

# G.P.P.S.S

GROSSE POINTE  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

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### All schools make AYP

Both Grosse Pointe North and South made adequate yearly progress according to their Michigan Merit Exams and testing percentages, as did all of the district's middle and elementary schools.

### New GPPSS Preschool opens

Using feedback from parents, the district is opening a full day preschool option at Barnes Early Childhood Center. The 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](http://www.gpschools.org) and click on the Parents tab for enrollment information or call 313/432-3067.

### E-alerts and social media

Parents have asked for more e-communication. Now you can:

- Click on the Parents tab of the district website, then E-alerts to sign up for notices you specify
- Follow district "tweets" at [www.twitter.com/gpschools](http://www.twitter.com/gpschools)
- Search facebook.com for Grosse Pointe Schools to find the district and foundation (GPFPE) pages.

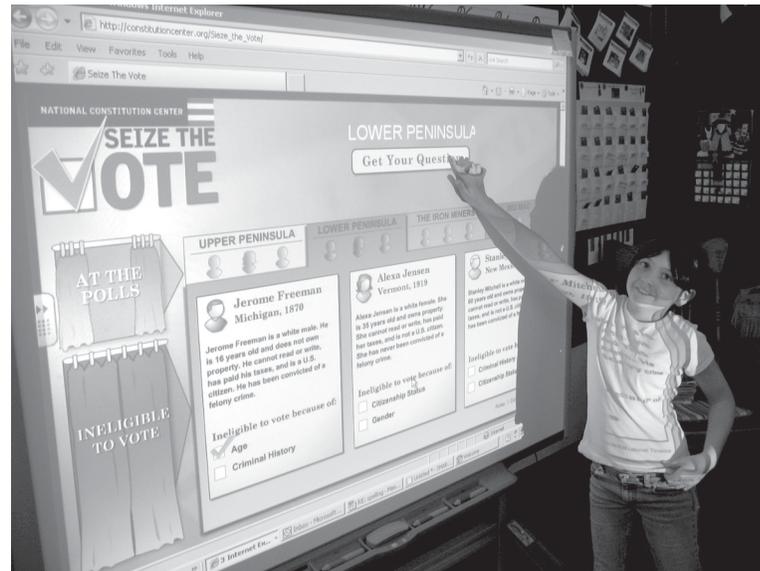
Grosse Pointe Public School System  
389 St. Clair Avenue  
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[www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org)

# Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Fall 2009

## "Smart" classrooms shine across the district



Smart boards are being piloted in elementary classes and installed in the high schools as part of our multitiered system for technology upgrades. A Lighthouse grant provided funds to create a base technology configuration for each classroom.

Last summer I had the opportunity to tell you about the district's \$1 million investment in instructional textbooks and online materials in our back to school letter. This year, students will again return to an upgraded learning environment. After a year of careful planning with grade level and subject area teams, our technology staff worked diligently this summer to install almost a \$1 million of technology tools for learning in our classrooms and libraries.

These learning tools are part of our district's five year technology plan which sets a minimum standard for equipment at each grade level. For example, every elementary classroom will now have a projector, screen and document camera to be used in conjunction with classroom computers. Each elementary will also have carts of laptop computers to check out for class use. Think about the options to engage students in writing and science using these research and presentation tools.

Secondary classrooms are now even

more tailored to meet student needs. The tools selected range from Smart boards (shown above), to Senteo clickers that help teachers gauge student learning quickly, to remote slate boards that offer learning options similar to Smart boards while allowing more mobility in the classroom -- something I appreciate as a former middle school teacher myself.

These tools have been purchased through district funds and a Section 99 Lighthouse grant to demonstrate best practices in classroom instruction for math, science, technology and differentiation. A mini-grant program encourages teachers to pilot new technology for its effectiveness engaging our students with our curriculum in order to increase their achievement.

This is a quick glimpse of one initiative that will impact each student in our district. Please talk with the students you know about changes in their classroom as our schools open September 8.

- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

# BOARD BULLETIN

## Welcoming a new board member; information on upcoming millage

### Welcome to Trustee Karl Kratz

Summer vacation at 389 St. Clair is one of the things I enjoy most about serving on the school board. It can be compared to a restaurant before it opens for dinner with all the chefs working to prepare the quintessential offering for the evening. In point of fact, it is not a vacation. It is a pleasure to watch the professionals employed in our district go about their jobs, bringing together the necessary ingredients for another year of academic excellence.

Meanwhile board business also continues. The Board would like to welcome our newest member Karl Kratz. Mr. Kratz was appointed to the board at our August 3 work session, filling the vacancy left when Trustee Ahmed Ismail resigned for health reasons.

We thank Mr. Ismail for his years of service and his work to communicate this unique service opportunity to the public at large. In fact, Mr. Kratz was one of eight qualified applicants. On behalf of the board, I would also like to thank all those who expressed an interest in serving our community in this way.

Mr. Kratz is a lifelong resident of Grosse Pointe with a background in business. He has experience in public service and has been an active community volunteer serving as a board member of ARC of Grosse Pointe and Harper Woods and helping with the business plan for the district's special education students' Upscale Resale shop in Grosse Pointe Park.

His appointment is through December of 2009; the remaining three years of the term will be on the November ballot. By combining school elections with those of the municipalities, the district saves about \$60,000 annually.

Seven candidates filed by the August 11 deadline to be considered for the three open Board of Education positions. They include: Anthony Ambrogio, Tom Jakubiec, George McMullen, Michelle Peabody, and incumbent Joan Dindoffer for the two open four year terms, and Karl Kratz and Cynthia Pangborn for the three year term.

### Millages on November ballot

Also on the ballot will be two proposals to continue the hold-harmless and non-homestead millages, and the sinking fund, all of which expire this June. Since the passage of Proposal A in 1994, several major factors impact school funding:

- Massive reduction in school property taxes
- District funding based on student enrollment
- Lower spending districts see significant increases in funding (leveling up)
- All districts' revenue now capped. No new millages except ...
- ... Districts like ours who spent more per pupil before Proposal A passed than the new State formula are authorized to offer a Hold Harmless millage (\$1,893 per student)
- State responsible for the majority of public school funding (60-80% up from 20%)

Together the sinking fund, hold-harmless and non-homestead millages equal about a quarter of the district's revenue. In the last five years, Grosse Pointe's sinking fund has brought approximately \$14.5 million in revenue to the district. Sinking fund revenue, which may not be used for general operating expenses like salaries, has been used to repair the floors, roofs, parking lots, plumbing, boilers, etc. in our (on average) 70 year old buildings. That means the district has not had to cut yet another \$14.5 million from the

general fund to keep our buildings in good condition.

Benchmarking reports demonstrate that compared to like performing districts, Grosse Pointe is in the middle of the pack in terms of millage assessment. The board is sensitive to the economic environment and has spent several sessions reviewing and evaluating the necessity of continuing these funding sources. It is unfortunate that while Proposal A has done the job of limiting taxation, inflation and mandatory expenditures are not likewise capped. Districts are asked to do more with less each passing year.

Through continued wise stewardship, we have maintained our tradition of excellence and continue to work with our staff to find ways to offer the education you expect and our children deserve in our neighborhood schools. With that mindset, the district is pleased to welcome students for the new year.

- Alice Kosinski, Board President

### 2009-10 Board of Education

Board meetings are typically the fourth Monday of the month at 8 p.m. April through September they are held in South High School's Wicking Library, 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd. October through March they are in North High School's Library, 707 Vernier. Agendas and meeting times are posted in the Administration Building at 389 St. Clair Avenue, and on the district website [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org).

The Board of Education welcomes input through their email [schoolboard@gpschools.org](mailto:schoolboard@gpschools.org).

## Community Services offers these fall aquatics classes

The district would like to thank all of the local programs that have kindly adopted our former Community Education courses, particularly the Neighborhood Club. Please see their fall brochure for a wealth of

programming options, many offered by the same instructors in the same location.

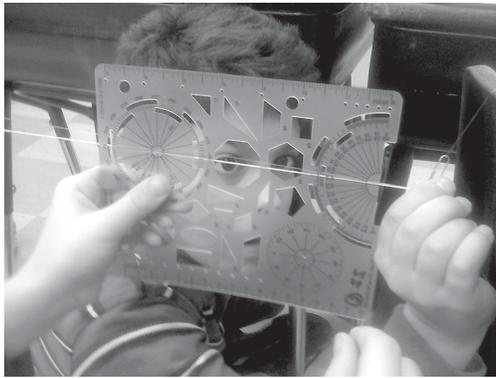
The district continues to offer the aquatics classes shown below. A full description of the aquatics courses and

costs is on the district website [www.gpschools.org](http://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.

Class	ID#	Instructor	Location	Day	Dates	Times	Cost
Preschool (2-5 yrs.)	100A	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	6-6:30 p.m.	\$77
Preschool (2-5 yrs.)	100B	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	6:30-7 p.m.	\$77
Preschool (2-5 yrs.)	100C	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	7-7:30 p.m.	\$77
Preschool (2-5 yrs.)	100D	Fiske/Hart.	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	12-12:30 p.m.	\$88
Preschool (2-5 yrs.)	100E	Fiske/Hart.	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	12:30-1 p.m.	\$88
Level 1 (prebeginner)	101A	Hartnett	Parcells	Mon	9/28-11/9	5-5:30 p.m.	\$77
Level 1 (prebeginner)	101B	Hartnett	Parcells	Mon	9/28-11/9	5:30-6 p.m.	\$77
Level 1 (prebeginner)	101C	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	7:30-8 p.m.	\$77
Level 2 (beginner age 6+)	102A	Hartnett	Parcells	Mon	9/28-11/9	6-7 p.m.	\$77
Level 2 (beginner age 6+)	102B	Hartnett	Parcells	Tue	9/29-11/10	5-6 p.m.	\$77
Level 2 (beginner age 6+)	102C	Hartnett	Parcells	Thurs	10/1-11/12	7-8 p.m.	\$77
Level 3 (beginner stroke dev.)	103A	Hartnett	Parcells	Mon	9/28-11/9	7-8 p.m.	\$77
Level 3 (beginner stroke dev.)	103B	Hartnett	Parcells	Tue	9/29-11/10	6-7 p.m.	\$77
Level 3 (beginner stroke dev.)	103C	Hartnett	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	11 a.m.-noon	\$88
Level 4 (stroke improvement)	104A	TBD	Parcells	Tue	9/29-11/10	7-8 p.m.	\$77
Level 5 (intermed+, stroke refine)	105A	Fiske/Hart.	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	10-11 a.m.	\$88
Level 6 (intermed+ fitness)	106A	TBD	Parcells	Fri	10/2-11/13	5-6 p.m.	\$77
Competitive Swim (6-12 yrs.)	107A	TBD	Parcells	Fri	10/2-11/13	6-7 p.m.	\$77
Synchro (girls grades 3-8)	108A	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	5-6 p.m.	\$77
Special Needs Swim (all ages)	109A	Zedan	Parcells	Thur	10/1-11/12	6-7 p.m.	\$99
Senior Citizen Swim (60+)	110A	Kennary	Parcells	T/Th	9/29-12/22	4-5 p.m.	\$50
		Moebus	North	M/W	9/30-12/21	2-3 p.m.	
Scuba Diving (age 10-adult)	116A	Wrubel	North	Mon	9/28-11/9	7-10 p.m.	\$80+
All Age Open Swim (individual)	115A	TBD	Parcells	Fri	10/2-12/18	7-8:30 p.m.	\$48*
(whole immediate family price)	115B	TBD	Parcells	Sat	10/3-12/19	1-2 p.m.	\$96*
*indiv/family can attend all 3 days		TBD	South	Sun	10/4-12/20	noon-3 p.m.	*
Adult Sunrise Lap Swims	117A	Kennary	Brownell	MWF	9/28-12/23	6-6:30 a.m.	\$90
	117B	Kennary	Brownell	MWF	9/28-12/23	6:30-7 a.m.	\$90
	117C	Kennary	Brownell	MWF	9/28-12/23	7-7:30 a.m.	\$90
	117D	Kennary	Brownell	T/Th	9/29-12/22	6-6:30 a.m.	\$60
	117E	Kennary	Brownell	T/Th	9/29-12/22	6:30-7 a.m.	\$60
	117F	Kennary	Brownell	T/Th	9/29-12/22	7-7:30 a.m.	\$60
Adult Sunrise Masters Workout	117G	O'Connor	North	MWF	9/28-12/23	6-7 a.m.	\$108
Adult Evening Lap Swims	117H	Kennary	North	MW	9/28-12/21	8-9:30 p.m.	\$112
	117J	TBD	Parcells	T/Th	9/29-12/22	8-9:30 p.m.	\$112
Intro to Swimming for Adults	118A	Fiske/Hart.	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	8-9 a.m.	\$88
Aqua Dynamics (vigorous)	119B	Hartnett	Parcells	Mon	9/28-11/9	8-9 p.m.	\$35
	119D	Hartnett	Parcells	Wed	9/30-11/11	8-9 p.m.	\$35
	199E	Fiske/Hart.	Parcells	Sat	10/3-11/14	9-10 a.m.	\$40

## Celebrate these Pointes of Pride

- Every elementary school is participating in a Wayne County grant to establish and nurture a consistent Positive Behavior Support program. In a PBS model, emphasis is placed on a school-wide system of character education which includes proactive strategies for defining, teaching, and supporting appropriate behaviors.
- The Defer Fall Family Fun Festival (Defer F4) draws participants from across the Pointes, celebrating the school community.
- Ten GPPSS schools are Michigan Green Schools and all are recycling.
- Poupard and Trombly led the way in this effort.
- In their 12th annual March of Dimes Reading Champions Program, Maire students read 9,512 chapters/books and raised \$4,291.
- Check out the creativity of Monteith's students in the bookmarks published online under Our School. These were for National Children's Book Week.
- Ferry is partnering with a community member to refurbish the Ferry Forest.
- The Reaching Out program gives Kerby students an opportunity to help others. They collect coats and hats for children and coins for Eagle Sports. Their Student Council also annually runs Operation Can Do.
- Richard won the Presidential Fitness Award as a school.
- Barnes will be partnering with The Family Center again for Play Central on Wednesdays and is home of the new all day preschool.
- Mason Elementary celebrated its 80th birthday.
- Trombly is partnering with Urban Farming, growing donated seeds in their greenhouse that was recently



There are many ways to measure excellence.

- Photo provided by Steve Gullian.

refurbished inside as part of an Eagle Scout project.

- Brownell Middle School's STAND (Students Taking a New Direction) group sponsored various drug free activities including Conflict Resolution skits for GPPSS elementary students.
- Nearly 300 students participate in the instrumental music program at Parcels--40% of the student body.
  - The Parcels/Brownell Destination Imagination team took first place at the Middle School level, going on to compete in the Global competition in Knoxville, TN May 22- 24. The Pierce DI team Sensational Six won the Outstanding Achievement Trophy at the DI Global Finals.
- Nearly one third of all Pierce 7th and 8th grade students qualified to become members of the John D. Pierce National Junior Honor Society.
- For the second year in a row, Parcels' Social Studies Olympiad team finished second in the state in Quiz Bowl.
- North and South's art students won numerous silver and gold key awards.
- Both high schools have Grammy award winning music programs.
- South's *Tower* student newspaper won 1st Place Best in Show at the National High School Journalism Convention.
- Principal Tim Bearden's blog was named National Principal's Blog of the Month by PrincipalsPage website and his podcast on blogging is featured as an EdTech Online course.
- Both North and South high schools rank among Newsweek's Top High Schools in the nation, above 98% of the high schools in the country.

## School millage vote November 3

All of the school millage proposals on the November ballot are for a period of five years. Together they represent about a quarter of the annual budget. If these continuations do not pass, expenses would come from the general fund, and over 85% of that is spent on salaries and benefits.

### What is a Gap Millage?

School districts like Grosse Pointe, that spent more than the state foundation grant when Proposal A passed, are allowed to ask voters to make up the difference through a "gap" or "hold harmless" millage.

### What is a Nonhomestead Millage?

The state requires every Michigan school district to ask voters to approve 18 mills on nonhomestead property. Approval ensures the school system gets its rightful share of state money. Failure to approve results in financial penalties to the school system.

### What is a Sinking Fund Millage?

Typically, sinking funds are used for general repairs and improvement projects such as roofs, windows, doors, flooring, parking lots, tuckpointing, and plumbing. Recent sinking fund expenditures have resulted in significantly increased energy efficiency for the district.

Sinking fund dollars can not be used for salaries or other human resources costs. A description of the proposed projects is on the district website, with the caveat that plans may change to address emergencies.

For more information on school finance and budgeting, please visit the district website or call the Business Office at 313/432-3080.

## Differentiation is meeting each child's needs

Howard Gardner, known for his work explaining multiple intelligences, said, "The biggest mistake of past centuries in teaching has been to treat all children as if they were variants of the same individual and thus to feel justified in teaching them all the same way."

For the past decade, GPPSS has focused on how to effectively challenge each student in our schools through differentiation of instruction. This "no walls, no ceiling" approach to learning responds to Dr. Gardner's concern about one size fits all instruction and remains a keystone of our teaching practices.

Dr. Susan Allan, GPPSS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, was the keynote speaker at a Michigan ASCD summer conference dedicated to differentiation. Joining Dr. Allan in making presentations were ten GPPSS staff: Executive Director Lee Warras, Principal Mary MacDonald-Barrett, and teachers Melissa Currier, Susan Dempsey, Chris Geerer, Elizabeth Lulis, Laura Mikesell, Ann Passino, Kelly Sexton-Bolen and Karen Sullivan.

These teachers, as do all our staff, work to make differentiation real for our students every day. Why do they do the hard work of determining what type of learner each student is and how to best reach them?

In their session, Ferry teacher Ann Passino and Dr. Grace Smith, retired

GPPSS Academic Technology Coordinator, explained it this way, "When instruction is differentiated, enthusiasm builds, and when kids are engaged, learning leads itself."

In their presentation "Two Approaches to Differentiating Middle School Science Instruction," Chris Geerer, Laura Mikesell and Karen Sullivan said to vary:

- Content: by topic or depth of topic - For example, they said use high school benchmarks for high achievers in middle school, or give kids a

choice of topics to which they must apply common concepts

- Process: you can explore the same content in various ways within the same classroom. Example, provide less support and more open-ended instruction for high achievers and more support for kids who need it.
- Product: They stressed the importance of allowing many choices that involve the various learning styles. This does not mean provide more homework for high achievers.

They added, you can vary by:

- Readiness: How fast can students learn it? Do they already know it?
- Interest: What do individuals want to study in depth? Give options.
- Learning profile: Give a choice of products to show what students know. Products they mentioned ranged from posters to poems to PowerPoint presentations -- the key is finding an appropriate method of expression for each type of learner.



The FAST Reading program is one example of differentiation. - Photo by Lisa

### Pesticide notification

Under Michigan Regulation 637, if you wish to be notified of pesticide applications during the school year, please submit the following information to the address below :

- Parent/Guardian Name
- Student Name
- Address
- Phone Number
- School Student Attends

Department of Support Services  
Grosse Pointe Public Schools  
389 St. Clair Avenue  
Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

### Call for your Gold Card

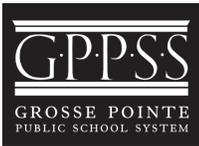
Gold Cards offer the district's senior citizens the opportunity to attend various school events. Free admission to athletic functions and dramatic and musical productions is our way of thanking local senior citizens for the support they have provided the school system. To obtain a calendar or Gold Card, please call 313/432-3007.

### Free Open Swim at South

As a thank you to our community, the district is again scheduling some free open swim afternoons at South's Natatorium. Watch the district website for dates and more details this fall.

### Host a Chinese student

If you might be interested in hosting a student from China for two years beginning with the 2010-11 school year, while they attend 11th and 12th grade here in our district, please call 313/432-3007. A monthly compensation to cover the cost of food and lodging would be provided by the student's parents. Students' oral and written English proficiency will be tested as part of their application process. Family background checks will be conducted as part of the process.



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

**2009 Board of Education**

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**Vice-President Brendan Walsh**  
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**Partners in Learning, page 6**

**District preparing for the H1N1 flu**

This summer administrative and facilities staff have attended several training sessions dedicated to preparing for H1N1 and other communicable diseases. Our Pandemic Flu Preparedness Plan is now being updated to reflect the latest Center for Disease Control (CDC), Wayne County Health Department (WCHD), and Michigan Department of Education updates on this topic.

Recently, Dr. Talat Danish, WCHD Medical Director, provided an update on the H1N1 virus at a meeting hosted by Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency. That presentation focused on the following:

- There has been no change in the virus characteristics of disease patterns so far
- Evolution of the virus is very unpredictable but WCHD is monitoring information from CDC and World Health Organization daily
- Schools need to have Pandemic Plans in place (and GPPSS does)
- School closings are not

recommended unless high staff and student absenteeism warrants it

- H1N1 vaccine (available late October-early November) remains the single best means of protection.

As school closings during occasional flu outbreaks have not proven effective in stopping transmission, Loretta Davis, WCHD Director/Health Officer indicated the goal is to “keep schools open, and keep them open safely.”

We urge the school community to stay home for 24 hours after their fever breaks and to wash hands frequently. We ask parents to carefully review their emergency contact information so we can reach them quickly should their child become ill at school, and to have alternate sick care arrangements. The CDC and WCHD encourage all to be vaccinated for both the seasonal and H1N1 flu. At the same time, the district continues its careful practice, cleaning with products proven effective against H1N1 and updating our procedures in response to WCHD directives.

**Elementary hours change**

Please note that the bell schedule and hours remain the same for the secondary schools. However, there will be new Delayed Start Mondays for the elementary schools, except in October and June. The entire school calendar is posted on the district website under the Parents dropdown.

• **Elementary hours:**

Monday 8:40 a.m.-3:11 p.m.  
 Tuesday-Friday 8:25 a.m.-3:38 p.m.  
 The half day schedule remains 8:25-11:36 a.m., or 12:26-3:38 p.m.

• **Middle School hours:**

8:25 a.m.-3:17 p.m., with a 9:10 a.m. delayed start on Late Start Mondays

• **High School hours:**

8 a.m.-3:05 p.m., with an 8:42 a.m. delayed start on Late Start Mondays

**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? Call 432-3067 or email [cheryl.dorman@gpschools.org](mailto:cheryl.dorman@gpschools.org).