

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Each and Every Child, Each and Every Day

Parcells Newsletter

April 2015

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

Important dates in April

April 1 - Spirit Week-Clash Day
April 1 - 5 PM - 8 PM - Swim Finals @ South
April 2 - Spirit Week-Multiplicity Day
April 2 - End of Quarter 3
April 2 - Adjusted Schedule and
Locker Clean Out
April 3 - April 10 - Spring Break
April 13 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
April 16 - 7:30 AM - NJHS meeting
April 20 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
April 20 - Report Cards sent home
April 20 - 6th gr. Basketball Practice begins
April 20 - PTO Meeting in the school library
April 23 - 3:20 PM - Student Council/NJHS
Spring Clean Up
April 24 - 4:30 PM - Track @ South Lake
April 25 - 10 AM - 12 PM - Student Council/
NJHS Spring Clean Up
April 27 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
April 29 - May 1 - 8th Gr. DC Trip

**NOTE: 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony
has been moved to Monday, June
8th @ 6:30 PM in the Parcells
Auditorium.**

**After school homework help is available weekly on Mon. Wed.
and Thurs. from 3:25-4:25 in room 104.

*After school math help is available weekly on Mon., Tues. and
Thurs. from 3:25-4:25 in room B2.

**After school test make up day is every Thursday from 3:25-4:25
in room 100.

**ACE - Required opportunity for students to complete homework
assignments daily in the school library from
3:25 PM - 4:25 PM

**Please check the Parcells website calendar for updates and
further event information. www.gpschools.org/parcells

From the Principal's Desk

Promotion Ceremony Moved to the Evening: I am happy to announce that we will be moving our 8th Grade Promotion Ceremony to Monday, June 8th, at 6:30pm. We hope this change will provide our families with a better opportunity to celebrate this important benchmark in our students' educational career. As a result of this change, our annual Talent Show will be moved to the last day of school. Please plan on joining us for a short reception in the courtyard following the promotion ceremony.

Report Cards Coming After Break: Can you believe we are already 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. Following Spring Break, the 3rd Marking Period Report Card will be coming home. With only one quarter to go, Mr. Wolf and I will be meeting with all of our 8th 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 Swimming and Wrestling Teams: Great job to the Parcells Swim Team and coach, Greg Wolff. The team showed some outstanding growth this year, setting 5 new school records. Congratulations, also, to our wrestling team and their coach Mitch Sand on a successful season. They finished 4-3 this year, making this season the 4th year in a row with a winning season. The team placed top 10 at the Chatterton Tournament out of 20 teams. Way to go Panthers!

New Staff Welcome: I'd like to welcome a new staff member to the Parcells family. Mrs. Andrea Duso will be joining us as a Special Education Classroom Assistant. Welcome Mrs. Duso!

M-Step Testing: Over the next 6 weeks of school, we will be taking our 1st Annual MSTEP State Testing. The MSTEP will be replacing the MEAP Test, traditionally given in the fall. From April 13th - 24th, Eighth Grade students will be tested in Reading, Math, and Social Studies. From April 27th - May 8th, our Seventh Graders will be testing in Reading, Math, and Science. Finally, our Sixth Grade students will be tested in Reading and Math from May 19th - 29th. 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. Have a wonderful Spring Break, and we will see you back soon for a successful fourth quarter of our school year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Hartley



Happy Spring!

As you may have heard, our spring testing calendar has been lengthened this year due to changes with the MDE's new annual assessment, the **M-STEP** (Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress). Changes with the test include a writing performance task in Math and ELA sections at each grade level. Our Math and English teachers have been preparing students this semester for such changes. Other changes include our 7th and 8th grade ACT Explore test, which is now titled **ACT Aspire**. This assessment will be similar to the version administered in previous years. Our teachers have also begun integrating concepts into their instruction to prepare students for this assessment.

Students will be placed in grade level testing locations (and will not be testing in their P3 classes). We will communicate these locations with our students prior to Spring Break and will have easy to view posters placed in our hallways. We strongly encourage you to view our website for specific information regarding our testing calendar and testing locations for each grade level. Finally, if you have additional inquiries into either test, we encourage you to visit the following websites:

M-STEP: http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-22709_70117---,00.html

ACT Aspire: <http://www.discoveractaspire.org/>

Steve Wolf
Assistant Principal
Parcells Middle School, GPPSS

8TH GRADE TESTING SCHEDULE

8th grade Students Report to the Following Rooms on Listed Test Dates

M-STEP: April 14th - 5th and 6th hrs.

April 15th - P³ to 2nd hr.

April 21st – P3 to 2nd hr.

April 22nd – 3rd and 4th hrs.

April 23rd – 5th and 6th hrs.

ACT Aspire: May 19th & May 20th testing begins at 8:20 AM

7TH GRADE TESTING SCHEDULE

7th grade Students Report to the Following Rooms on Listed Test Dates

M-STEP: April 28th - 5th and 6th hrs.

April 29th – P3 to 2nd hr.

May 5th – P3 to 2nd hr.

May 6th - 3rd and 4th hrs. 7th

ACT Aspire: May 19th & May 20th testing begins at 8:20 AM

6TH GRADE TESTING SCHEDULE

6th grade Students Report to the Following Rooms on Listed Test Dates

M-STEP: May 19th and 20th testing begins at 8:20 AM

May 27th - P3 to 2nd hr.

May 28th - 5th and 6th hrs.

The Counselors' Corner

April 2015

WEB (Where Everyone Belongs)

- 8th grade WEB mentors will be working with 6th graders during their P3 on Tuesday 4/21. - Students selected as 2015-16 WEB leaders were notified by a letter sent home in the mail. Once again we had many more applicants than spots available; so many great students were not able to be selected. We encourage them to take on other valuable leadership roles next year.
- April 24th is Spring Play Day where our new WEB leaders spend the afternoon teambuilding and preparing for their new leadership role.

Middle School Advisory Council Meeting - April 30th at Brownell Middle School

HAVE A WONDERFUL SPRING BREAK!!



To find out more, check out the Counseling website and join us on Facebook 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!

Jennifer Sherman (A-K)

(313) 432-4618

Jennifer.Sherman@gpschools.org

Carla Palffy (L-Z)

(313) 432-4620

Carla.Palffy@gpschools.org



The 2015 Parcels swim team will complete their season on April 1st with the Grosse Pointe Middle School Swimming Championships. This has been a record breaking season with many records broken both individually and for relay teams. Additionally, Parcels notched its first dual meet victory in many years over the Pierce Middle School Trojans. The team features many experienced swimmers, but also gives an opportunity for many first time swim team members as well. "The kids have a lot of spirit, which shows in the swimming" commented Mr. Wolff, head coach. "I look forward to a strong finish at the championship meet with many season best times from all of our swimmers."

PTO Corner

There will be a PTO meeting on April 20th at 7 pm in the school library. Meetings are open to everyone. We try to keep them brief and to the point. Please feel free to join us.

PTO is looking for new members

The PTO is looking for parents to join board for the next school year 2015 / 2016. We are looking for someone to fill a couple of the officer's positions as well as a couple of other positions with the PTO group. We meet once a month from August through June and the meetings are usually on Monday nights and last about an hour. Besides the monthly meetings we are actively involved with the Bazaar as well as a few other events. Being part of the PTO is a great way to stay involved with your child's school and to keep abreast on what is going.

If you are interested or know someone who is or if you would like to talk to someone to get more information please contact Dave Denomme at ddenomme@mccemail.com or by phone at 313-550-3046.



2015 PTO Holiday Bazaar

It may be Spring, but the PTO is already beginning to plan for the 2015 Holiday Arts and Crafts Bazaar! This is the 40th year for our show which is one of the largest shows featuring items that are exclusively hand-made/ handcrafted. As always, it's the first Saturday in December, which is December 5, 2015 from 9am-4pm. Registration forms have been sent out to vendors who have participated in our show in the past. We will be inviting new vendors after June 1. New for this year we are planning a "Scavenger Hunt" for the shoppers with vendors donating prizes for those who participate. If you're interested in helping our PTO to plan and execute this fundraiser, please email parcells.bazaar@gmail.com



Friend Parcells PTO on Facebook to keep up with the latest Parcells news!



Like us on
Facebook

SOCIAL STUDIES NEWS



6th grade: Students in the fourth quarter will be studying the European continent.

7th grade: Students have studied Economic, Russia, and World Religions third quarter. Honors classes completed a research project on a world religion and presented their findings in a creative booklet format. They were able to share their projects with each other in class as we turned the classroom into a “coffee house.” It was complete with tablecloths, candle lit tables, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate. Students brought in cookies and brownies to enjoy with their hot beverages.

8th grade: Students in Mr. Palen's class finished their study of the Industrial Revolution in America. Students viewed clips from Charlie Chaplin's *Modern Times* and Fritz Lange's *Metropolis* to get a better understanding of how the Industrial Revolution affected mankind. Next in class, we are turning our attention to westward expansion and how the United States evolved over the first half of the nineteenth century. Students in Ms. Miller's class just completed an evidence based argumentative essay that required them to use historical documents in order to answer the question, *Did the Alien and Sedition Acts violate the Constitution?* This was a difficult task, but they did it!

Social Studies Olympiad: Students are putting their final touches on their individual projects and are submitting them to the state competition at the end of this month. The Social Studies Olympiad quiz bowl team recently “scrimmaged” against the faculty at our pep assembly. The teachers prevailed but it was nice for the SSO kids to showcase their knowledge and love of trivia in front of our student body. The quiz bowl team is gearing up for their competition May 16th at Okemos High School.

AFTER SCHOOL (7TH HOUR) MATH HELP

Is your student having a difficult time with math homework? Are you having a difficult time decoding today's math in order to help your child? After School Math Help is a drop-in program that is offered on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. It takes place in room B-2 from 3:25-4:25 PM. No sign-up is needed, and students may attend as often as they wish to receive individual help and complete their homework.

Check out Parcels Website under the Activities heading for information on clubs and activities.



Data from the Science Department:

Parcells excels at science competitions!

Coached by 7th grade science teachers Alex Gulyas and Chris Maison, Parcells students experienced great success during March science competitions.



Parcells Science Olympiad Team

The 2015 Parcells Science Olympiad team earned seven medals at the Regional Competition on March 14. Students competed in a variety of events including Bridge Building, Disease Detectives, Bottle Rocket, Elastic Launched Glider, Anatomy, Solar System, Fossils, Dynamic Planet, Crime Busters, Write it, do it and Can't Judge a Powder.

2015 Team members:

8th graders Garrett S., Kuvin S., Mollie S., Katie L., Jillian P., and Claire W.

7th graders Darshana S., Emma T., Charlie R., Elliot L., and Mariah L.

Congratulations to these eleven students. Their hard work and dedication over the past five months certainly paid off!

On February 25th, 22 students took the "You be the Chemist" qualifying test to earn one of three spots at the 2015 Regional Tournament. Students Emma T., Charlie R. and Ritika P. earned the top three scores and represented Parcells at the Wayne County competition on March 16. All three students worked hard in the weeks leading up to the tournament and were well-prepared for the competition.

Eighth-grader Ritika P. took first place, becoming the first student from the Grosse Pointe Public Schools to win the Wayne County YBTC tournament. Congratulations, Ritika- we wish you well at the State Championship on April 25th.

Way to go, Panthers!

Looking for engineering experiences over the summer?

Summer Engineering Academy at U of M: <http://cedo.engin.umich.edu/summer-engineering-academy/>

Summer Youth Programs at Michigan Tech: <http://www.syp.mtu.edu/>

Other local summer STEM camps: <http://www.resa.net/curriculum/curriculum/science/studentservices/roboticsacademy/>





On Saturday, March 14th at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, eighth-grader Ritika P. competed in the WXYZ Regional Spelling Bee. As the Parcels Spelling Bee champion, Ritika took on forty-one other school champions for the chance to go to Washington, D.C., and compete in the National Spelling Bee. Ritika represented herself, our school, and our community beautifully, spelling words like "flamenco," "vulcanize," "odori," and "cacao" on her way to a fifth-place finish. Congratulations, Ritika, on your hard work and your success! We are all very proud of you!



The first place winner of the 2015 Wayne County Regional "You be the Chemist" competition, edging out 32 competitors from all over Wayne County is... Parcels 8th grader, Ritika P.!!!

Ritika will be representing Parcels, Grosse Pointe and all of Wayne County at the state competition on April 25th at Saginaw Valley State University.

She is the first overall winner from the GP schools in the competition's eleven year history! Ritika competed in the event last year and has

spent the past 12 months studying for this year's competition. Her hard work certainly paid off! We wish her luck at the State Tournament in April!

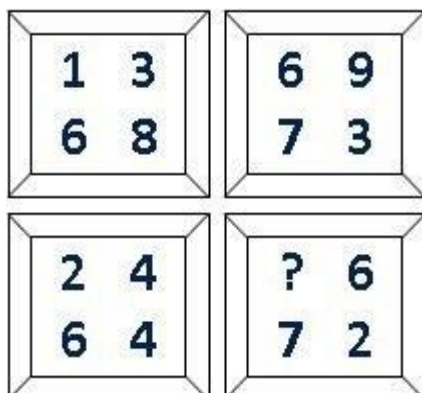
Parcells is a Green School Evergreen Status for 2014-2015



MATHEMATICS UPDATE

6th grade students are currently covering geometric topics such as: area, perimeter, volume, and surface area.

7th grade students are finishing up the proportional relationships unit and beginning the geometry unit. Students recently participated in PI DAY and learned how the relationship between the circumference and diameter of all circles forms a unique ratio called PI.



8th grade students are currently working on real numbers and right triangles.

Can you solve this puzzle? What number replaces the question mark in the following puzzle?

English News



March has been an exciting time in Language Arts, and this has been especially true with our 6th grade classes. The fourth quarter is upon us!

Narrative classes continue to trudge up Mount Everest with the study of *Peak*.

Mrs. Kifer's Reading Essentials classes have entered the digital age with Digital Writer's Workshop. Students are using Google Docs to type their persuasive essays and peer-revise using collaboration and digital comments. Some students have used an "add-on" called Kaizena Mini to record comments and listen to teacher recommendations for their papers.

Mr. McDonald's Reading Essentials classes are piloting a new novel. *Close to Famous* is one of the more recent novels from Newberry Award-winning author Joan Bauer. Published in 2011, the book follows Foster McKee, an aspiring chef, and her mother as they leave Memphis and settle in the small town of Culpepper, West Virginia. It's a feel-good piece of contemporary fiction that features likeable characters who overcome obstacles to push towards their goals.

A large portion of student evaluation deals with turning the novel into a smaller "graphic novel" that each student creates to display understanding of plot, setting and characterization. All students also feel *Close to Famous* will one day make an excellent film.



Washington DC Trip 2016

Trip Dates: May 4 – May 6, 2016

Attn: 7th Grade Parents

The registration process for next year's 8th Grade Washington DC is well under way! Close to 100 students have already registered!!! The travel agency has assured me that they can guarantee all students who register before June 4, 2015 will have a place on our trip. However, if you wait until next year to register, it is *possible* that they may not be able to secure enough busses or airfare to accommodate such a large group.

Please don't allow your child to miss out on this once in a lifetime experience. By registering now, you will guarantee your child's placement on the trip, **save money** and have extended planning time for your child's trip.

WorldStrides has extended the Early Registration period. Everyone who registers by June 4, 2015 will receive the Early Bird \$70 discount off the total price of the trip. Additionally, WorldStrides has offered a bonus discount of \$10 to all Parcells families who register by the June 4 deadline. Finally, the price of the deposit will be reduced to only \$49. That is a \$50 savings off the normal deposit price. So, please don't wait until fall to register. The price will go up and the trip could possibly sell out.

We have been traveling with WorldStrides for the past three years, and we have had a very good experience with them. They offer a wonderful learning opportunity for our students as well as safety and peace of mind for the parents.

Additionally, WorldStrides offers payment plans, scholarships and fundraising opportunities.

For more information, visit the Parcells Webpage and click on our Washington DC Trip link. To register your child, visit WorldStride's website at www.worldstridesdiscovernow.org or call at 1-800-468-5899. Reference our trip ID# 114685.

If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at debra.duffey@gpschools.org

Sincerely,
Mrs. Duffey

News from the Choir Room...

Congratulations to the 7th and 8th grade choirs for proudly and respectfully representing themselves and their school at the MSVMA District XVI Choral Festival at Stoney Creek High School on Wednesday, March 11, 2015. Both choirs did an excellent job with their performance, clinic, and sight reading. Thanks also to the parents who helped out. Field trips are impossible without you!

Upcoming dates...

May 6, 6:30pm – Pre-festival concert and parent informational meeting
(ONLY for students going on the Cincinnati trip and their parents)

May 12, after school – solo auditions for spring concert

May 13 (tentative) – 8th grade choir travels to state choral festival at Central Michigan University

May 15-16, all day and all night! – Music-In-The Parks (Cincinnati) trip

May 27, 6:30pm – Spring concert

Leslie Saroli

Life Skills News

6th grade Life Skills students did a wonderful job on their first sewing project. Students should have brought home a printed pillow in early March. We ask that you send in \$8 cash or check made out to Parcels Middle School as soon as possible. When we return from spring break, students will begin studying healthy habits including, healthy eating, good grooming, and the importance of exercise.

7/8 Grade Foods students impressed with the breakfast free cook! Students made dishes ranging from muffins to waffles, and a great time was had by all. Thank you parents for your support and for providing some of the extra ingredients for our free cook day! We will have two more free cook days next quarter.

Student Council

Thank you to the PTO and the parent volunteers who helped make our 2nd Quarter reward dance such a success. We hosted over 110 students for a Winter Wonderland event with dancing, snacks, and an awesome DJ. The students had a blast dancing, and taking funny photos in our photo booth! The Student Council reward dance is a once a year event, we hope to see you again next year.

Tiger Game- Student Council members who missed the 3/19 meeting should stop by and see Miss Sobotka for field trip information and a permission slip. The game is 5/21 @ 1:08pm. All students attending should eat A- Lunch and meet in the lobby at 12:10pm to depart. The cost of the trip is \$25. Please see Miss Sobotka with questions.

Spring Clean-Up- We have teamed with NJHS for our annual clean-up dates. Please plan to attend our first session on 4/23 from 3:30-4:30pm (this is a regularly scheduled meeting and is MANDATORY for all SC members) and the second on 4/25 from 10-12pm (meet by the receiving room door, and bring work gloves, rakes, shovels, and a bottle of water).



S.A.V.E A LIFE 5K

04.25.2015 GROSSE POINTE NORTH

With Kids'
400 Meter
Dash

HOW CAN ONE PERSON S.A.V.E. THE WORLD?



LESS

MORE



S.A.V.E.



ACT LOCALLY.
THINK GLOBALLY.



3 REASONS TO RUN / WALK



OBSTACLE
COURSE, BOUNCE
HOUSE AND MORE



DRESS
THE PART

PROCEEDS BENEFIT



CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
OF MICHIGAN
FOUNDATION



MOROSS GREENWAY
enhancing outside living

REGISTER AT:

www.signmeup.com/105346



The Parcels Running Club will begin this spring. This club is organized by Mr. Cooper, the Cross Country coach at Grosse Pointe North. **The runs will be held every Monday and Thursday from 3:30 to 4:15.** One, two, and three-mile loops will be set up through the Parcels neighborhood and Mr. Cooper will run along with the students.

The students need a signed parent permission slip in order to participate in the Running Club. These may be picked up in Mr. Cooper's room (205) or in the school office. You can also download the form at my website: <http://gpschools.schoolwires.net/Page/5026>

The runs begin on **Monday, April 13.** Students should report to room 205 by 3:30 dressed to run. We run in rain, sun, wind, snow, and cold – dress appropriately.

Permission slips must be turned in before they can run with the club. The Parcels Club Fee of \$50 must also be paid. Remember, the Club Fee is paid only once and is good for all clubs during the school year.

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 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.

