

GROSSE POINTE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Each and Every Child, Each and Every Day

Parcells Newsletter

December 2014/January 2015

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

Important dates in December and January

December 2014

- Dec. 1 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Dec. 2 - Wear your true colors spirit day
- Dec. 2 - 4 pm - Boys Basketball away at Kennedy MS
- Dec. 4 - Student Council Mtg. after school
- Dec. 4 - 4 PM - Boys Basketball at Pierce MS
- Dec. 6 - 9 AM - 4 PM PTO Holiday Bazaar
Volunteers needed!
- Dec. 8 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Dec. 8 - 4 PM-Boys Basketball HOME vs Jefferson MS
- Dec. 8 - 6:30 PM - Choir Holiday Concert
- Dec. 9 - P3 Pep Assembly
- Dec. 11 - Adjusted Schedule for North Band/
Orchestra Holiday Assembly
- Dec. 11 - 4 PM.-Boys Basketball HOME vs Brownell MS
- Dec. 17- 7:30 PM GPN Band O Rama
- Dec. 18 - 7:30 PM GPN String Extravaganza
- Dec. 15 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Dec. 15 - 7Pm - PTO meeting
@ school library
- Dec. 16 - 8th gr. Choir @ elem. schools
- Dec. 18 - 7:30 AM NJHS meeting
- Dec. 19 - Adjusted Schedule-Choir Holiday
Concert and Locker clean out
- Dec. 19 - Ugly Holiday Sweater Spirit Day
- Dec. 20 - Jan. 4-NO SCHOOL-Holiday Break

January 2015 Happy New Year!

- Jan. 5 - School reopens
Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Jan. 7 - 6:30 PM - 8th grade Parent
Orientation Meeting at GPN PAC
- Jan. 7 - 4 PM - Boys Basketball HOME
vs. South Lake MS
- Jan. 8 - Student Council Mtg. after school
- Jan. 12 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Jan. 12 - 6:30 PM Parcells Auditorium
Current 5th Graders Parent Meeting
- Jan. 12 - 4 PM - Boys Basketball at Brownell
- Jan. 13 - 8:30 AM - Spelling Bee
- Jan. 15 - 7:30 AM - NJHS meeting
- Jan. 15 - 3:30 PM - Geography Bee
- Jan. 15 - 4 PM - Boys Basketball HOME
vs South Lake MS
- Jan. 15 - Geography Bee after school
- Jan. 19 - MLK Day- NO SCHOOL
- Jan. 23 - NO SCHOOL - Records Day
End of 2nd quarter
- Jan. 26 - Late Start Monday 9:05 AM
- Jan. 26 - 7 PM - PTO Meeting
in the school library

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

*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.

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

From the Principal's Desk Off to a Great Start

Thank you all for helping to make my transition to Parcells so positive. It has been a pleasure to meet everyone and I am overwhelmed by the warm welcome and support the community has given me during my first weeks on the job. It is great to be a part of a staff and community so dedicated to supporting each student. Please know that I am always here to discuss any successes or challenges you are having regarding your student. I look forward to working together for many years to come.

Holiday Bazaar

A special thank you goes to the Parcells PTO on organizing the annual bazaar. Many parents will work tirelessly and volunteer their time in planning, publicity, parking lots, moving tables, managing vendors, transporting, coordinating volunteers, and managing a host of visitors. Our attendance count last year was nearly 1400 visitors. There is still time to volunteer! Please visit the Parcells website to sign up. Thank you in advance for your service on behalf of the Parcells community!

Parent Teacher Conferences

Thank you for your participation in Parent Teacher Conferences in the month of November. Your commitment to supporting your children in their educational endeavors is greatly appreciated!

Congratulations

The past month was a busy month for our school family. Parcells staged a successful Open House, performed a wonderful production of School House Rock, attended a successful 8th grade orientation at Grosse Pointe North HS, and completed a successful pizza kit sale and trip to Kalahari Water Park! Congratulations to all members of the Parcells community on their hard work and achievements!

Eighth Grade to High School

Parcells eighth graders will begin the registration process for moving on to high school next year by meeting with counselors in January. Counselors will review the high school program of studies and course requirements with eighth graders. Materials will also be sent home during this time and will include all deadlines for the submission of the scheduling information. There is an 8th grade parent orientation meeting at Grosse Pointe North HS at the performing arts center on January 7 at 6:30 PM.

Athletic Physicals

Please remember that students may not participate in try-outs/practice for our athletic teams unless they have a current physical on file. Physical forms dated on or after April 15, 2014 are considered current. If your son or daughter plans on trying out for basketball, wrestling, swimming, or track and field, please take your child in for a physical well before try-outs begin. Unfortunately, we cannot accept waivers or signed documents from parents in lieu of a physical form.

Happy Holidays

With Thanksgiving behind us and a long winter looming ahead, I realize that I have much to be thankful for. To start, I am thankful to be part of such a strong school community. I appreciate the work ethic and dedication that our children put into their school work each day. I appreciate the support of our parents and that they stress the importance of a quality education with their children. Finally, I am thankful to be part of such a strong staff of professionals, dedicated to providing Parcells students with the highest quality education possible.

On behalf of the entire Parcells faculty, we hope you and your family have a safe and fun filled holiday season! Students and staff begin their vacation at the end of the day on Friday, December 19. Students will return from vacation on Monday, January 5 at 9:05 am.

Best Wishes,
Mr. Hartley

Happy Holidays, Parcells Family.

During the month of November, our P3 Committee developed a plan that would help clarify and strengthen our expectations of student behavior in our hallways and during unstructured times of the school day. Holli McNally, Alex Gulyas and Caitlin Kefgen lead our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Support) team and together make up our P3 (Panther Pride Program) Committee Leaders. They worked hard in the month of November gathering staff input, behavioral feedback, student input and student discipline data in order to develop a proposal and create a plan to increase our student behavior during these unstructured times of the day.

The plan called for an increase in teacher presence and positive interactions in the hallways during class transitions, before school, during lunch and after school. It also outlined and simplified what we're looking for from our students. After the plan was developed by our faculty, we implemented a second P3 Advisory day on Wednesday, November 19th to clarify with our students and share how we would like them to behave during such times. We also communicated the importance behind our beliefs and how it may even have a positive effect inside of our classrooms. The results were affirming and both our students and staff noticed a considerable difference in behavior both inside and outside of our classrooms during our last week before Thanksgiving break. Students commented they felt more calm, organized and supported during such times of the day and our staff absolutely loved the change in environment! Our student behavior data also showed a direct correlation with our efforts which resulted in very few negative behaviors and no discipline referrals. Great job students and staff!

Go Panthers!

Steve Wolf
Assistant Principal



PTO Corner

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



Please join us at the PTO Holiday Bazaar on December 6th from 9 AM – 4 PM. We are still looking for Volunteers. Please go to the Parcells webpage to sign up. www.gpschools.org/parcells.

Thank you to all the PTO families that will be helping to make the Holiday Bazaar a success.

There will be a PTO meeting on December 15th at 7 pm in the school library. The January PTO Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. 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.

If you haven't done so as yet, please consider signing up for the Kroger Rewards Program and donating your rewards points to the Parcells PTO. A portion of each of your Kroger purchases is credited to the PTO's account. Every quarter they send us a check representing the participants' collective purchases. The monies generated by the Rewards Program and the Holiday Bazaar fund numerous activities at the school. For a comprehensive list of these activities, projects, and programs consult the PTO portion of the Parcells website.

Do you shop at Kroger? If so, you probably have a free Kroger Rewards card that saves you money at the register. Did you know that you can now link your card to Parcells to help earn money for the school? A percentage of each Kroger shopping trip is contributed to Parcells every time your card is scanned at any Michigan Kroger. Depending on the number of participants enrolled and the amount of their purchases, local schools earn between \$500 and \$5,000/year through this program. Signing up is easy. Just go to: http://www.kroger.com/mykroger/Pages/community_rewards.aspx

The Counselors' Corner

December 2014

WEB Mentoring

Tuesday December 16th, 8th grade WEB leaders will be working with all 6th graders during P3 time. WEB leaders will be doing an activity that focuses on creating fun in safe and healthy ways.

7th Grade Education Development Plans

All 7th graders will be introduced to their Education Development Plan (EDP) in English classes. Students will explore careers through our computer program, Career Cruising. Students each have a username and password which allows them to access this program at home for further exploration.

January 2015

Scheduling 2015-16

Classroom Presentations: (Registration materials will come home after the presentation.)

Wednesday 1/7/15 – Presentations to 8th grade Science classes

Thursday 1/8/15 – Presentations to 7th grade Science classes

Friday 1/9/15 – Presentations to 6th grade Science classes

ALL SIGNED REGISTRATION FORMS DUE to Science teachers by 1/15/15

Online Registration Dates:

1/27 and 1/28 - 8th grade Social Studies classes

1/29 and 1/30 - 7th grade Math classes

2/3 and 2/4 - 6th grade Social Studies classes

Incoming 6th grade Parent Meeting – Monday January 12th

WEB Mentoring – Tuesday January 13th during P3

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

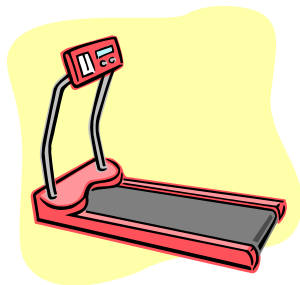
Carla Palffy (L-Z)

(313) 432-4620

Carla.Palffy@gpschools.org

Parcells is seeking gently used fitness equipment for our students, including two treadmills. Please contact the main office if you have tax deductible equipment you would like to donate.

Parcells is willing to pick up any large or heavy equipment for our donors. Thanks for your help!



English News

The 6th graders are busy reading about Ebenezer Scrooge and the three spirits who are trying to convince him that he needs to change – his reclamation. Making connections between this classic tale written in 1843 and today's world has been fun. Many students have just realized that Scrooge and the Grinch have similar personalities, and they are tracking the instances when Scrooge's heart starts growing, much like the Grinch's. "And what happened then? Well, in Whoville they say that the Grinch's small heart grew three sizes that day."

Also, students have discovered that one person can make a difference. The word Scrooge is understood by people around the world (yes, it's been translated into most languages) to mean someone who is grumpy, selfish, and miserly. If Dickens had not written *A Christmas Carol* many years ago, the word Scrooge would be meaningless. Consequently, the same is true for Mary Shelley introducing us to Frankenstein and JRR Tolkien introducing us to hobbits. One person can make a difference, especially through literature.

READ MORE!

Reading more is the best way to improve your reading ability! We recommend a minimum of 20 minutes per day. It can be difficult to fit in 20 minutes with the demands of homework, sports, and other commitments. We understand! However, there is always time to read. Take a look at the list of ways to fit in reading to your daily schedule. Improved test scores as just one of the many benefits that stretch far and wide. It is never too late to make reading part of your daily routine. Pick up a book today!

HOW DO I FIT ENOUGH DAILY READING IN A BUSY SCHEDULE?



- ⇒ Read during snack time
- ⇒ Keep a book in the car
- ⇒ Make a set time to read
- ⇒ Read while you wait for others
- ⇒ Read everything—signs, food boxes, magazines, etc.
- ⇒ Keep books by your bed
- ⇒ Play reading games—hangman, BrainQuest, etc.
- ⇒ Read while you wait at restaurants, doctor's offices, etc.
- ⇒ Listen to books—online, iTunes, CD's, etc.
- ⇒ Read the words to your favorite songs
- ⇒ Read activity books—KLUTZ, etc.
- ⇒ Read to a younger child
- ⇒ Read magazines and newspapers
- ⇒ Read during commercials—use the mute button
- ⇒ Read the same book as friends and discuss it

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.

Data from the Science Department:

8th graders are finishing up our Forces and Motion unit and are now beginning our new unit about Energy and Systems. First step is to create a Rube Goldberg machine. Students will be combining their knowledge of simple machines and their imaginations in order to create their masterpieces.

7th grade science students in Mrs. Maison's and Mrs. Gulyas's classes are well on their way to becoming future chemists. We're wrapping up chemical bonding and tackling the balancing of chemical equations next. In January, we'll trade our periodic tables for microscopes as we dive into the world of biology for the remainder of the year.

6th graders are finishing up their hydrosphere unit with a webquest project entitled "Saving Lake St. Clair." They will work in groups to create PowerPoints explaining Lake St. Clair's biggest pollution problems and recommendations for reducing pollution in the lake, and then they will present them in class. Ask your student what they've learned about keeping "The Heart of the Great Lakes" (Lake St. Clair) clean!



Gaining Options: Girls Investigate Real Life Apply Now for Winter 2015

Who: Girls currently in 7th grade

Where: Wayne State University College of Education

When: Saturdays beginning January 24th, 2015, 9:30 am-2:30 pm, ending April 25th

What: A project based program that combines math, technology and social science research.

Apply are online at gogirls.wayne.edu

Research social science issues

Work in research teams with WSU mentors

Learn how to use library and online research tools

Design Surveys

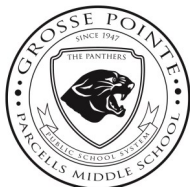
Analyze and present data using technology resources

Explore WSU's campus and the surrounding community

Gain academic self-confidence

Applications are due December 7, 2014

For more information contact us at: gogirl@wayne.edu



SOCIAL STUDIES UPDATE

Mr. Cooper will be holding the annual National Geographic Geography Bee in his classroom (205) on Thursday, January 15, 2015. The Bee will take place from 3:30 until the last student is standing. In past years the Bee has lasted until 6 pm. Students may leave when they are eliminated. Pizza will be provided for the top 10 contestants making it to the final round that evening.

The Parcells winner of the Bee earns a medallion from the National Geographical Society, and the chance to take a qualifying test for the Michigan competition. Only the top 100 students taking the test in the state move on for the Michigan competition. The winner of the Michigan competition goes to the National competition in Washington D.C. and competes for \$25,000 in college scholarship money.

Students from all grades are welcome to participate.

Band and Orchestra

North Band & Orchestra Holiday Concert at Parcells at 2:15 p.m. on December 11th. Students will have an adjusted schedule that day.

December 10th there are rehearsals for Band-o-Rama and String Extravaganza at GP North in Room C-101 are as follows:

6th Gr band- 4:00 – 4:45

6th Gr Orchestra – 4:00 – 4:45

7th Gr Band – 5:00 – 5:45

7th Gr Orchestra – 5:00 – 5:45

8th Gr Orchestra - 5:00 – 5:45

8th Gr Band- 6:15 – 7:00

**Join us for
BAND-O-RAMA on Dec. 17th
String Extravaganza on Dec. 18th
7:30 p.m.
GP North Gym; Donation at door**

Choir

Hello from the choir room,

Here's what's happening in December:

Parcells winter vocal concert

Date: Monday, December 8, 2014

Where: Parcells auditorium

Concert start time: 6:30pm

Student "call" time: 6:10pm

Admission: Free!

Singers are to wear their choir t-shirts, black bottoms, and comfortable shoes. They have the option of adding a holiday accessory (reindeer ears, Santa hat, etc. NOT REQUIRED!)

8th grade choir elementary tour (8th grade choir only)

10am – 3:15pm Tuesday, December 16

We will need several parent drivers to help out for this field trip

Permission slips went home with students on 11/24. They are due by 12/3.

Current fundraiser – Mr. C's car wash tickets are being sold by choir students currently. Car wash tickets cost \$16 for one wash to be used at any Mr. C's. See any choir student to purchase one. They make GREAT stocking stuffers!

For the first time, the GPN choirs will perform an all-school assembly for all students of Parcells on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19. What an exciting afternoon to look forward to!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions at leslie.saroli@gpschools.org

~Leslie Saroli

Art News

The holiday season is coming up soon! Below are a few gift ideas for your young artist. Help your child explore their creativity!

- How to Draw Book
- Hard Bound Sketchbook
- Painting Apron
- Easel
- Canvas and Paints
- Air Drying Clay
- Class at Pewabic Pottery in Detroit



Lifeskills

Ricotta Cheese Cookies

Recipe Courtesy: Mrs. Hogan- Yield 6 dozen

For the cookies:

- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1 cup butter (softened)
- 1 15oz. container ricotta cheese
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- 4 cups AP flour
- 2 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt

For the glaze:

- 1 ½ cups confectioners' sugar
- 3 tablespoons milk
- Sprinkles (optional)

Directions Day One:

1. Preheat oven to 350
2. In the bowl for your mixer, fitted with the flat paddle attachment, cream butter and sugar until blended thoroughly.
3. Meanwhile, in a separate bowl, mix together flour, baking powder, and salt.
4. Increase speed to high, and continue to beat until light and fluffy (3-5 minutes)
5. Turn speed to medium, and add ricotta cheese, vanilla, and eggs (one at a time)
6. Reduce speed to low, add dry ingredients.
7. Mix until dough forms.
8. Drop cookie scoop size rounds onto a parchment lined baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
9. Bake 15 minutes, or until cookies are lightly golden brown.

Directions Day Two:

1. Using the bowl for your electric mixer fitted with the whisk attachment, whisk milk and confectioners' sugar until smooth.
 2. Drizzle glaze over cookies spreading with knife if needed, and decorate with sprinkles if desired.
 3. Allow glaze to harden completely.
- Enjoy!



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



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.





**January STEP Program
Grosse Pointe Public Library After School Program
At the Woods Branch Library**



~ January 2015 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 No School	2 No School	3
4	5 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	Bingo	7 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	8 Movie	9 Life Size Games, Tug of War, Sack Races	10
11	12 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	13 Ming the Magnificent 3:30 - 4:15 after school.	14 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	15 Boogie Woogie Kid 3:30-5 p.m.	16 Video Games	17
18	19 MLK - School Closed	20 African Masks	21 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	22 Storytelling	23 Cartoons	24
25	26 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	27 African Drums	28 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	29 3:30-5- Bats-STEP Bat Conservation – Animal Adaptation	30 Youth Room Mystery Hunt	31





**February STEP Program
Grosse Pointe Public Library After School Program
At the Woods Branch Library**

~ February 2015 ~						
◀ Jan 2015						Mar 2015 ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	3 Square Dancing	4 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	5 Community Project	6 Cartoons	7
8	9 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	10 Valentine's Day Craft	11 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	12 Movie	13 Video games	14
15	16 No School Mid-winter Break	17 No School Mid-winter Break	18 No School Mid-winter Break	19 No School Mid-winter Break	20 No School Mid-winter Break	21
22	23 Wildlife Interpretation/Science /Survival Program w/Mr. Nick 3:30 – 5 p.m.	Line Dancing then and now	25 Archery w/Mr. Nick 3:30-5 p.m.	26 Community Project	27 Skype	28

