session 2: 10:10-12:10 p.m.

Location: North High School

For more information: contact Dr.

Matt Outlaw at 313-432-3211 or

matt.outlaw@gpschools.org

Pricing: \$160 per course

Deadline: After July 4th there will be a

\$20 late fee

Highlights: Strengthening courses are

offered in English,

math, study skills

and computer skills.

8th to 9th Grade

Summer School

Dates: July 11-August 4

Days: Monday through Thursday

Times: Session 1: 8-10:30 a.m.

Session 2: 10:30-1:00 p.m.

Location: North High School

For more information: contact Dr.

Matt Outlaw at 313-432-3211 or

matt.outlaw@gpschools.org

Pricing: \$200 per course

Deadline: After July 4th there will be a

\$20 late fee

Highlights: Stepping up to high school

English, math and study skills. Key-

boarding is also offered for those

entering 9th grade.

New Courses for Grades K-2: Span-

ish and Mandarin Immersion Camp

Grades 3-6 Courses: Building Blocks

for Math, Author's Workshop, In-

strumental Music, Art Explorations,

Middle School Preparation Courses

(6th only)

New Course offerings for Grades

3-6: Technology Academy, Scientific

Discovery, Spanish and Mandarin Im-

ERSION Camp, Young Actors' Guild,

Meet the Artists, Fit Kids, Advanced

Math Enrichment Workshop (5th and

6th grades only)

High School Summer School

Dates: July 11-August 5, Monday

through Friday. Hybrid courses in-

clude an on-line component with help

Monday through Thursday.

Semesters:

Semester 1: July 11-July 22

Semester 2: July 25-August 5th

Time: 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

Location: North High School

For more information: contact Dr.

Matt Outlaw at 313-432-3211 or

matt.outlaw@gpschools.org

Pricing: \$275 for 1

semester (.5 credit)

or \$500 for a full

year of the same

course (1.0 credit)

Deadline: After July

4th there will be a \$20 late fee.

Deadline for Michigan Virtual High

School: June 10th (must have coun-

selor approval in advance).

New programs for the summer of

2011: On-line Biology, hybrid options

for most courses, Physics, Power of

Language, oil painting, 3D animation,

and ceramic pottery are all new this

year.

Highlights: On-line Mythology, On-

line Explorations in Reading, On-line

Film Literature.

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Summer Reading Partnership: One World, Many Stories

The Grosse Pointe Public Library

and GPPSS are part-

nering on a Summer

Reading initiative

June 16 through

August 18. Call

one of the local library

branches or sign up at

www.gp.lib.mi.us. Stu-

dents can log the books they read

and earn prizes. Fun, free programs

will be offered throughout the sum-

mer including Movie Mondays,

crafts on Tuesdays, visiting authors,

Harry Potter's birthday celebration

July 15, Magic Carpet Theatre Act-

ing Workshops July 27, and more.

South track State Champs!

South girls track team won the

State Division 1 championship.

Thirteen girls, representing the

team of 108, raced to victory set-

ting five new school records and

establishing two new all time state

records along the way.

Communication options

Did you know the district televises

its board meetings on Comcast

channel 20/902 and AT&T chan-

nel 99? The website is regularly

updated with news and reports.

Video projects and board meetings

are hosted at [www.gppsstv.phan-](http://www.gppsstv.phanfare.com)

[fare.com](http://www.gppsstv.phanfare.com). And E-alerts, Facebook

postings and Twitter are used to

share information and draw our

community into conversation about

our goals continuous improvement.

Thank you for staying informed.

Become a host family

This Council on International

Education Exchange is looking

for host families to welcome an

international exchange student. If

interested, contact Diane Landsie-

del, dianelandsiedel@gmail.com or

visit www.ciee.org/highschool.

Pointes partnership is fairy tale not fantasy

Grosse Pointe Public School System is teaming up with Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and the public libraries to celebrate the magical, multi-cultural world of fairy tales. Fairy Tale Art, an exhibit featuring 59 original il-

Multiple stages will feature a variety of performances, such as Magical Tunes & Marvelous Tales by the Michigan Philharmonic and fractured fairy tales - a parody of traditional fairy tales rearranged with new mean-

ing - will be enacted by Grosse Pointe Theatre. Magic Carpet Ride Theatre will engage the audience in an interactive dramatic production. There will also be puppets, music and more.

Attendees can express their own creativity at one of the craft stations or by painting a piece of a huge mural. The mural, featuring elements of children's books and fairy tales, will be a reproduction of the mural painted at the Ewald Library in Grosse Pointe Park.

Building on the Michigan Library summer reading theme of "One World, Many Stories," story tell-

ers from around Michigan will share tales from different cultures - African folklore, Arabic tales as well as the favorite story of Rapunzel presented in a variety of ways from around the world. Story circles will provide a quiet place under a tree for little princes and princesses to relax and enjoy some of their favorite tales being told.

tion workshops for teens and adults will also be held in the summer.

For more information, visit www.fordhouse.org or call 313.884.4222. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House is located at 1100 Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Shores.

