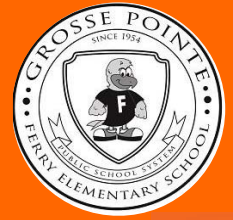


# Ferry Features & Facts



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## Principal Message

Dear Parents/Guardians,

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Retention Law to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level. In the following pages of this newsletter you will find a letter from Keith Howell, our Director of PreK-Elementary Education. The letter gives more information about the reading law and the guidelines it sets forth regarding K-3 students performing below grade level expectations. Please take time to read the letter to gain a better understanding of State expectations and our already successful local plan that is consistent with the requirements identified in the Third Grade Reading Law.

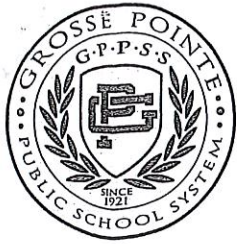
Prior to December conferences parents of students that qualify for reading supports will receive a letter from me giving additional information about the available supports and/or services that your child is receiving. At conferences, you will also receive an Individualized Reading Plan from your child's teacher.

Please refer to Mr. Howell's letter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Wishing you a very happy Thanksgiving,



Mrs. Hinz



**Department of Curriculum,  
Instruction and Assessment**

**Keith Howell**

Director of PreK- Elementary Instruction

389 St. Clair Avenue  
Grosse Pointe, Michigan 48230-1599  
Phone: (313) 432-3044  
Fax: (313) 432-3041  
E-Mail: [keith.howell@gpschools.org](mailto:keith.howell@gpschools.org)  
Twitter: @principalhowell

Dear Parent/Guardian(s),

As you know, reading is the foundation for success in school and it is essential for all subjects. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Retention Law to ensure that students exit third grade reading at or above grade level. The law states that beginning with the 2019-20 school year, third-graders could be retained if they demonstrate reading proficiency levels that are more than one grade level behind. Schools are required to assess the reading skills of all K-3 students at least three times per year in an effort to identify struggling students. Students experiencing deficiencies would be required to have an Individual Reading Plan (IRP) created in partnership with their teacher, principal, and parents. With the exception of the retention language, this law is consistent with Grosse Pointe Public School Systems historical approach and dedication to a multi-tiered system of support for our students.

The Grosse Pointe Public School System monitors student progress with Fall/Winter/Spring NWEA testing while using Fountas & Pinnell (Benchmark Reading Assessment) and other classroom assessments to determine a differentiated reading approach for students. Classroom teachers provide Tier II interventions while our trained Literacy Coaches provide Tier III small group instruction for those who qualify. **During December conferences, parents will receive additional information about the available supports and/or services that their child is receiving because they qualify for an IRP. At that time you will receive the IRP, identifying the interventions that are already in place, along with any additional strategies to support your child at home.** The new legislation will just add to the already existing supports that your children are accustomed to receiving.

During the Fall of 2017, a team of educators and administrators will continue to update our already successful local plan to be consistent with the requirements identified in the Third Grade Reading Law. This will be an easy transition as many of the best practices within the law have been in place here for quite some time. The district will continue to comply with the mandated testing, keeping our instructional focus on what is best and developmentally appropriate for our students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.

Additional information regarding the legislation will be made available on our website in the near future. We appreciate your ongoing support as partners in education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Keith Howell'.

Keith Howell





November/December 2017

## A message from the music room:

Attention families in the following classes:  
Gill, Erhard/Schrade, Sattelmeier, Ellis,  
Walsh, Fischer, Aldrich, McKelvey & Grade  
4/5 Choir

The countdown is on for our Ferry Winter  
Concert on Tuesday, December 5th at  
7:00p.m. at Parcels Middle School.

Students are to report to assigned  
rooms at Parcels at 6:45p.m.  
Performers are encouraged to wear  
"Dressy Best."

Come join us as we kick off the  
season in style! If you have any  
questions, please contact Mrs. Magill at  
[magillm@gpschools.org](mailto:magillm@gpschools.org)

## Roslyn Traffic Reminders for Kindergarten Parents

Pull as far forward as possible before  
dropping off your child.

Once your child is dropped off, please exit  
the drop-off line.

Be respectful of your fellow parents. There  
are 50 kindergarten parents trying to get as  
close to the kindergarten door as possible.  
This can happen as long as everyone keeps  
the line moving. Do not keep your car  
standing in the drop off loop for any reason  
except the brief time it takes your child exit  
your vehicle.

GIVE A HAND FOR THE *Holidays*  
Donate \$5 or 5 lbs.

## FOOD DRIVE

TO BENEFIT  
Gleaners  
Community  
Food Bank

Please fill this bag with non-perishable food  
items and return it to [Ferry Elementary]

### Most Needed Items

- Tuna fish
- Cereal/Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter
- Hearty Soups or stews
- Canned:**
  - Fruit in juice or light syrup
  - Beans
  - Low Sodium Vegetables



1 Pound of Food  
= 0.83 Meals

[November 13—29]

Feeding Hungry People and Nourishing Our Communities

Parents for  
**UNITY**  
in  
**DIVERSITY**

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 30th  
6:30pm to 8:00pm at Defer Elementary Library  
Topic: Everyone has a Story

Child care available for 11/30 meeting! Let us know if you're bringing a child so we  
can provide enough sitters. Contact Susan: [susansuto@yahoo.com](mailto:susansuto@yahoo.com) (3+ years old, please)



November 20	Fisher Field Trip
November 20	Nest Activity
November 21	<b>Half Day</b> for Students
	1st Grade 50th day Celebration
November 22-24	<b>No School.</b> Thanksgiving Break
November 28	Student Lighthouse Team
	Boy Scout Troop 34
November 29	Choir Rehearsal
	Girl Scouts Troop 71293
	Foods Drive Ends
November 29 & 30	Nature Club Meeting
December 1	Elementary Trimester 1 marks due in Zangle end of day
December 4	Choir Rehearsal
December 5	Concert - Choir
	Elementary Report Cards Distributed
December 6	ES - Evening Conferences
December 6, 14 & 20	Nature Club Meeting
December 7	ES 1/2 Day. PM & Evening Conferences
December 8	PTO - Santa Dinner
December 12	Student Lighthouse Team
December 25 - January 2	<b>No School for Students - Winter Break</b>





# Thanksgiving

In the United States, the fourth Thursday in November is called Thanksgiving Day.

On this day, Americans give thanks for the blessings they have enjoyed during the year. Thanksgiving is usually a family day, celebrated with big dinners and happy reunions

**The first American Thanksgiving** was held in Plymouth, Massachusetts in 1621. The people of Plymouth had come to America from England in 1620. In their native land they had been called Puritans because they wished to “purify” the Church of England. Before 1600, some of them decided that they could not reform the Church from within, so they broke away and formed their own churches. When English officials began to persecute them, they fled to Holland.



Several years passed. The puritans living in Holland were threatened by religious suppression and war and were saddened to see their children growing up Dutch instead of English. They wanted to keep their native language and traditions and to be free from religious persecution. Once again, they thought of moving. This time they considered America. In an unsettled land they would finally be free to live as they chose; and the idea of bringing the word of Christ to remote parts of the world appealed to them immensely. Some English merchants agree to finance their journey in return for a share of the profits produced by the new colony. So after traveling from Holland back to England, a small group of Puritans, together with some other passengers, set sail for the New World. The Puritans began to call themselves Pilgrims because of their wanderings in search of religious freedom.

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**It was September of 1620 when they ship, called Mayflower, left port with 102 men, women, and children on board**

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This was the worst season of the year for an ocean crossing, and the trip was very rough. Yet, during the voyage, the travelers suffered only one death. Since there was also a birth aboard ship, the Mayflower was still carrying 102 passengers when, after sixty-five years at sea, she landed in Provincetown Harbor, inside the tip of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. The party had planned to land further south, nearer to the only other English colony in America, which was in Jamestown, Virginia. But errors in navigation and adverse winds brought the Mayflower to New England.



The Pilgrim leaders knew that they were in unsettled territory which had no governing body. They also knew that in order to survive, every society needs a means of establishing and enforcing proper rules of conduct. Partly to protect themselves from rebels within their own ranks, forty-one men aboard the Mayflower held a meeting to choose their first governor and sign the historic Mayflower Compact, the first formal agreement for self-government in America.

For about a month longer, the Pilgrims lived aboard ship and sent out scouting parties to explore the coastline of Cape Cod Bay. At Plymouth, the scouts found a harbor with excellent fishing, some cleared land, cornfields, little rippling brooks with pure, fresh water, and a high hill that could be fortified. The site had once been an Indian village, but a smallpox epidemic a few years earlier had killed the entire Indian population. The scouts steered their small boat back to the Mayflower and reported their discovery. A few days later, the Mayflower sailed across Cape Cod Bay and anchored in Plymouth Harbor. Coming ashore in their small boat, the Pilgrims landed (according to tradition) on a large rock later named Plymouth Rock. This was the beginning of the second permanent English settlement in America.



The Pilgrims were poorly trained and poorly equipped to cope with life in the wilderness. During their first winter in the new land, they suffered tremendously. Poor food, hard work, infectious diseases, and bitterly cold weather killed about half of them. By the end of this terrible first winter, only about fifty Plymouth colonists remained alive.

One spring morning in 1621, an Indian walked into the little village of Plymouth and introduced himself in a friendly way. Later, he brought the Indian chief, Massasoit, who gave gifts to the Pilgrims and offered assistance. The Indians of Massasoit's tribe taught the Pilgrims how to hunt, fish, and grow food. They taught the Pilgrims to use fish for fertilizer in planting corn, pumpkins, and beans. Because of this help from the Indians, the Pilgrims had a good harvest.

Governor William Bradford was following an ancient tradition when, in the fall of 1621, he issued a proclamation establishing a day of thanksgiving to God. The Governor also decided to use this



religious occasion to strengthen the bond of friendship between the Pilgrims and their Indian neighbors. So he invited Chief Massasoit and his braves to share the Thanksgiving feast.



The Indians gladly accepted and sent five deer ahead. The Pilgrim men went hunting and returned with turkey and other wild game. The women of Plymouth prepared delicious dishes from corn, cranberries, squash, and pumpkins.

The first Thanksgiving dinner was cooked and served out of doors. Although it was late autumn, huge fires kept the hosts and guests warm. Massasoit and ninety Indians joined the Pilgrims for the first Thanksgiving feast. The celebration lasted three days! On the first day, the Indians spent most of the time eating. On the second and third days, they wrestled, ran races, sang, and danced with the young people in the Plymouth Colony. The holiday was a great success.



Many of the traditions of the modern American Thanksgiving come from that first Thanksgiving celebration more than 350 years ago. The modern Thanksgiving turkey is much like the ones that were hunted in the forests around Plymouth. Squash and corn, which were also harvested by the early Pilgrims, appear on the Thanksgiving table. Pumpkin pie and Indian pudding (a custard made from corn) are traditional Thanksgiving desserts.

The first Thanksgiving lasted three days. Today, for many Americans, it is a four-day holiday. Schools are closed on Thanksgiving Day and the day after. Many adults have both Thursday and Friday off from work. Relatives from other cities, students who have been away at school, and many other Americans travel large distances to spend the holiday at home.

**“Thanksgiving is a time for family and friends to gather and share time together. It is a good time to reflect on the past and create memories for the future”**

**In a world where so many are hungry,  
May we eat this food with humble hearts;  
In a world where so many are lonely,  
May we share this friendship with joyful  
hearts.**

**– Traditional, American**



# Library's Digital Picks



## Digital Picks

*From your Elementary Library  
Media Specialists*

**November 2017**  
Volume 6 Issue 3

*The Grosse Pointe Public Schools offer easy, 24-7 access to a variety of kid-friendly digital resources for reading and research. Links to all of these wonderful websites/databases can be found on our school's homepage under the "Library" tab--just select "GPPS Library Reference Sources" and explore!*



**BookFLIX** pairs high-quality Weston Woods videos of more than 120 popular fiction stories with non-fiction e-books on related topics. Themes include "Animals and Nature," "Earth and Sky," "People and Places," "ABCs and 123s," and "Adventure." Games and puzzles add to the fun!



**Britannica** and **World Book** have been helping students research for generations! These kid-centric digital versions provide trustworthy and current information in an engaging combination of articles, images, maps, infographics, videos and games. Links to additional sources, a built-in dictionary, AND a read-aloud feature make these invaluable resources for curious K-5 researchers.



**Kids InfoBits** is an easy-to-navigate database of timely articles, images, infographics, and videos on popular topics, drawn from a variety of reference books, magazines, and news periodicals.



**Kiddle** offers a kid-safe alternative to searching the web with Google. A visual search engine for kids powered by Google, Kiddle offers webpages, images, and videos selected and vetted by Kiddle editors especially for a young audience.

## Elementary Library Media Specialists

- **Danielle Gostomski:** Kerby, Mason, Poupard, Richard
- **Amy Hermon:** Kerby, Maire, Poupard, Richard
- **Sherry Martin:** Defer, Ferry, Mason, Monteith, Poupard
- **Cheryl Quinlan:** Defer, Kerby, Maire, Mason, Monteith
- **Rachel Walpole:** Defer, Richard, Trombly







**Our mission is to celebrate and grow our love of nature and inspire others**

**We will meet with Ms. Lassiter on Thursdays at lunch in room 120 on the following dates:**

**Nov. 30      Dec. 14      Jan. 4      Jan. 18      Feb. 15**

**And with Ms. Moores on Wednesday at lunch in room 119 on the following dates:**

**Nov. 29      Dec. 6      Dec. 20      Jan. 10      Jan. 24      Feb. 7**



learned a little about why leaves change color in the fall. Then we did leaf rubbings to create autumn placemats.

We are enjoying the children's enthusiasm as we celebrate and grow our love of nature!

Ms. Moores and Mrs. Lassiter  
Nature Club Coordinators

The Nature Clubs had fun exploring Ferry's nature center with a scavenger hunt where we worked with partners to find items on a list. We also searched for signs of animal life in this habitat. We made a list of possible animals and are in the process of doing a little research about each of these animals to share with Ferry students and staff on video announcements.

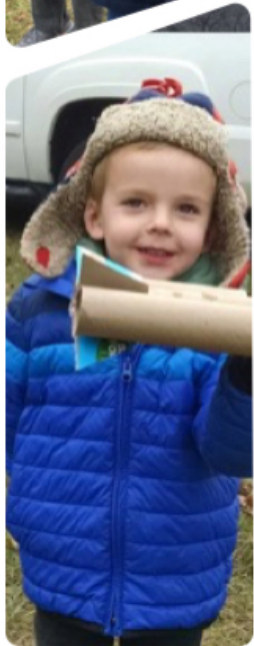
The trees around Ferry and in the nature center are ablaze with amazing color. The children





## CUB SCOUT PACK 34

### Fall Camp Out - Cole Base Canoe



A scout is always prepared.

We braved the weather, the rain, and the cold;

We endured the long drive, a weekend without technology, and away from our home;

We went on a long hike, had fun with the activities, and scared by the stories,

We made friends, we learned about each other, and we learned about cooperation,

We laughed, we played, we built rockets, dutch ovens, and shelters,

But mostly, we learned that we can accomplish many things.



# THE ART ROOM

All is going swimmingly in the art room.

Students are slowly beginning to start some winter themed art work; as our weather has very abruptly reminded us, it is COLD! Please remember to view the art work on [Artsonia](#), our online art gallery. Many parents have asked about promotions or sales for Artsonia. As always, thank you for the support of the arts.

Below is the info I have from Artsonia:

## **November 13 Holiday Kickoff - Greeting Cards Sale**

Artsonia will kick off the season with a special holiday greeting card sale. Family members can choose the artwork and design they'd like to appear on the front, and a personalized message to appear in the inside.

## **November 20 Holiday Ornaments**

Our beautiful holiday ornaments make great keepsakes for families down through the years. These sturdy metal ornaments are fashioned into fun holiday-themed shapes such as a snowmen and sleighs, and feature the student's artwork in the center.

## **November 27 Favorite Products**

The holiday season will be in full swing as we offer a special sale on our most popular products such as coffee mugs and ornaments.

## **December 11 Last Minute Stocking Stuffer Ideas**

The last sales of the year offer up some great last-minute gift ideas for stocking stuffers! It features an assortment of our most popular products, just in time to wrap up holiday shopping.

## **2017 Holiday Shipping Deadlines**

**December 14 (Thursday)** Last Day Standard Delivery Service

**December 19 (Tuesday)** Last Day Express Delivery Service (extra charges apply)

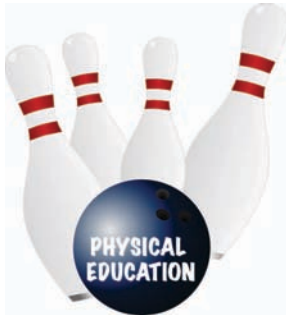
**Also get 25% off any one regular priced item using promo code: [HolidayFunds17](#). Code valid through December 14th, 2017.**



# What Makes Ferry So...

## *“Special”*

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Bowling has been “strikingly” amazing this month. Hopefully, your family can bowl over Thanksgiving break for added fun. Ask your kids about the tips that they have learned. They should know what fingers go in the bowling ball holes and where the best place to aim is to get a strike.

Next in P.E., we will be working on our eye/hand coordination with Speed Stacks. Don’t be surprised when your kids get out the cups and start stacking them at home. If your kids are interested in Speed Stacks you can order them on the web at [speedstacks.com](http://speedstacks.com). This could be a great Christmas gift idea.

**I hope your family has a wonderful holiday season !**

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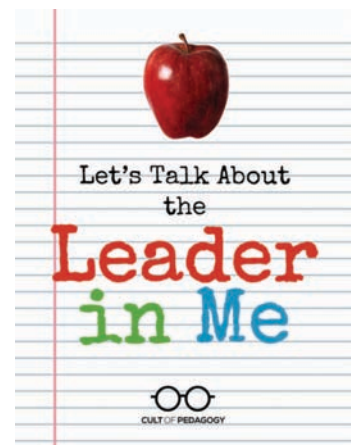
# The Leader in Me®

The Leader in Me is a process for school-wide transformation that is designed to enhance students' life skills and workforce readiness.

The process also directly impacts staff effectiveness and engagement, and creates a safe and vibrant learning environment. Indirectly, families, communities, and workplaces also benefit.

In short, The Leader in Me process involves:

- 1) Training the entire school staff in basic leadership principles.
- 2) The staff then takes the 7 Habits and other leadership principles to students by embedding the principles into classroom lessons, hall displays, and school-wide activities and systems. Furthermore, students and staff are given opportunities to apply the principles by taking on leadership roles.
- 3) Students take the principles home and into the community



# The Leader in Me®

To be most effective in the 21st century, students need to become proficient in core subjects such as reading, writing, science, and math. But it is becoming increasingly important for them to also become proficient in basic social and life skills. In short, they need to have the mindsets, skill-sets, and tool-sets to: **1)** take care of themselves, to become independent, **2)** to interact well with others, to become interdependent, and **3)** to continually improve and stay current over time. The 7 Habits and The Leader in Me connect directly to these issues in the following ways:

	<i>The 7 Habits</i>	<i>Mindsets</i>	<i>Skill-sets</i>	<i>Tool-sets</i>
<b>Taking Care of Self</b> (Becoming Independent)	<b>1: Be Proactive</b>  <b>2: Begin with the End in Mind</b>  <b>3: Put First Things First</b>	<i>I am responsible for my actions and attitudes.</i>  <i>I have a plan.</i>  <i>I do the most important priorities first.</i>	Initiative Goal-setting Planning Time Management Organization	Leadership Notebook
<b>Working Well with Others</b> (Becoming Interdependent)	<b>4: Think Win-Win</b> <b>5: Seek First to Understand, then to be Understood</b>  <b>6: Synergize</b>	<i>I find ways everyone can win.</i>  <i>I listen before I talk.</i>  <i>Working together is better.</i>	Conflict Management Listening Public Speaking Teamwork Valuing Diversity Creative Problem Solving	Quality Decision Tools
<b>Staying Fit &amp; Renewed</b> (Sustaining Growth)	<b>7: Sharpen the Saw</b>	<i>I live a balanced life.</i>	Healthy Choices Emotional Wellness Lifelong learning Purposeful Living	

# Professional Development

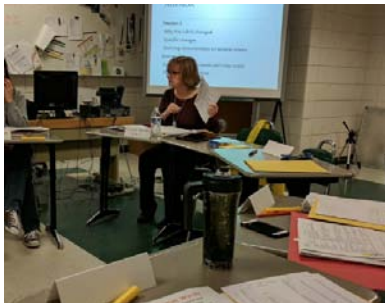


#OneGP

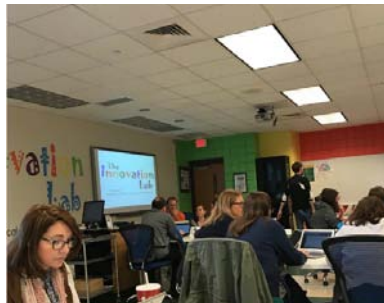
NOVEMBER  
7TH



The whole district together for #OneGP professional development.



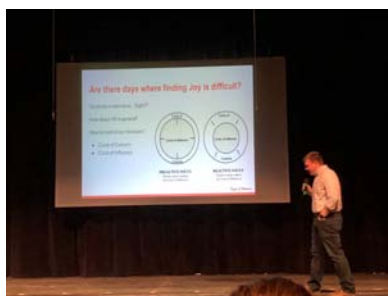
Thanks Glenda for sharing writing strategies #onegp



Great Google work session #onegp



Great job helping us focus on why we got into education in the first place! It's going to be a great day of learning!



Circle of Control Vs Circle of Influence The power of choosing to focus on the the positive! We all have a



Preschool training - identify development by age and stage! Great learning #OneGp





## ATTENTION: PARENTS OF GPPSS STUDENTS!

You're invited to meet with us and participate in the conversation about topics related to diversity and learning in our schools!

Join us as we discuss and reflect upon real situations our students are encountering on a daily basis, and how we, as parents and educators, can guide our children toward a greater awareness and appreciation of diversity in our community and beyond.

Each meeting will be held at a different school. All GPPSS district parents are welcome to attend.

### UPCOMING MEETING DATES:

November 30th at Defer

January 18th at Maire\*

March 22nd at Mason\*

April 26th at Trombly

May 24th at Ferry\*

All meetings will begin at 6:30pm  
and end at approximately 8:00pm



\*Discussion for these meetings led by Ms. Ginni Winters of Wayne County RESA

The Ferry PTO presents:

# Santa Dinner



**Friday, December 8, 2017**

**6:30– 9:00pm**

**Pasta Dinner** catered by Ferlitos - 6:30 & 7:30 seatings

**Visit with Santa—** photo package from Kaiser Studios

**Crafts & Activities**

**Santa Shop—** a variety of vendors available for shopping

**Raffle—** (50/50 and Gift Cards)

**\$10** per child includes Pasta Dinner, Crafts & Activities, and Family Photo Package  
Children age 3 and under are FREE

**\$8** per adult for Pasta Dinner (Dinner tickets NOT available at the door)

**\$7** per child includes Crafts & Activities and Photo Package (no dinner)

Questions? Contact Gemila Loper: 313-737-4149

**Please RSVP for Dinner by Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** (send this to school w/your child)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Child Dinner Tickets (age 4 and up) @ \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Adult Dinner Tickets @ \$8 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Child Tickets— activities only- NO Dinner @ \$7 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

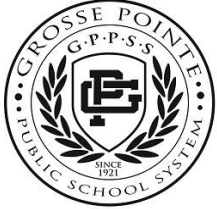
\*ALL children must be accompanied by an adult

**Preferred Seating Time:**

**6:30pm OR 7:30pm**

(please circle one)

TOTAL Amount Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ CASH\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (please make checks payable to Ferry PTO)



# News from Grosse Pointe Public Schools



## Lunch Notices on Fridays

As part of the new GPPSS Meal Charging Policy the district is sending proactive weekly notifications to those with more than \$0 but less than the cost of two meals in their account. This is being done in an effort to reduce the number of negative balances district wide. Please feel welcome to disregard if you don't intend to take advantage of the meal or ala cart options available. Menus and pricing information are available online by clicking the apple slice icon on the front page of every school site.



## Need a coat?

Grosse Pointe Rotary is generously sponsoring Operation Warmth again this year. If your student needs a new, warm winter coat, please tell your office secretary today or email the size, gender, school and name to [fannonr@gpschools.org](mailto:fannonr@gpschools.org) and we will quietly distribute them.



## Diversity Calendars produced with Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors

Diversity Calendars produced with Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors 100% of the proceeds from the What Diversity Looks Like 2018 Calendar will go to the GPPSS Diversity program. All artwork was created by GPPSS students. Calendars are \$10 each and only 500 copies will be printed. Reserve yours today with your credit card using [this secure order](#) form on the district website. Orders must be in by 12/8/17.



## Strategic Plan

Strategic Plan approved – what will you do to promote our mission and vision for the future

The Board of Education unanimously approved the GPPSS Strategic Plan

Our Vision: One GP →

where everyone learns, every day

Our Mission: Promote Innovation →

Maximize Potential → Embrace Community

[The document is posted here](#)

## District Partnerships

Install the Grosse Pointe Public Schools App on your phones and follow your children's schools.



You can receive messages informing of any happenings in your school, reminders, points of pride, etc.

 <p>GROSSE POINTE FOUNDATION FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION <i>Enriching. Engaging. Inspiring our Future.</i></p>	 <p>The Family Center Grosse Pointe • Harper Woods</p>	 <p>Scholarship through Service</p>
 <p>Full Circle Foundation</p>	 <p>Food Services</p>	 <p>MISTAR ParentPortal</p>