



**GROSSE POINTE
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Spring 2010

MEAP scores aren't the only promising sign

Inside This Issue:

- New Trustees and Budget Newsp. 2
- Summer Learningp. 3
- Kindergarten 2010p. 4
- \$500,000 gift kicks off GPFPE
Technology Challengep. 5
- ELA Curriculum Updatep. 5

Contract signed with GPEA

We are pleased to announce the Grosse Pointe Education Association and the Board of Education have reached a collaborative agreement. Contract negotiations continue with all of the other bargaining groups.

All A's and AYP earned in '09-10

Every GPPSS elementary and middle school made Adequate Yearly Progress with an A grade.

Take the online Parent Survey

In addition to the community survey conducted this winter (p. 4), the district is seeking input from parents, students and staff as part of the Strategic Planning process. The parent survey is online now at www.gpschools.org.

Volunteers sought

Community members interested in volunteering to serve on the World Languages curriculum review committee should call 313-432-3033 or send a letter of interest to Susan Vogel, Office of Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction and Technology at the address below.

Grosse Pointe Public School System
389 St. Clair Avenue
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230
p: 313/432-3010 f: 313/432-3002
www.gpschools.org



Grosse Pointe Public School Students continue to amaze the community with their gifts of time and talent. Here Maire Elementary students and their teacher pose outside Children's Hospital by the mural the school created. The scene is taken from a play written by a Maire mother and performed by local students.

Our district has a great deal to celebrate. Elementary and middle school Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) scores released late this winter again show our students performing well above State average. MEAP Reading scores for every grade level in the district are above 90% and grades 3, 5, 6, and 8 testing show increases from already high levels. Science and Social Studies scores remain high and above state averages.

In elementary math, the district has a full picture with triangulation of data from NWEA computerized testing, a district-wide end of 5th grade assessment and MEAP scores. The data are aligned in the same direction and are overwhelmingly positive. All elementary grades scored over 90% in MEAP math with significant increases in test scores in grades 5 and 6.

How do our students continue to excel? I believe it is a combination of the professionalism of our dedicated staff, and parent and community involvement. District administrators

and teachers have concentrated on continual improvement in all areas and math was a particular focus area the last two years. That focus resulted in improved student learning outcomes.

Our parent and community involvement also remains enviably high. Over 90% of parents attended teacher conferences again this year. That doesn't take into account the number of community members who have attended plays, concerts, art shows, PTO events or the recent Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education Key Event that kicked off the Technology Challenge (page 5).

Now couple community involvement with the fact that 100% of the teaching staff is highly qualified in their subject area. Over 80% of the teachers have earned a Master's Degree or higher. And the work our teachers do in and out of the classroom is enhanced by the range of talents and skills of our support staff. We all work together to create a healthy learning environment.
- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

BOARD BULLETIN

Welcoming new board members and sharing budget information

Welcome to Trustees

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the three candidates our community elected to the open Board of Education positions. They include Joan Dindoffer and Tom Jakubiec for the four-year positions, and Cynthia Pangborn for the three-year term.

Joan Dindoffer was first elected to the Board in June 1997. She holds a B.A. in political science from the University of Michigan and a J.D. from Wayne State University Law School. She is currently Vice President in the Wealth and Institutional Management Division of Comerica Bank, and serves on the Tax Council of the State Bar of Michigan. Ms. Dindoffer has been awarded the Certificate of Merit by the Michigan Association of School Boards, having completed board certification and training. She and her husband, Fred, live in Grosse Pointe Park and are the parents of three recent Grosse Pointe South graduates. Ms. Dindoffer was Board Secretary from 1997-00, Vice-President from 2000-02, President from 2002-04, Treasurer from 2005-06, and Secretary 2009. Her term expires December 31, 2013.

Tom Jakubiec is a resident of Grosse Pointe Woods with his wife, Biljana, and their two sons. He and his wife are active members of the Ferry PTO where their sons attend and Tom has also been active in both Neighborhood Club and Little League team sports. Mr. Jakubiec holds a B.B.A. in Business Analysis from Texas A&M University and a M.S. in Industrial Engineering from Wayne State University. He is looking forward to using his experience from EDS, Toyota, and General Motors, along with input from the residents and school district staff, to maintain

the total learning experience for the district's children. His term expires December 31, 2013.

Cindy Pangborn previously served on the Board from 1996-2000. As an active volunteer for our school system, Cindy personally televised the Board meetings for five years until the school system assumed that responsibility. Mrs. Pangborn is a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe and graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1964. Cindy and her husband Jim have raised four children. They all attended Grosse Pointe Public Schools graduating from Grosse Pointe South in '88, '93, '95 and 2005. Cindy is a Realtor with Johnstone and Johnstone Real Estate. Her term expires December 31, 2012.

Thank you for your support

Also on the ballot last fall were two proposals to continue the hold-harmless and non-homestead millages, and the sinking fund, all of which were set to expire this June. Together the sinking fund, hold-harmless and non-homestead millages equal about a quarter of the district's revenue. I would be remiss in not saying thank you again to the community for their tremendous support of our schools. All the proposals passed with a wide majority of the vote, again showing the value our community places on education.

2010-11 budget development

Through continued wise stewardship of the funds available, we have maintained our tradition of excellence and continue to work with our staff and community to find ways to offer the education you expect and our children deserve in our neighborhood schools. With that mindset, the district continues the budget process for the

2010-11 school year. Four drafts have been presented and posted online.

Budget assumptions remain:

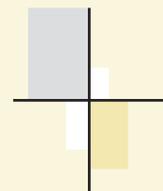
- Loss of revenue from mid-year 2009-10 cuts to the Foundation Allowance (\$165 per pupil) \$1.4MM
- Increase in state mandated retirement rate from 16.94% to 19.41% - a cost increase of \$1.6MM
- Elimination of Section 20J Funds (\$198 per pupil) \$1.6MM
- Employee health care costs expected to increase by 5% (\$0.5MM)
- Enrollment will fall by 118 students, reducing revenue \$1.2MM
- No change in the State Foundation Allowance for 2010-11
- Total Financial Impact: \$7.3 million

Public opinion is welcome at the televised board meetings or by emailing budget@gpschools.org. The final budget will be approved June 28.
- 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 Parcels Middle School Auditorium, 20600 Mack Avenue, 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.



Elementary Summer School options

Dates: July 19- August 5
 Days: Monday-Thursday
 Times: 8:15-9:45 a.m. or
 10-11:30 a.m. Music
 times will vary.
 Location: Kerby
 Elementary School,
 285 Kerby Road, Grosse
 Pointe Farms

Pricing: Costs vary for
 music, FAST Reading
 classes are \$240, all others are \$100
 per course. For more information: see
 course descriptions or register online
 at www.gpschools.org, call Debra
 Duffey at 313-432-5341 or email
debra.duffey@gpschools.org.

Classes include: Kindergarten, First
 and Second Grade Readiness, FAST



Elementary Camp Invention students - photo by Renee Landuyt

Reading, Math Made Easy, Author's
 Workshop, How to be Successful
 in Middle School, Advanced Math
 Preparation Workshop, Stepping Up to
 Middle School Math, Stepping Up to
 Middle School Reading and Language
 Arts, Techno-Art Animations, Art
 Explorations and various Music
 courses separated by instrument
 groupings and student ability.

Middle Level Summer School options

Dates: July 6- August 11
 Days: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 Times: Session 1: 8-10 a.m.
 Session 2: 10:10 a.m.-12:10 p.m.
 Location: Parcels Middle School,
 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods
 Pricing: \$160 per course
 For more information: see course
 descriptions or register online at
www.gpschools.org, call Matt
 Outlaw at 313-432-3211 or email
matt.outlaw@gpschools.org

New middle school summer offerings
 include a reading preparation course,
 and a computer class that fulfills the
 middle school technology
 requirement.

Other highlighted courses include
 step-up courses for English,
 mathematics and study skills. For
 8th to 9th grade step-up courses,
 please see the high school
 information below.

High School Summer School includes online

Dates: July 6- August 11
 Days: Monday-Thursday, week one
 begins on Tuesday
 Semesters: Semester 1 is July 6-22.
 Semester 2 is July 26-August 11.
 Times: 8 a.m.- 1:45 p.m. (step-up
 courses are 8-10 a.m. or 10:10 a.m.-
 12:10 p.m.)
 Location: Parcels Middle School,
 20600 Mack, Grosse Pointe Woods
 Pricing: Step-up courses \$200
 Other courses \$275 for one semester
 or \$500 for a full year (1.0 credit)
 Deadline to register: After July 1
 there is a \$20 late fee

Deadline for Michigan Virtual High
 School: June 11 (must have prior
 counselor approval)

For more information: see course
 descriptions or register online at
www.gpschools.org, call Matt
 Outlaw at 313-432-3211 or email
matt.outlaw@gpschools.org

New summer courses include:
 Medical Investigations, Online
 Mythology, Online Explorations in
 Reading, Online Film Literature, and
 Step-up English Prep.

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 about
 how to secure your child's spot,
 visit www.campinvention.org, call
 800-968-4332, or contact director
 Debra Duffey, at 313-432-5341 or
debra.duffey@gpschools.org.

Safety Town continues

Safety Town will again be offered
 through the Grosse Pointe Schools
 and community partners. This two-
 week course for young students
 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.

Camp O'Fun

Camp is open from 7:15 a.m. until
 6:15 p.m., Monday through Friday
 from June 21-August 27. There
 will be no camp Monday, July 5.
 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 open this summer

The district's full day preschool
 option at Barnes Early Childhood
 Center will be open for business
 this summer. Hours are 7:15 a.m.
 - 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.
 There were only a few spaces left
 when this newsletter went to print.
 Please visit the district website
www.gpschools.org and click on
 the Parents tab for enrollment
 information or call 313-432-3067.

District offers two great kindergarten options

The Board of Education approved tuition-free all day kindergarten (ADK) in each elementary this fall, while continuing to offer a half day kindergarten program for parents who prefer that option. The Board heard presentations by kindergarten teachers and elementary administrators, and results of the online kindergarten survey were shared. In total, 835 residents responded to that survey.

Currently, two schools have been selected to host the half-day morning sessions — Mason and Richard. These sites were chosen based on enrollment data and classroom availability. At the end of the kindergarten year students attending the half-day program will attend first grade at their home school.

Why ADK?

While there are no curriculum differences between the GPPSS half-day and all-day programs, twice the time is allotted to core instruction in ADK. This helps address state and national kindergarten curriculum standards which are built on a full day of instruction. Grade Level Content Expectations (GLCE) have also increased due to No Child Left Behind legislation. See the extensive GLCE list at the Michigan Department of Education site www.michigan.gov/

District survey shows community support

Board policy dictates that the district annually assess the community regarding our schools. This January, telephone calls were completed to 377 randomly selected registered voters. The sampling reflected our community demographics. Respondents were asked 74 questions developed by Banach, Banach & Cassidy, an independent research firm, following input from GPPSS administrators. The survey covered a wide range of topics, from perceptions of educational quality to the importance of various

mde. At the same time, needs of 4, 5, and 6 year olds for play and language development have not changed.

As a result, our talented staff has been working diligently to fit the increasing kindergarten demands into a half-day. While proud of the traditional half-day program, the district always seeks ways to improve and meet the current needs of students and families.

Whether parents choose to have the additional time in school for play and learning, or to supplement classroom lessons at home, we trust them to make the best decision for their child.

Children in both programs will have an outlet for discovery, creativity, experimentation, self-expression, and development of self-reliance and responsibility. Important skills in reading, writing readiness, math, science, and social studies will be emphasized, as well as socialization and independent learning skills.

What is the next step?

Enrollment figures are critical. We ask all families with students entering our schools this fall to call 313-432-3083 and schedule an enrollment appointment. Please let us know your preference for all or half day.

programs and services. 84% of respondents gave GPPSS an A or B; this is 33 percentage points higher than the grade given to local public schools in Phi Delta Kappa/Gallup's 41st annual national sampling.

Greatest strengths were reported as the teachers, academic program and community involvement. The greatest challenge was lack of funding. Suggestions for improvement are already in process and we sincerely thank the community for their responses.

Student count data is critical

Staffing is built based on actual student counts. If you are moving out of the district or are new to our community, please call 313-432-3083 today to update your records or start the enrollment process.

All of the forms you will need for your appointment are on the district website www.gpschools.org -- see Residency and Enrollment under Quick Links. Thank you.

Community Services offers swimming classes

The district continues to offer aquatics classes. A full description of the aquatics courses and costs is on the district website www.gpschools.org under the Community dropdown menu. We encourage swimmers to register and pay online or call the Community Services office at 313/432-3084 with questions.

The district would like to thank all the local programs that have kindly adopted our former Community Education courses, particularly the Neighborhood Club. Please see their brochure for a wealth of programming options, many offered by the same instructors in the same location. Also see the Flyer section of www.gpschools.org for more local programs and classes.

Distinguished Volunteers

The 26th annual Distinguished Volunteers celebration April 26 honored these individuals: Ann Marie Aliotta, South; Karen Eger, Parcels; Gil Finger, Defer; Mary Fodell, Barnes; Sara Fischer Hodges, Maire; Lorraine Krawetz, North; Mary Masson, Mason; Colette McEnroe, Parcels; Cathy Pomaville, Maire; Lori Schoenith, North; Mary Trost, Trombly.

GPFPE kicks off Technology Challenge

The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE) has announced receipt of a leadership gift from the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Foundation and the launch of a community-wide fundraising campaign. Funds raised will support accelerated deployment of advanced instructional technology in classrooms across the district. At a sold-out event March 27, John and Marlene Boll announced a matching gift of \$500,000 and challenged the community to raise an additional \$250,000.



GPFPE presented the first \$100,000 gift to the Board of Education for acceptance April 26. \$150,000 is yet to be raised to meet the Boll Technology Challenge!

- Photo by Lisa Vreede, GPFPE board

“This is a tremendous opportunity to make a significant impact in our schools since every dollar raised for technology will have triple the impact, thanks to the incredible generosity of the Boll family,” said Bob Bury, GPFPE President.

“Technology is a powerful tool for incorporating the elements of great teaching across all content areas for students with a wide range of knowledge and skill. This investment will help ensure our students are fully prepared to meet the demands of our increasingly global and technology-oriented society,” said Superintendent Dr. C. Suzanne Klein. “Ensuring Grosse Pointe is at the forefront of education is not only important to our students and schools, but to our community and our quality of life.”

The Grosse Pointe Public School System’s strategic technology plan will guide the expenditure of funds raised. Among the components being purchased as part of this multi-phased technology plan approved by the

School Board in 2009 are electronic Smart boards, digital document reader and projection systems, Smart slates and Smart response clickers, as well as critical staff development to maximize the value of these investments.

“Marlene and I, along with our daughter and son-in-law Kris and Jim Mestdagh, are pleased to make this gift. We are committed to giving back to our community by advancing projects like this, which we believe will enrich the lives of many others. To us, there is no better investment than one that helps young people achieve their goals and prepare to be tomorrow’s leaders,” said John Boll. With this gift, the Boll’s support of the GPFPE exceeds \$1 million.

Thanks to the generosity of numerous individuals, foundations and business partners, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education has helped fund numerous programs and projects benefiting students at every school and in every grade level within the Grosse Pointe Public School System. GPFPE is an independent non-profit organization that was established in 2006. For more information or to contribute to the John A. and Marlene L. Boll Technology Challenge, visit www.gpfpe.org or call 313-432-3058.

English curriculum updated

The district reviewed the K-12 English Language Arts (ELA) Curriculum and received board approval for changes in April. The committee of teachers, administrators, parents, a counselor and students, sought to further develop the curricular structure to emphasize connectivity between curriculum, instruction, and assessment; articulate the development of skills across grade levels; and promote achievement for all.

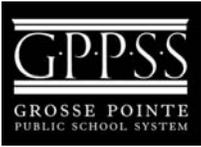
The document was drafted in a way that addresses State and local standards within specific genres (distinctive literary types or units) in grades 1-8, and around essential questions in grades 9-11. A new course, *The Power of Language*, was designed for 11th grade students. It places emphasis on nonfiction literature and real world communication skills (including writing college essays), and promotes a student’s ability to recognize verbal and written language choices. Kindergarten will continue to present skills within a thematic approach.

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. To obtain a calendar or Gold Card, call 313/432-3007.

Multi-Age program offered

Did you know the district offers a multi-age classroom for grades 1-3 at Trombly Elementary School? The class contains a mix of children of various ages, readiness levels, learning styles and personalities whose instruction flows from the basis of continuous progress. To learn more call 313-432-5000.



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

2010 Board of Education

President John Steininger
Vice-President Joan Dindoffer
Secretary Judy Gafa
Treasurer Brendan Walsh
Trustees:
Tom Jakubiec
Fred Minturn
Cindy Pangborn

Superintendent Dr. C. Suzanne Klein

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #6307
Detroit, MI

Partners in Learning, page 6

Spring is a time to celebrate district success

This time of year we are surrounded by vocal and instrumental concerts, student plays and evenings dedicated to recognizing staff, students and volunteers. Here are a few examples but more are posted each week on the district website www.gpschools.org under the News tab.

- An experiment designed by three Brownell students has been selected to be performed in space by NASA astronauts as part of the *Kids in Micro-g! Challenge*.
- The GPPSS Bond Rating was confirmed as AA+ by Standard and Poors in April, 2010.
- Grosse Pointe South's television program had strong showings at the Michigan Student Film and Video competition. Caitlin McCarthy and Holly Piccione were awarded Best of Show in Music Videos.
- Grosse Pointe North's Quiz Bowl team won the State championship.
- Pierce's Destination Imagination team took second place in the State and earned the right to compete at the Global competition.
- Three high school students (a North-South team) won a Grand Award at the Southeast Michigan Science Fair and advanced to the International Science Olympiad in San Jose.
- All six secondary choirs qualified for the state MSVMA (vocal music) festival and all seven participating bands and orchestras qualified for the state MSBOA festival.
- South junior Lindsey Berg won the National Scholastic Gold Medal in Ceramics and Glass.
- Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education has given \$955,321 so far, impacting every grade level and subject area.
- Dan Dou of South was recognized by the Board of Education for earning a perfect score on the ACT.
- *The Brownell Beat* won the Michigan Interscholastic Press Association Spartan Award.
- Every GPPSS school has earned some level of Michigan Green School certification and Trombly Elementary was named the Greenest School in Wayne County.

2010-11 school calendar

The district has established the first day of school as Tuesday, September 7, 2010. There are also several dates established through the Wayne County Common Calendar. These are:

- Staff Development: 11/2/10
- Winter Break: 12/18-1/2
- Midwinter Break: 2/21
- Spring Break: 4/17-25 (return Tuesday 4/26)

Additional dates are part of the teacher contract and have been posted online. Please note that Spring Break is the week earlier than the traditional GPPSS calendar.

GPPSS child care programs

Kids Club is a before and after-school program offered in each elementary school during the school year. Middle school students can attend at the closest elementary school. Questions? Please call 313-432-3067 or email cheryl.dorman@gpschools.org.