

Grosse Pointe Public Schools

Trombly Times

Walter Fitzpatrick, Principal

October 16, 2008

Dear Parents,

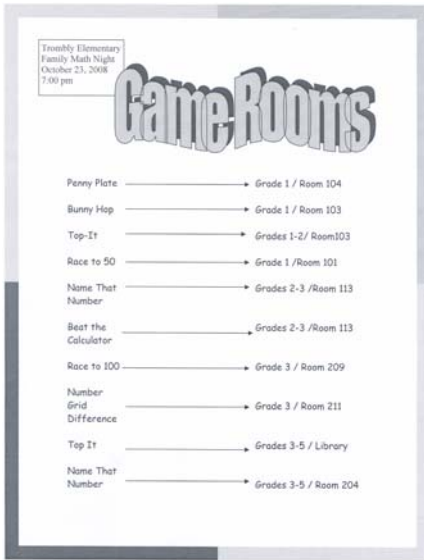
There are two very special events that will be taking place in the next two weeks. The first event, scheduled on Thursday, October 23, is Family Math Game Night. First through fifth grade parents and students are invited to attend. Everyday Math is the new math series and games are an important component of it. People in attendance can move through classrooms to play the games with their child and get a better understanding of how these games help develop better mathematical understanding.



Several years ago the PTO Long-Range Planning Committee thought parent forums would be a great idea to implement at Trombly. Last school year slipped by without any being planned. This year Mary Trost has taken over the responsibility and has scheduled the first parent forum for Wednesday, October 29. The topic for the evening is homework.

Hopefully, your schedule will allow you to attend both events.

Walter Fitzpatrick



ABOUT FLYERS:

The periodic distribution of non-school related written materials does not constitute an endorsement by the school system of those materials or of the groups sponsoring them.

All printing costs are paid for by the sponsoring organization, not the schools.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System

Trombly receives City of G. P Park Civic Award

The Beautification Commission of Grosse Pointe Park has chosen Robert Trombly Elementary as this year's recipient of the City's Civic Award. Trombly was selected because of their efforts in creating a green school. We are very proud to receive the recognition. It was truly a team effort involving staff, students and parents.



Halloween Reminders:

- **Toy weapons are not allowed**
- **Violent costumes or make-up are not allowed**
- **Masks should not be worn during the parade through the building especially walking up and down the stairs for your child's safety**

Help us recognize distinguished employees

The Grosse Pointe Board of Education has established the Employee Awards Program to recognize distinguished service by employees in various programs and activities sponsored by the public schools. Board-level recognition is intended to reward those employees who have initiated a new program, service, or activity and/or who have served the district above and beyond their daily employee responsibilities.

The criteria are simple:

- (a) The recipient must be an employee of the district who donates service and/or time beyond their usual work requirements.
- (b) Consideration for an Employee Award will be based on the impact of their accomplishment, service, or activity, rather than strictly on an accumulation of volunteer hours, although consideration will be given to the amount of time contributed.
- (c) The Employee Awards Program is designed to recognize individuals.

Nomination forms must be received in the Superintendent's Office, 389 St. Clair, Grosse Pointe, MI 48230 by **Friday, October 24, 2008.** Forms are available in all school offices and the administration building. Nominations made by non-administrators must have the support of the building or program administrator.

Food Service Tidbits

Sodexo, the food service provider, has recently dropped the "H" in their name. A Sodexo bulletin board now hangs by the main Beaconsfield entrance way. You can find the school lunch nutritional information there.

Junior Golf Coming in November

Grosse Pointe Community Education will offer Junior Golf classes for grades K-5 starting in November. **Each child is provided with his/her own mat and club, so there are NO LINES and NO WAITING for a chance to swing!** Fee includes all supplies and a Grosse Pointe Junior Golf T-shirt! For information about the After School Golf

Academy, go to www.afterschoolgolf.com. (Click on Photo Gallery to see classes in action.)



TROMBLY: YE012P-- Wednesdays, **November 5-December 3** (no class November 26), 7-8pm, \$100

Please call Community Education at (313) 432-3880 for registration information.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

- Thursday, October 23 Donuts with Dudes 7:50 AM
- Thursday, October 31 PM School only/Halloween parade 1:00 pm
- Halloween Assembly Gr. K-2 1:30 pm
- Halloween Assembly Gr. 3-5 2:30 pm
- Tuesday, November 4 Election Day – no school for students
- Thursday, November 6 parent/ teacher conferences AM school only
- Thursday, November 13 parent/ teacher conferences PM school only

Every Grosse Pointe Kindergartener Gets a Flag

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) of Grosse Pointe is promoting patriotism by providing all our with a flag. When they have memorized the Pledge of Allegiance, each kindergartener will receive his or her own flag on a stand to take home and keep. The flags are delivered to the school in September and placed in the kindergarten classroom. Each flag pole has a label with room for the child's name. Room mothers or older students, as classroom aides, will hear the recitations and distribute the flags. The chapter, this year is also providing each school with a flag code poster showing proper display of the flag and a book entitled Our Flag containing facts about and pictures of the USA, and all states and territories.

The pledge, first published in 1892 in the Youth Companion Magazine in Boston, Massachusetts to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of America, and was first used in public schools to celebrate Columbus Day on October 12, 1892. The original version read "my flag" instead of the flag of the United States. The wording was changed in 1923 to prevent ambiguity among foreign born children who might think of the flag of their native land when reciting the pledge. DAR members urged Congress to add the phrase "under God" and this was done by a Congressional Act approved on June 14, 1954 by President Eisenhower.

Organized in 1893, the Louisa St. Clair Chapter is the oldest Michigan Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The work of this service organization is to provide project relating to historic preservation, patriotism and education. Membership in the DAR is open to those able to prove lineal descent from an ancestor who helped to further the cause of the American Revolution. DAR members are 18 and older. The Louisa St. Clair Chapter www.LSCDAR.com sponsors the John Paul Jones Society Children of the American Revolution for boys and girls birth through age 21.



Please Note



Buzzer System Installation to Begin

Installation of the entry buzzer/camera system is scheduled to begin on Monday, October 20. Once the system is installed, all doors will be locked during the school day. Anyone wishing entry into the building during school hours will have to be buzzed in at either the main Beaconsfield door or the receiving room door. A separate flyer will be sent home once installation is complete and our procedures are set.

Spanish Classes resumes for 4th and 5th graders

The beginning of the second unit of Spanish is quickly approaching. Fourth graders will begin a unit of study on family members, while fifth graders will begin to study weather and clothing.

The fourth and fifth graders also received a Unit 1 homework packet last month.

This packet will be due on:

- A Day Students: October 17
- B Day Students: October 20
- C Day Students: October 21
- D Day Students: October 22

Please be sure to check my website for up to date infor-

mation regarding units of study, schedules, or due dates. Thank you so much for your continued support of the Elementary Spanish Program

Sincerely,

Mrs. Delgado

sara.delgado@gpschools.org

<http://staff.gpschools.org/del>



Students see the posters, hear the bells as AMERICA CELEBRATES U.S. CONSTITUTION

The Constitution Week poster and proclamations obtained from local city officials and the governor, were brought to our school by the members of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution www.LSCDAR.com of Grosse Pointe. In addition, these ladies have provided copies of the constitution in booklet form, a book on how laws are made and bookmarks. Wednesday, September 17, 2008, begins the national celebration of Constitution Week. The weeklong commemoration of America's most important document is one of our country's least known official observances.



Carillons at Christ Church Episcopal on GP Boulevard, Memorial Presbyterian Church on Jefferson, St., and the Grosse Pointe Village clock bells will all ring the "bells for freedom" during Constitution Week September 17-24. Bells rang from coast to coast at 4 PM Eastern Time on the 17th and patriotic music was played during the entire week to remind the public to take a minute to give thanks for our heritage. Schools, scout troops and other organizations were invited to take part in the ringing.

The tradition of celebrating the Constitution was started many years ago by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). In 1955, the Daughters petitioned Congress to set aside September 17-23 annually to be dedicated for the observance of Constitution Week. The resolution was later adopted by the U.S. Congress and signed into Public Law #915 on August 2, 1956 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The aims of the celebration are to:

- emphasize citizens' responsibilities for protecting and defending the Constitution, preserving it for posterity;
- inform the people that the Constitution is the basis for America's great heritage and the foundation for our way of life;
- encourage the study of the historical events which led to the framing of the Constitution in September 1787.

The United States of America functions as a Republic under the Constitution, which is the oldest document still in active use that outlines the self-government of a people. This landmark idea that men had the inalienable right as individuals to be free and live their lives under their own governance was the impetus of the American Revolution. Today, the Constitution stands as an icon of freedom for people around the world.

PTO Thank Yous

What a busy fall. There are many people to thank for the smooth running of the multiple functions we have already had. First, a thank you to some of the "Ann's in our midst.

- To **Ann Ottenhoff** for her overwhelming work on Coney Island Night. The evening went off without a hitch, making it seem like an easy feat, which I'm sure it wasn't. She was aided by **many, many other Trombly parents**, too many to try to list. Ann did specifically ask that a big thank you go out to all of them in this publication. So, **thank you to all!!**
- To **Ann Turnbull** for chairing our fall fundraiser, Sally Foster. This fundraiser accounts for over 20% of our typical annual PTO expenses of \$15,000. Ann did a great job making it all happen. Also thanks to all those who ordered, and thereby helped make this a successful event.
- And a third Ann, **Ann Gordon**, who diligently provides the volunteer lists to all the committee chairpeople. Not an easy task, but most needed, and very much appreciated.

And to all the non-Ann's

- **Soozi Hampton** was in charge of coordinating the work of Walk to School Week. What an important week! We need to show our children that we don't always need to use a car to get us somewhere. Walking is healthy for us and healthy for the earth! Let's remember to walk/bike more often. Thank you Soozie.
- A social outing to the Tigers game took place again this year thanks to **Gail Micuida**. With the ups (and downs) of the Tigers, it was difficult this spring to get tickets. But she was able to land us some, and even guaranteed that she could find buyers for any extras we had, relieving the minds of the PTO board. Thank you Gail for all your efforts on Trombly's behalf.
- **Karen Driscoll** is our Gardening Chair, and has spent hours on weeding this fall. A never ending job, as most gardeners and homeowners know. Please contact Karen if you feel you can spend a little time in Trombly's extensive gardens.
- The school directory is a much used, much needed aide for many of our students and parents. **Renee Troscinski** again put all the information together, and we should see the results of her labor soon. Thank you Renee for not only again taking on this job, but for helping on Picture Day too.
- To **ALL who donated school supplies for Guyton Elementary**. The extensive delivery was happily received and quickly distributed amongst the classrooms and the students. We look forward to continued work with Guyton.

We met at 7:00 last Wednesday for our monthly meeting. The earlier time worked well, and is something we will stick with. Our next meeting will be November 12 at 7 PM.

Some highlights from this meeting:

- Boxie the Boxer, representing the class that brought in the most Box Tops for the month of September, went to Mr. Buckman's 2nd grade class. I wonder where he'll go next month....
- The Knowledge-a-thon will be coming up in November. More info to follow.
- Sally Foster Pick Up is on October 22.
- Doughnuts with Dudes – Thursday, Oct. 23, 8:00 AM – Bring your dad, grandpa, uncle, or any favorite dude in for complimentary cider and doughnuts.
- Family Math Night – Thursday evening, Oct. 23rd
- The first Family Forum of the year, focusing on how to handle homework with your kids, will be on Tuesday, Oct. 29 at 7 PM.
- Fall Conferences are on Nov. 6th and 13th.

After the 40 minute meeting (didn't quite make my 30 minute goal) we had an open discussion of the PTO's goals for the year. The discussion focused on some of the larger areas with which the PTO would like to help the school. Not all of it is possible in one year, which is why we want your input on what should first be addressed. The four main areas raised were:

- classroom technology improvements
- repair of our architectural gem, the greenhouse
- updating of the library
- a better play area for the kindergarten children

Look for a survey this fall to give your input on the matter.

- Susan Griffin

SCHOOL STORE NEWS

The Trombly School Store is up and running smoothly thanks to a dedicated staff of fifth grade students.

In addition to our regular hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime, **we will be open for business during teacher conferences!** Make a little extra time that day to drop by and see us on the first floor. We sell toys, school supplies and great Trombly spirit wear including baseball caps, winter caps, long and short sleeve tee shirts and sweatshirts. This is a great time to get a jump on your Christmas shopping!

On Halloween day and at other times you plan to be around school, we can open the store for you if you call 821-8495 ahead of time.

On November 24th, we will announce the winner of our **"PAW DRAW"**. Raffle tickets are now on sale during store hours for 50 cents a piece. The winner will receive a Trombly paw print tee shirt, so be sure to get in on the fun!

Thank you for your continued support of our store and if you haven't yet made it there yet (or even if you have), we'll see you on conference day!

Dear Fellow Trombly Parents,

In an effort to expand communication between parents, teachers, and school administration, and to support our children in their elementary journey, the Trombly PTO is sponsoring a series of presentations and discussions focusing on elementary education. These events will take place in two different ways:

PARENT FORUMS: planned presentations and discussions centering on a specific prepared topic led by Trombly staff or outside professional support. Tentatively, Forums will take place in the evenings once per report card period. If interest and attendance is strong, we will consider scheduling more as needed and practical.

PRINCIPAL COFFEES: open informal discussions with Walter Fitzpatrick, Trombly Principal, on timely issues of interest and/or concern within the Trombly community or the Grosse Pointe Public School district at large. These discussions will be scheduled for once per report card period and will rotate between morning, afternoon, and evening sessions.

All topics will be covered in a broad manner. As always, if you have specific concerns regarding your child, please schedule time with your child's teacher to discuss your individual questions.

It is our hope that these events will provide another opportunity for you to connect with other parents and the school team and to learn ways to help your children get the most from and enjoy their years at Trombly.

Our first PARENT FORUM is scheduled for Wednesday, October 29, 2008 beginning at 7 PM. Please join us for a relaxed and informative session regarding our students "favorite" topic, HOMEWORK! (I'm reserving a front seat! How about you?!)

Looking forward to learning with all of you. Please feel free to call me with any questions.

Mary Trost
PTO Parent Forum Chair
823-8013 / rhtmct@aol.com

TROMBLY PTO PARENT FORUM

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2008

7:00-8:00 PM

TROMBLY AUDITORIUM

HOMEWORK!!!

What's the objective...

What to expect...

How to help your children

(without giving the answers)...

Working as a team with teachers...

When to be concerned...

Presentation and Discussion to be led by...

Walter Fitzpatrick, Principal

&

Molly Crawford, School Psychologist

Future Parent Forum Topics

I am interested in hearing more about: _____

I am concerned about: _____

I know of a great speaker: _____

Name (Optional): _____ Phone/e-mail: _____

(Please bring to Presentation or drop off at PTO Center in Trombly Office.)