

**GROSSE POINTE  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

# Partners in Learning

Excellence in Education: Learning and Leading for Today and Tomorrow

Fall 2010

## ‘Keep up the good work, Grosse Pointe’

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

Every GPPSS school made Adequate Yearly Progress with an A grade on their report card.

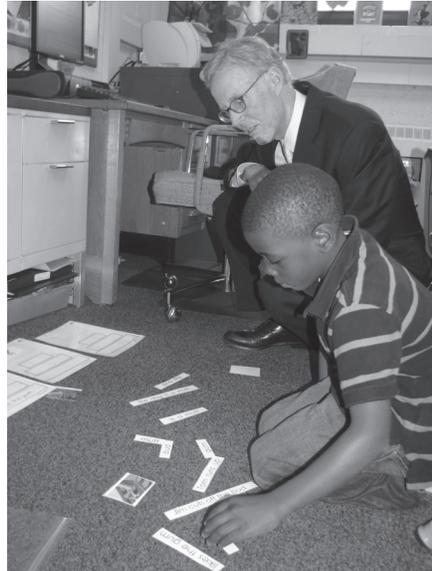
### Thank you for your input

Results of a community telephone survey, the online parent survey, and the student and staff surveys are online at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org). This data will be used in Strategic Planning, and the district will continue to gather constituent feedback through formal surveys and informal methods like the “Contact Us” button on the website.

### More communication options

In addition to newsletters, the district televises its board meetings on Comcast channel 20/902 and soon on AT&T. The website is regularly updated with news and reports. And E-alerts, Facebook postings and Twitter “tweets” are all used to share information and draw our community into conversation about how we are meeting our goals and what methods we will use for continuous improvement. Thank you for staying informed.

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



State Superintendent Flanagan toured Grosse Pointe as part of his continuing effort to examine the learning environment provided to Michigan students.

He had an opportunity to observe several best practices in English Language Arts instruction from Kindergarten through Advanced Placement Literature.

just that. The Board Bulletin on page two discusses opportunities for community involvement – a critical factor in the success of our schools, as well as a budget update.

The annual report synopsis inside shows just a few data points our staff uses to impact student achievement. Our teachers have a network of support ranging from grade level and technology leaders, to our Delayed Start Mondays. These allow time for data-driven decisions to be made and evaluated by the whole staff, as well as by grade level or content area teams.

Page five shares how recent technology purchases by PTOs and the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education are being used to impact student learning. These purchases are aligned with the district’s Technology Plan. If you are interested in participating in the development of the next five year Technology Plan or the overarching Strategic Plan for the district, please contact my office. All these initiatives are designed to keep the main thing – teaching and learning – the main thing.  
- Dr. C. Suzanne Klein, Superintendent

I recently had the opportunity to take State Superintendent of Schools Michael Flanagan on a tour of our district. We stopped at four schools, seeing everything from kindergarten classes using Smartboards and computer stations, to Title I instruction at its best, from high school students in advanced placement literature classes to North High School junior Daniel Schrage interviewing Mr. Flanagan for his TV production class and *Northpointe*.

Then we were greeted by a string quartet as South High School’s Commercial Foods program served a wonderful lunch in Cleminson Hall. We ended the day in a science class where Flanagan learned about our NASA-award winning students and saw art projects going into Brownell Middle School’s kiln. His parting comment was, “Keep up the good work.”

This newsletter includes information on a number of initiatives to do



# BOARD BULLETIN

## Welcome to the 2010-11 school year

### Welcome to Trustees

If you know me, you know I was never the rare student who complained about being off school for the summer. However, over the years, I have come to appreciate the quality education I received from the Grosse Pointe Public School System. And now, as an advocate for the schools, I have to say I like this time of year.

Students are enrolled in classes. The staff has returned to updated buildings. Calendars are being marked with PTO meetings and school concerts. The stands are filling for football games on cool fall evenings.

As I go about planning what I need to do as a school board member to be prepared for upcoming school year it occurs to me that there are plenty of opportunities for others in the community to get involved.

- Share your enthusiasm and good news about our schools with a new neighbor.
- Be a classroom or lunch room volunteer.
- Consider serving on a curriculum committee or one of the school's Green Teams.
- Attend a sporting event.

Though my son is now in college I still feel a connection -- a sense of responsibility to our community. Vital neighborhood schools are an essential asset for all residents. They are a primary link to a community's desirability and any support you can offer will pay dividends for us all in the future. This year Grosse Pointe North hosted the North-South football game (considered one of our nation's great rivalries) and proceeds of the Chamber of Commerce's Tailgate Party went to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education.

So for those of you answering survey questions, volunteering in the classrooms, giving back by attending events or donating to the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education (GPFPE), I want to start the year off by saying thank you.

### Board elections in November

On the ballot this fall was one open position for the Board of Education. Two candidates applied:

- Diane Karabetsos of Grosse Pointe Woods and
- Incumbent Brendan Walsh of Grosse Pointe Park.

This newsletter went to print before the results were released. However, I would like to thank the League of Women Voters for hosting the school board candidate forum at 7 p.m., Tuesday, October 19 in South High School's Wicking Library which was then broadcast on Comcast channel 20/902 until the election.

### 2010-11 budget update

Through continued wise stewardship of the funds available, we have maintained our tradition of excellence. 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.

Negotiations with some bargaining units continue, but contracts have been settled with the Grosse Pointe Education Association (teacher's union), the GPAEOP (office professionals), Non-Instructional Staff, Technology, Para-professionals, and Executive Administration. These fundamentally sound contracts and better than projected budget information from the State, as well as higher elementary student counts have made it possible for us to

hire additional teachers, and reinstate some office and facilities staffing.

Assistant Superintendent Christian Fenton shared at the September Board meeting that as taxes are going down again this year (by \$553,084) a truth in taxation hearing was not required. He walked through the various taxes (homestead, non-homestead, commercial, sinking fund and debt). Board treasurer Brendan Walsh then presented a PowerPoint on the tax levy as the latest installment in the Financial Transparency series (posted online). They will present the first budget amendment (GAAA #1) in November corresponding with changes already shown in the Budget Modeling Utility (BMU).

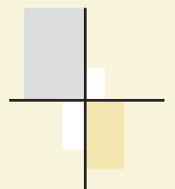
As you can ascertain, our budgeting process is cyclical. Public opinion is always welcome at the televised monthly board meetings or by emailing [budget@gpschools.org](mailto:budget@gpschools.org).

*- 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](http://www.gpschools.org).

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



## Partners in Learning, page 3

### Register now for Aquatics

The district continues to offer the classes shown at left. Full class descriptions are listed at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under the Community drop down menu. You may pay online by credit card or walk-in to the Administration Building, 389 St. Clair (8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.) to pay by credit card or check. Call 313-432-3077 with any questions. Free Open Swims are the second Sunday of each month-South Pool from 2-4 p.m.: 11/14, 12/12, 1/9, 2/13, 3/13, 4/10, 5/8, and 6/12.



### Policy annual notification

Several Board of Education policies require that the school community be annually notified. A quick list of these policies is included here, but the whole set of policies in their entirety is posted at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) under School Board. There is also a search feature built into the online policy manual recently updated with Neola.

- 2260 Nondiscrimination
- 5310 - Health Services
- 5341- Emergency Medical Authorization
- 5516 - Student Hazing
- 5517 - Harassment of Students
- 5517.01 - Bullying and Other Aggressive Behavior
- 5530 - Prevention of Drug/Alcohol Use
- 5600 - Student Discipline
- 5772 - Weapons
- 5780 - Student/Parent Rights
- 8330 - Student Records

Several policies relate to the Board's belief that hazing, harassment, bullying and other aggressive behavior are inconsistent with the educational process. The Board believes a safe, civil school environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying or other aggressive behavior toward a student, whether by other students, staff, or third parties, is strictly prohibited. Harassment through any means, including electronically transmitted methods, may be subject to District disciplinary procedures. Such behavior is considered harassment whether it takes place on or off school property.

| GPPSS Aquatics Classes                      |          | Day      | Dates        | Time          | Cost        |        |
|---|----------|----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|--------|
| Preschool (2-5 yrs.)                        |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 100A  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02-4/6/11  | 6-6:30 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| 100B  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02-4/6/11  | 6:30-7 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| 100C  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02-4/6/11  | 7-7:30 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| 100D  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-4/9/11  | 12-12:30 p.m. | \$112       |        |
| 100E  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-4/9/11  | 12:30-1 p.m.  | \$112       |        |
| Level 1 (pre beginner)                      |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 101A  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31-4/4/11  | 5-5:30 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| 101B  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31-4/4/11  | 5:30-6 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| 101C  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02-4/6/11  | 7:30-8 p.m.   | \$99        |        |
| Level 2 (beginner age 6+)                   |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 102A  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31-4/4/11  | 6-7 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| 102B  | Parcells | Tue      | 2/01-4/5/11  | 5-6 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| 102C  | Parcells | Thurs    | 2/03-4/7/11  | 7-8 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| Level 3 (beginner stroke development)       |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 103A  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31-4/4/11  | 7-8 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| 103B  | Parcells | Tue      | 2/01-4/5/11  | 6-7 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| 103C  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-4/9/11  | 11 a.m.-noon  | \$112       |        |
| 103D  | Parcells | Thurs    | 2/03-4/7/11  | 7-8 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| Level 4 (stroke improvement)                |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 104A  | Parcells | Tue      | 2/01-4/5/11  | 7-8 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| 104B  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-4/9/11  | 10-11 a.m.    | \$112       |        |
| 104C  | Parcells | Thurs    | 2/03-4/7/11  | 5-6 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| Level 5 (intermediate. & stroke refinement) |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 105A  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-4/9/11  | 10-11 a.m.    | \$112       |        |
| 105B  | Parcells | Tues     | 2/01-4/5/11  | 7-8 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| Level 6 (intermediate & fitness)            |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 106A  | Parcells | Fri      | 2/04-4/8/11  | 5-6 p.m.      | \$99        |        |
| Special Needs Swim                          |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 109A  | Parcells | Thurs    | 2/03-4/7/11  | 6-7 p.m.      | \$90        |        |
| Senior Citizen Swim (60+)                   |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 110A  | North    | M/W      | 1/31-6/15/11 | 2-3 p.m.      | \$50        |        |
| 110B  | Parcells | Tu/Th    | 2/01-6/16/11 | 4-5 p.m.      | \$50        |        |
| Open Swim                                   |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| • Individual                                | 115A     | Parcells | Fri          | 2/04-4/8/11   | 6-8:30 p.m. | \$70   |
| • Family                                    | 115B     | Parcells | Sat          | 2/05-4/9/11   | 1-2 p.m.    | \$100  |
| • Drop-in                                   | 115C     | South    | Sun          | 2/05-4/10/11  | 2-4 p.m.    | \$7 pp |
| Scuba Diving                                |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 116A  | North    | Mon      | 1/31 -4/4/11 | 7-10 p.m.     | \$80+       |        |
| Adult Sunrise Swim                          |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 117A  | Brownell | M,W,F    | 1/31-6/17/11 | 6-6:30 a.m.   | \$155       |        |
| 117B  | Brownell | M,W,F    | 1/31-6/17/11 | 6:30-7 a.m.   | \$155       |        |
| 117C  | Brownell | M,W,F    | 1/31-6/17/11 | 7-7:30 a.m.   | \$155       |        |
| 117D  | Brownell | Tu/Th    | 2/01-6/16/11 | 6-6:30 a.m.   | \$130       |        |
| 117E  | Brownell | Tu/Th    | 2/01-6/16/11 | 6:30-7 a.m.   | \$130       |        |
| 117F  | Brownell | Tu/Th    | 2/01-6/16/11 | 7-7:30 a.m.   | \$130       |        |
| Adult Sunrise Masters workout               |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 117G  | North    | M,W,F    | 1/31-6/17/11 | 6-7 a.m.      | \$155       |        |
| Adult Evening Swim                          |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 117H  | North    | M,W      | 1/31-6/15/11 | 8-9:30 p.m.   | \$130       |        |
| 117J  | Parcells | Tu/Th    | 2/01-6/16/11 | 8-9:30 p.m.   | \$130       |        |
| Lap   | 117K     | South    | Sun.         | 2/05-6/12/11  | Noon-2 p.m. | \$55   |
| Introduction to Swimming for Adults         |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 118A  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05-6/11/11 | 8-9 a.m.      | \$90        |        |
| Aqua Dynamics                               |          |          |              |               |             |        |
| 119A  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31 -4/3/11 | 4-5 p.m.      | \$35        |        |
| 119B  | Parcells | Mon      | 1/31 -4/3/11 | 8-9 p.m.      | \$35        |        |
| 119C  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02 -4/6/11 | 4-5 p.m.      | \$35        |        |
| 119D  | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02 -4/6/11 | 8-9 p.m.      | \$35        |        |
| 119E  | Parcells | Sat      | 2/05 -4/9/11 | 9-10 a.m.     | \$40        |        |
| Synchronized                                | Parcells | Wed      | 2/02 -4/6/11 | 5-6 p.m.      | \$99        |        |

# 2009-10 Quick Facts

**100%** of the Grosse Pointe Public Schools made Adequate Yearly Progress

and earned an **A** on their Michigan Report Card

**91%** of Parents Participated in Parent-Teacher Conferences

Average Daily Attendance was

**96%**

Completion/Graduation Rate of

**96%** (High school students who graduate in 4 years)

Retention Rate of **98%**  
(District average high school enrollment minus dropout rate)

**4** students Dual Enrolled concurrently in high school and post-secondary classes.

And **1,269** Advanced Placement tests taken earned scores high enough for college credit – well above State and National averages.

**8,445** students in GPPSS

Find the complete annual report at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org)

## 2009-10 Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) Results

|         | Reading | Math | Science | Social Studies |
|---------|---------|------|---------|----------------|
| Grade 3 | 95%     | 98%  | -       | -              |
| 2008-09 | 92      | 97   | -       | -              |
| Grade 4 | 93      | 97   | -       | -              |
| 2008-09 | 94      | 97   | -       | -              |
| Grade 5 | 96      | 93   | 93      | -              |
| 2008-09 | 93      | 88   | 92      | -              |
| Grade 6 | 95      | 91   | -       | 89             |
| 2008-09 | 93      | 88   | -       | 89             |
| Grade 7 | 93      | 93   | -       | -              |
| 2008-09 | 91      | 93   | -       | -              |
| Grade 8 | 94      | 86   | 91      | -              |
| 2008-09 | 88      | 86   | 90      | -              |

- Percentages shown are students achieving a satisfactory score.  
- A dash (-) designates grade levels where students were not tested in that content area.

## 2009-10 Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Spring Scores

| Grade Level | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
|-------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Reading     | 78 | 63 | 58 | 64 | 72 | 66 | 66 | 67 |
| Math        | 77 | 72 | 71 | 65 | 70 | 62 | 63 | 66 |

Average Percentile achieved by GPPSS students on national norms.

## 2009-10 Michigan Merit Exam (MME) Grade 11

|            | All | Female | Male | Percent Tested |
|------------|-----|--------|------|----------------|
| Reading    | 83% | 85%    | 82%  | 97%            |
| Writing    | 68  | 71     | 66   | 97             |
| Math       | 74  | 72     | 76   | 97             |
| Science    | 75  | 74     | 76   | 97             |
| Social St. | 92  | 90     | 94   | 97             |

## 2009-10 ACT Mean Score Results for 12th Grade Students

|        | English | Math | Reading | Science | Composite |
|--------|---------|------|---------|---------|-----------|
| GPPSS  | 23.3    | 23.3 | 23.3    | 22.8    | 23.3      |
| State  | 18.9    | 19.7 | 19.7    | 19.9    | 19.7      |
| Nation | 20.5    | 21.0 | 21.3    | 20.9    | 21.0      |

## 2009-10 SAT Results for 12th Grade Students

|        | # Tested  | Critical Reading | Math Mean Score |
|--------|-----------|------------------|-----------------|
| GPPSS  | 138       | 601.4            | 616.5           |
| State  | 5,606     | 585              | 605             |
| Nation | 1,547,990 | 501              | 516             |

## Advanced Placement (AP) Update

The total number of AP tests taken by district students increased to 1,627 in 2009/10, up from 1,432 in 2008-09. The district percentage of tests passed remains a very healthy 78%, well above state and national averages.

## Trombly students Skype their science lesson

Students in the technology-rich classroom of Susan Howey recently SKYPED with a classroom in Webster, NY to share the results of a science project. Principal Walt Fitzpatrick said each class worked in groups to package a Pringle chip so it would reach the other school whole via U.S. mail. The goal was to design a package that required less volume and density yet allowed the chip to be shipped without being damaged. Using their Smartboard and Skype, the classes watched each other open the packages and examine the chips.

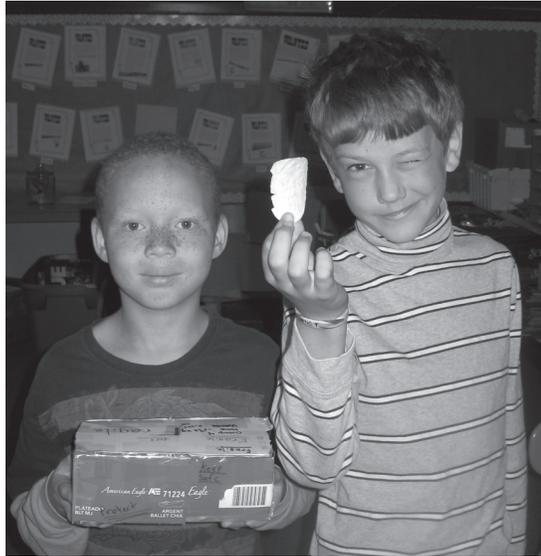
“Our class designed 10 packages and their class designed eight packages,” said Howey. “Of the 18 packages, 13 arrived 100% intact, four had only minor ‘chips’ and one was significantly damaged.”

As each package was opened the children cheered the condition of each chip. Howey said using this technology greatly increased the kids enthusiasm for the project because they met the kids who would be opening their Pringles packages, in other words they knew their audience.

Howey added, “My students had fun learning about the engineering/design process, specifically materials versus the mass/volume of a design and applying this knowledge to their packages. I thoroughly enjoyed this project not only for the learning it inspired in my students but also for the collaboration it fostered as we began a new school year.”

Specifically this project addresses these areas of the curriculum:

- Students measured using common tools and selected appropriate units of measure.



- Students solved applied problems about volumes of rectangular prisms using multiplication and division and the appropriate units.

Video-conferencing like this broadens the perceived boundaries of our classrooms; students truly can share their learning with anyone. Howey’s class is now planning to send their New York friends some Better Made chips and some diamanté poems they wrote.

“The chips are our way of saying thanks for doing the challenge with us, and the poetry is being sent so that my students’ writing will gain a larger peer audience,” said Howey. She said they will work with their partner class throughout the year and guarantees that technology in various forms will continue to be part of that partnership.

To learn more about this modern twist on the classic egg drop challenge you may remember from your school days, visit <http://teachers.egfi-k12.org/activity-package-the-pringle/>. There you will find a description of eGFI (*Engineering, Go For It!*) which is brought to classrooms around the country by the American Society for Engineering Education as well as the rules and scoring guide for the competition.

### Project Find and Child Find

If your child age birth to six years is experiencing developmental delays, “Don’t worry, but don’t wait.” Contact Deborah Jackson, Director of Student Services at 313/432-3856. Or, if you suspect your school-age child has a disability affecting his or her academic performance, notify your child’s teacher, counselor, or principal or call 313/432-3856.

### Pesticide Notification

As part of the Grosse Pointe Public School System’s Integrated Pest Management Program (IPM), pesticides are occasionally applied. Under Michigan Regulation 637 as amended, you have the right to be informed prior to any pesticide application made to the school grounds and buildings. In certain emergencies, pesticides may be applied without prior notice, but you will be provided notice following any such application.

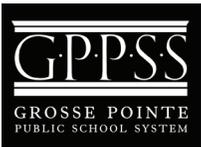
If you wish to be notified of pesticide applications during the 2010/11 school year, please submit the following information to the address below:

- 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

### SERVE connects volunteers

Students Electing to Respond to Volunteerism through Education (SERVE) is a resource designed to be the bridge which brings students together with meaningful volunteer opportunities. Share ideas through [serve@gpschools.org](mailto:serve@gpschools.org), or by calling the SERVE district office in South’s Wicking Library at 313/432-3770.



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

**2010 Board of Education**

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Non-profit  
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 Permit #6307  
 Detroit, MI

**Partners in Learning, page 6**

**A million reasons to be thankful for GPFPE**

Thanks to the generosity of numerous individuals, foundations and business partners, the Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education has helped fund programs and projects benefiting students at every school and grade level:

- F.A.S.T. Reading (K-12)= \$230,436
- Destination Imagination = \$49,015
- Using Pictures in Writing (grades 3, 4, 5) = \$12,022
- Easy Access to High School Success Writing Pilot = \$14,600
- Elementary Foreign Language (4/5) = \$13,500
- Music in Math (K-4) = \$6,409
- Challenge Day (9-12) = \$10,500
- Scholarship trip to NYC = \$1,000
- English as a Second Language Library (K-12) = \$375
- Natatorium = \$213,788
- Chinese Artist Visitation = \$825
- Full Circle Upscale Resale (Special Education work experience) = \$2,000
- Writing Boost Camps (4/5) = \$20,000
- FASTT Math Software (2)= \$17,250
- Homework Clubs at each elemen-

- tary and middle school = \$32,280
- Conceptual Physics Lab Equipment (grade 8) = \$35,507
- Struggling Learner Transition Camp (grade 9) = \$3,300
- Social Studies Supplies (2)= \$1,532
- FOSS Science Kits (4/5) = \$1,696
- Economic Literacy (K-5) = \$17,786
- NJHS Read Across America Pilot (Pierce) = \$498
- Diverse Differentiated Materials Pilot (Poupard grades K-5) = \$480
- Summer Reading Pilot (K-5) = \$3,040
- Elementary Grade Level Leaders = \$2,400
- Cross Curricular Art = \$2,119
- Classroom Technology = \$300,000
- Fluff & Fold - Upscale Resale (Special Education work experience) = \$2,550
- My Access to Writing Success (6-8) = \$8,850

**Total Impact = \$1,003,758**

GPFPE is an independent non-profit. For information or to contribute, call 313/432-3058 or visit [www.gpfpe.org](http://www.gpfpe.org).

**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 Gold Card or event calendar, call 313/432-3007.

**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 the new director of child care programs [andrea.sanders@gpschools.org](mailto:andrea.sanders@gpschools.org).

**High school orientations**

Both high schools welcome families of incoming students to their orientation nights:

- North - Wednesday, 1/12, at 6:30 p.m.
- South - Monday, 12/6 at 7 p.m.