



## GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Each and Every Child, Each and Every Day

# Parcells Newsletter

March –April 2019

<http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/gpparcells>

## From the Principal's Desk

### Student Accomplishments

We are proud of the achievement of all of our Panthers over the last few months. Parcells 7th grade band received a 1st Division Superior Rating at MSBOA Festival, the 8th grade band received a 1st Division Superior Rating at MSBOA Festival, and the 7/8 Combined Orchestra received a 2nd Division Excellent Rating at MSBOA Festival. In vocal music, our 7/8 Boys Choir as well as both of our 7th and 8th Grade Girls groups received 1st Division ratings at the MSVMA festival. At the Scholastic Art Awards, four of our students were recognized for their achievements. Jacob Brook and Olivia Hutchins received Honorable Mention for their work, Chloe Harb a Silver Key, and Christopher Diamond received a Gold Key for his Digital Art. At the You Be the Chemist regional competition, Emmett Cho placed 5th place out of 48 competitors. Also with strong showings in the competition were Chloe Harb and Peter Hoffman. Way to Go Panthers!

**Report Cards Coming in Mid April:** Can you believe we are almost three quarters of the way through another year? While it is hard to believe that we've already reached April, I think back on the many accomplishment and achievements that have been made by our students and staff over the past seven months. The marking period officially ended on March 29th. Report cards will be available for online viewing on April 16th. With only one quarter to go, Mrs. Redlin and I will be meeting with all of our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade students to review what is expected of students in order to be eligible for the promotion ceremony. As always, I am always available to discuss any concern you are having at Parcells.

**Congratulations to the Girls Basketball, Swimming, and Wrestling Teams:** Our Panther Athletic Department has been busy over the last few months, with strong showings by our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Girls Basketball, Boys Wrestling, and Swim Teams. Win or lose, our Panthers showed determination, sportsmanship, and teamwork. Congratulations to all of our students and coaches.

**M-Step, PSAT, NWEA Testing:** Our 8th graders will be testing season with the PSAT Math and English test as well as the MSTEP Science and Social Studies tests after Spring Break. This will be the first year that the state is using the PSAT test as the benchmark test for 8th graders. At the end of the month, our 6th and 7th graders will also take the MSTEP in English and Math. Finally, all students will be tested in Reading, Math using the NWEA MAP test. These results will be used for Honors and High School placement. Please make sure that your student gets a good night's sleep, eats a healthy breakfast, and is at school on time during our testing days.

Thank you all for your ongoing support. I hope you had a great Spring Break and are ready for a strong finish to the year!

Sincerely,

Mr. Hartley



## **From the Assistant Principal's Desk**

Congratulations Parcels Families!!

We successfully raised the money we were trying to raise and are getting busy preparing for the work to be done sometime in April!! I will be sure to keep you posted!

The students had a fabulous time at the PantherPalooza and I received so many compliments from those that worked with us that day about how well behaved our students are! So many of our teachers as well as parents contributed extra money which allowed any student that wanted to be part of the fun to attend! And they all had a great time! Many 7th and 8th grade students who doubted the fun reported that they were pleasantly surprised. 6th grade students waited patiently for their turn as their lunch overlapped the 7th grade Palooza time and seeing them with anticipation on their faces was priceless!!

We had so many parent and staff volunteers that really helped everything run smoothly. Thank you to everyone that donated, volunteered, gave extra, and contributed in any way possible. We also continue to get donations for our auction coming up in early June - Thank you (still accepting!) One family just donated a box of Emoji pillows that will be a big hit for our students!!! (Thank you)!

It's important that students feel a sense of pride in their school and our community has really come together in a strong way to help make it a place they are excited to come to and spend so many hours of their day. Because of your generosity with PantherPalooza we will be able to support the auction with a \$3,000.00 donation. This will go toward physical items, gift cards and baskets for kids. For our students- it is completely FREE!! As a reminder, students will use the Panther Bucks they banked all year from good behavior and positive choices and will be able to put in to win items they are most excited for. I recently bought a Darth Vader cookie jar from Marketplace on FB and donated it because some of our kids just love Star Wars!

**PROMISES PROMISES!**

Don't worry, I haven't forgotten the promises!! Some students that earned the higher amounts will receive their prizes after break when we continue the celebration with a Pep Assembly.

We passed the \$12,500 mark and that means Mr. Hartley has a promise to keep!! We recently reached out to Mr. Fitzpatrick who is the elementary principal at Trombley to get advice since his students already "Suspended him!" We appreciate Mr. Hartley's participation and fun spirit! We will do that on Tuesday, April 16th during our pep assembly!!

Because of our awesome families, we also dominated the \$15,000 mark - and Mr. Hartley will need to camp out on our field!!! I told him not to worry- we will think of fun activities for the evening where the kids, staff, and I can hang out with him for awhile and have some Parcels fun! The kids are really looking forward to that and I believe that will be the same week as the pep assembly. I will keep everyone posted on the exact date. We will announce the date of the camp out immediately after spring break.

Thank you again!

Debra Redlin  
Assistant Principal

## ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

On Sunday, March 10th, sixth grader Gruhith Yerramalli competed in the WXYZ-Scripps Regional Spelling Bee at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit. Seventy-four school spelling bee champions from across Wayne County took the stage attempting to earn a spot in the National Spelling Bee to take place in late May in Washington, D.C. Gru represented Parcels and our community excellently, placing fifth in a very large field of spellers. Gru spelled nine words correctly along the way, dropping out in the tenth round. He spelled "melba," "toboggan," "mercerize," "zinnia," "ersatz," "fete," "masala," "kielbasa," and "vaquero," before missing on "witloof." The Parcels community is very proud of your efforts and your achievement, Gru.

As the 3rd quarter draws to a near, the English Department continues to learn through the study of classic core novels and emphasis on writing skills that emphasize rigor and a great deal of creativity.

The 6th grade Narrative English courses are in the midst of the *King Arthur unit, using the medieval tales as a way to examine common literary themes like bravery, adversity, loyalty and love*. 7th grade Narrative English classes continue their reading of Avi's *Charlotte Doyle*. Some 8th grade classes are moving through the lengthy, Revolutionary War-era novel *Chains* while others continue their study of the classic *Flowers for Algernon*.

The 6th grade Informational/AVID classes have spent much of this quarter working on understanding and utilizing persuasive techniques. The persuasive essay is a key part of the 3rd quarter curriculum as it builds on the compare-contrast unit from January and February.

AVID students enjoyed their time at the Detroit Pistons College and College Night on March 6th. Students were able to meet and listen to inspiring speakers from Palace Sports and Entertainment, interact with representatives from area colleges and universities and then enjoy a Pistons victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves. A fun and informative evening was capped when students were able to shoot a post-game free throw on the court of Little Caesars Arena.

AVID classes are looking forward to another field trip in April, when students and staff will take a college visit to Michigan State University. Students will have lunch in the Brody Hall Cafeteria and then take a walking tour on the banks of the Red Cedar.

In closing, the English Department would like to thank John Aufdemberge for his ongoing great work here at Parcels. John has filled in more than admirably for Mr. Bens while Mr. Bens fulfills his civic duty as a juror in Detroit. Thanks Mr. Aufdemberge!

## Mathematics

**Algebra I:** Students are beginning the factoring unit. This is one of the most challenging units for students. Make sure they are keeping current with their homework.

**Pre-Algebra:** Students just finished the systems of equations unit and will move to geometry after break.

**Math 7:** Students are finishing the Percent unit. Next, they will begin studying Measures of Central Tendency (MCT).

**Math 6:** Student are finishing their Variable Expressions work and then will move on to the Introduction to Algebra unit, which is focused on solving one-step equations.

Your child can get extra help Monday through Thursday after school in the homework room (room 108). NHS students from the high school along with Mrs. Rabidoux (Parcells staff) will be available to assist students.

**Testing:** Standardized testing begins after break. 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take the PSAT and 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders will take the MSTEP. All students will take the NWEA. Please make sure you child gets a good night's sleep and eats a good breakfast so they will perform at their best.

*Do not worry about your difficulties in Mathematics. I  
can assure you mine are still greater.*

*Albert Einstein*

# Important Dates to Remember

**LATE START EVERY MONDAY - SCHOOL STARTS AT 9:05 AM**

March 29	End of 3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter
April 1-5	<b>No School: Spring break</b>
April 8	Classes Resume – Late Start Monday
April 9	PSAT 8th grade
April 10	MSTEP Begins
April 19	No School: Good Friday
May 1-3	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Washington DC Trip
May 8	Instrumental/Choir Pre Festival Meeting 7 pm
May 20-21	Band/Orchestra/Choir Trip to Mackinac Island
May 27	<b>No School: Memorial Day</b>
May 29	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Honors Night 6:30 pm Parcels Auditorium, Reception Following
May 30	Spring Vocal Concert 7 pm
June 11	Promotion Ceremony Practice 2 <sup>nd</sup> hr.-Locker Clean Out 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion/Honors Ceremony 6:30 pm Parcels Auditorium, Reception Following
June 12	All School Field Trips
June 13	<b>A.M. Classes ONLY 11:34 am Dismissal</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Party 11:34 am till 1:30 pm
June 14	<b>A.M. Classes ONLY 11:00 am Dismissal</b> (last day for teachers) Talent Show 9:00 am till 11:00 am

Greetings from the choir room,

CONGRATULATIONS to our seventh and eighth grade singers for earning first division ratings at MSVMA District Choral Festival at Dakota High School on March 11, 2019! All choirs represented Parcels remarkably and also earned perfect scores in sight reading...an achievement worth celebrating!

CONGRATULATIONS, to our four solo singers who represented Parcels at MSVMA Middle School Solo and Ensemble Festival at Anchor Bay High School on Saturday, February 23. 7th graders Meredith Bayus, Sloane O'Neill, Emily Smith, and 8th grader Karly Harris each earned first division ratings. Keep up the fine work, singers!

We are quickly approaching our year-end events. Here is a quick look ahead for upcoming choir dates:

- April 20 - Final payment for Mackinac trip is due to travel agent.
- 
- Wednesday, May 8 @ 7pm - Trip meeting for Mackinac. Please plan on having at least one parent/guardian attend with the student who is going on the trip.
- 
- Monday-Tuesday, May 20-21 - Mackinac trip
- 
- May 30 @ 7pm - ALL CHOIRS spring concert
- 
- August 12-16 - All singers are invited and encouraged to participate in Grosse Pointe's annual Summer Choir. Registration information will be available soon.
- 

As summer approaches, and students have some more flexibility in their schedules, I encourage our middle school singers to consider taking private voice lessons. Voice teachers can help private students navigate their developing singing voices, work on music literacy skills, increase confidence, and so much more. If this is something that interests your young singer, please email me at [sarolil@gpschools.org](mailto:sarolil@gpschools.org) for a list of local voice teachers.

As always, feel free to email me with your thoughts and questions.

Leslie Saroli  
[sarolil@gpschools.org](mailto:sarolil@gpschools.org)



## The Counselors' Corner

# The Counselors' Corner

### March/April 2019

#### \* **WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)**

**March 5:** 2019-2020 WEB applications distributed to current 7<sup>th</sup> grade students

**March 15:** 2019-2020 WEB applications are due/singed in the Counseling Office

**March 29:** WEB acceptance letters sent home

**April 26<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Play Day with 2019-2020 WEB Leaders

#### \* **Spring Conferences!**

**Please stop by and visit your counselor during Spring Conferences in the Main Gym.**

Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30-3:00pm and 4:30-7:00pm

#### \* **End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:**

**March 29<sup>th</sup>!** Please make sure you are actively checking your student's Schoology and communicating with your student's teachers.

#### \* **Move Up IEP's: Mrs. Radant and Mrs. Palffy will be meeting with 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade IEP teams to ease middle/high school transitions.**

#### \* **Move Up 504's: Mrs. Radant and Mrs. Palffy will be meeting with 8<sup>th</sup> grade 504 teams to ease high school transition.**

#### \* **Let's finish the year strong! 4<sup>th</sup> quarter starts April 9<sup>th</sup>.**

- ◇ **Have your son or daughter pull up Schoology for you to review together.** If you feel you need to do this 2x a week, it may give you more time to get work in before the end of the week. This is especially helpful if your student is absent!
- ◇ **Ask to see your student's homework.** The cat and mouse game of "I left it at school" (school loading dock doors are open until 6pm usually from the back parking lot) and "I turned it in", delays the immediacy of being accountable for the work, and usually results in not turning in the homework or a lower grade.
- ◇ **It is always better to turn in work late than not at all** or turn it in 75% complete if that is all that is done. The power of a "o" destroys grades and makes it difficult to recover to a passing grade.
- ◇ Encourage your student to **communicate with their teachers.** If they are unable to do this successfully, you can teach them by helping them type an email to their teacher, perhaps copy your own email address on the communication. If students need help talking to their teacher, we can certainly coach them through this process. All middle school students should leave Parcels with the confidence to speak politely and clearly to their teachers to problem solve, as this is a vital skill for high school success.

**To find out more, check out the Counseling website and join us on Facebook (Parcells Middle School Counseling Office) and Twitter (@ParcellsCounsel) to be the first to hear what's new in the counseling offices.**

Please feel free to contact your student's counselor with any questions or concerns!

Kimberly Radant (A-K)

(313) 432-4618

[Kimberly.Radant@gpschools.org](mailto:Kimberly.Radant@gpschools.org)

Carla Palffy (L-Z)

(313) 432-4620

[Carla.Palffy@gpschools.org](mailto:Carla.Palffy@gpschools.org)

### Gym Shorts #4

The athletic teams are really busy with practices and games. March is the busiest time as Girls Basketball, Wrestling and club Swimming are all competing or getting ready to compete.

Girls Basketball is working hard to improve their skills on a daily basis. Both teams are carrying under 15 athletes and so that is a challenge to work with league rules due to low numbers.

Wrestling has doubled their team from last year that was 4 to 8. They will have 2 home meets on March 5 and 6 and will compete in a tournament March 16 at Fitzgerald High School.

Club swimming practices daily with meets against both Pierce and Brownell and then a Tri-meet at the end of the season.

Track will begin upon return from Spring Break so April 8, 2019. Please make sure your athlete has an updated emergency form (goldenrod paper), a current physical and is following the code of conduct for athletics.

Sixth grade Basketball will begin after break as well. This is a club sport (\$52), with our athletes having to make sure they also have a physical, gold colored medical release and a grade sheet. They practice daily for approximately 5 weeks. This is **CO-ED** with 2 teams practicing in different gyms. They compete on the same days at the same facilities, both Pierce and Brownell.

THANK YOU as always to the parents for paying for your athlete to be part of our program. Thank you for supplying funds for gear. Thank you for the countless rides you provide for your athlete to get home from practice and for the snacks that have been provided throughout the seasons. **WE COULD NOT DO THIS OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC PROGRAM WITHOUT OUR PARENTS!**

### THE ART DEPARTMENT

Art Classes went on a field trip to the Detroit Institute of Art, and the College for Creative Studies on February 26th.

Students participated in a scavenger hunt at the DIA and then saw the Scholastic Art show at CCS.





# Parcells Running Club

The Parcells Running Club is intended for any Parcells student or staff member interested in getting in shape and having fun at the same time. This would be a great way for potential North high school athletes to prepare for their high school athletic career.

The Running Club will be run by Mr. Cooper, the Varsity Girls' Cross Country coach at GPN. Runs will be held every Monday and Thursday after school from 3:30 – 4:15, starting Thursday, April 11.

Runs will start and end in Mr. Cooper's room (205). Dress appropriately for the weather outside.

Please turn the bottom portion of this form in to Mr. Cooper before the first run, April 11. ***You will NOT be allowed to run unless this form has been turned in with a parent signature.***

**STUDENTS MUST ALSO PAY THE CLUB FEE FOR '18-'19. REMEMBER, THE CLUB FEE IS PAID ONCE AND IS GOOD FOR ALL CLUBS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.**



\_\_\_\_\_ has my permission to be involved  
(first and last name) in the Parcells Running Club.

Parent's signature \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

# Bandwidth Focused on Academics



The District is working with our internet filter options to ensure appropriate bandwidth for instruction and testing. **Please be aware that as the District limits access, social media like Snapchat and Instagram will be using your family data uses and charges could increase.** Make sure to review with your student the cell phone policy that is on pages 11 and 12 in their student planner passed out the 1st day of school. Thank you for supporting our focus on academics.

## THE HOMEWORK STATION

The Homework Station is open after school Monday through Thursday from 3:25 to 4:25 in room 108. It's a great place to do homework, ask for help and work on projects. We have textbooks, calculators and other school supplies. Students may also use computers and a color printer for class projects. No sign up is necessary, and students may attend as often as they like.

### **HOMEWORK STATION**

**3:25-4:25**

**Monday-Thursday**

**ROOM 108**

- **Do you want to get your homework done before you get home?**
- **Are you having trouble understanding your homework?**
- **Do you need a computer/printer to complete your homework?**

**Come to the Homework Station! We have everything you need to help you understand and finish your homework. No sign up. Just drop in.**



## PTO Corner

**PTO Membership at Registration:** Please be sure to sign up for PTO Membership when you register your child online for the new school year. This will make the school directory available to you and your membership will also go toward numerous programs at the school that benefit our children. Please also consider volunteering for the various events held by the PTO. Your help is always appreciated!

**PTO Meetings:** PTO Meetings are open to all parents and are a great way to get involved in your child's school. They are generally held on the 3rd Monday of the month at 7:00, but some meetings are different due to holiday schedules or conflicts. Please check the school calendar for dates, or send an email to [paul@paulabke.com](mailto:paul@paulabke.com) for a schedule of meetings.

**Kroger Cards:** Please register your Kroger Card to benefit the Parcels PTO. (see instructions) Even if you signed up last year, the enrollment period ended in April and it is necessary to re-register. This is an easy source of income for the PTO and it doesn't cost you anything!

**School Clinic:** The Clinic is in need of volunteers. Even if it's only for a few hours, every bit helps. If you are interested, please contact Juli Mott Bastien.

**Kroger Plus Card Support Parcels – Enroll or Renew**  
**[www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) school id # 91050**



**Parcels is an Evergreen School**





## KROGER PLUS CARD FUNDRAISER – Enroll Now!



### Parcells Middle School (#91050) Kroger Plus Card Enrollment

You can support Parcells Middle School by shopping at Kroger and using a registered Kroger Plus Card. Every time you use your Plus Card (or telephone number) at check-out, Kroger donates a percentage back to Parcells Middle School. Your participation makes a difference in our school community!

**You can enroll your card any time during the year but don't wait, sign up now so the school can benefit year around! New this year, you do NOT need to re-enroll every year! If you are already enrolled you will continue to support Parcells Middle School!**

To get started, please follow the steps for NEW ENROLLMENT

Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and click on “No Account? Register” located at the top right corner of the page.

*If you are enrolling your card, please be aware that it is a two-part process. You have to complete both parts to link your Kroger Plus Card to Parcells Middle School.*

### Part One – Create a Kroger Account

- Provide your email address and create a password.
- Your password must be 6-12 characters long, and include at least one letter and one number.
- Select your preferred store. (Please note that Parcells Middle School will receive benefits wherever you shop.)
- Click the orange “Create Account” button.

### Part Two – Select Parcells Middle School as Your Community Rewards Partner

Go to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com) and click on “Sign In” at the top right corner of page. Using the email address and password sign in to your Kroger Account.



- Click on **your first name** at the top right corner of the page.
- You will be on the “Account Summary” page.
- First, add your Plus Card number or 10-digit phone number and your last name. If you experience a problem at this stage, please contact Kroger at 877.576.7587.
- Second, add your Personal Information. You do not need to input your birth date.
- Third, choose Parcells Middle School as your Community Rewards Partner. Begin by clicking the orange “Enroll” button. Then complete these three steps:
  1. Find your Organization. Type “**Parcells Middle School**” and click “Search.”
  2. Select your Organization. Select **Parcells Middle School (#91050)**.
  3. Click the orange “Enroll” button to complete your enrollment.

Now you have selected Parcells Middle School as your Community Rewards partner. Within one – two weeks, you should see a statement at the bottom of your receipts which says, “At your request, Kroger is donating to Parcells Middle School.”

*Thank you for taking the time to select Parcells Middle School as your Kroger Community Rewards Partner. We are grateful for your support. If you experience a problem during this process, please contact Kroger for assistance at 877.576.7587.*

You can also contact Jennifer Michalski at [jjmichal2@gmail.com](mailto:jjmichal2@gmail.com) or 313-310-0914.

# Your Grosse Pointe Public Library

The Grosse Pointe Public School System is grateful for its many community partnerships. To ensure we remain good neighbors with our partners in the Grosse Pointe Library System, we would like to take this opportunity to remind patrons of rules that will help us all utilize this community resource to its fullest potential.

Just as in school, there are guidelines for behavior and supervision at our local libraries. The library has a document entitled "Guidelines on Behavior" that will be enforced. It is available for review at the Youth Desk, but here are a few highlights we would appreciate your help in maintaining:

## Visiting the Library

- We encourage all patrons to work together in order to ensure a safe, positive learning environment.
- Loitering outside the library, or excessive entrance and exit, is disruptive to this environment which is designed to support study, reading and other quiet activities.
- Please remember the Woods branch parking lot off Mack Avenue is locked during drop-off (7:30-8:30 a.m.) and pick-up time (2:45-3:30 p.m.) for the safety of our children.
- Our libraries, particularly the Woods branch, are busiest from 3:15-5:30 p.m., so it may be helpful for other patrons to visit at non peak hours.
- Children under the age of 9 cannot be left unattended. Guardians or caregivers must be age 13 or above themselves to watch younger students in the library. The library staff is not responsible for supervision of your children. Childcare is available for a fee through the GPPSS Kids Club and details can be found at [www.gpschools.org](http://www.gpschools.org) or by calling 313-432-3067.

## Computer Use

- Students need a valid library card or knowledge of their card number to use computers.
- Livetutor.com is available free of charge from 3-10 p.m. every day of the week.
- Computer use is limited to 30 minutes to ensure equitable access.
- Only one student is allowed to sit at a computer.
- No food or drinks are allowed at the computer.
- Students may bring their own earphones to use with computers; the library does not provide these.
- Printing is available from youth computers for a small fee (10¢ per black and white page, \$1 for color).

## Working Together

- An expired library card or excessive fees may prevent patrons from using the computers or borrowing materials.
- Any patron, including students, with a pattern of disruptive behavior will be banned from the library.
- To keep track of library usage in those busy times, student patrons will be asked to sign in for programming or quiet study using their library card.

Please remember, this is our community library. Working together, parents, students, community members, and library and school personnel will maintain a positive library environment and experience for all.

