

# GPA Newsletter



APRIL MAY 2012

## Leadership Update (continued on page 3)

Dear GPA families,

The last few months have been very busy with MCAS and MEPA testing. In March we completed all of the English Language Assessments and will be transitioning to our math and science tests in April. The teachers and students have been working very hard to increase their scores on in all content areas. We also need the help of our families to support student achievement at GPA. We expect students to read every night and return their reading log to their teacher. Our last report shows that 80% of our students were reading at least five times per week for 20 minutes. Our goal is to have this at 100% on the next report. Please support your child's

learning by encouraging reading at home. We also know healthy eating, a good nights sleep and being to school on time each day ready to learn make a huge difference for student learning. At GPA we have a healthy eating policy which reminds our students and families the importance of making good choices each and every day. We know all our students can achieve at high levels in the classroom on achievement tests. If you have any questions about your child's performance this year please see your child's teacher.

- February was Black History Month showcased by our second grade students

- March was Women's History Month showcased by our first grade students
- April is Boston History Month showcased by our kindergarten students
- May is Asian/Pacific American History Month showcased by our K1 students

Thank you.

Erica Herman and  
Joe Sara

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### ***Spirit Week***

***Monday: Crazy Hair***

***Tuesday: Sports Day***

***Wednesday: Walk-a-thon (wear uniform)***

***Thursday: Pajama Day***

***Friday: No School***

## Adult Education



As the Teacher Coach, I have observed all of the teachers in action, and must say that I have been extremely impressed with their dedication, effort, and caring. I have also observed our gracious volunteers working with our students and their compassion and patience are equally remarkable. I have spent many hours helping stu-

dents to use the computers. Although computers are new to many, it has amazed me how quickly their skills are developing. The students are using word processing programs to boost their writing skills by corresponding with their teachers, and Internet activities and quizzes also strengthen their vocabulary and grammar skills. I have

poured through the Internet to locate websites that will be useful to both teachers and students, such as sites focusing on typing skills and reading comprehension. The entire teaching staff was also fortunate to receive further internet training on ESL use from an ESL specialist.

## Updates from the Health Room (Medications)

“ANY MEDICATION.... TAKEN BY STUDENTS MUST BE DROPPED OFF IN THE HEALTH ROOM BY AN ADULT”.

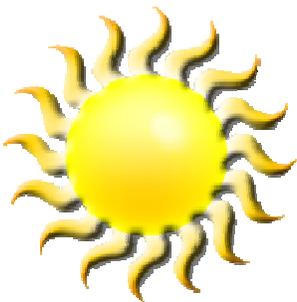


Please remember that any medication that needs to be taken by students during school hours must be dropped off in the Health Room by an adult. A form signed by the parent and the child’s pediatrician is required for any prescription medication and a parent permission slip is re-

quired for over the counter medications. I appreciate your cooperation with this Boston Public School policy.

Nurse Dana

## Summer Plans for Your Child



It is hard to believe that our school year will be coming to an end in June, and that it is already time to begin making our summer plans. GPA will offer a summer program for students, however if the program is not convenient for your family, I am happy

to assist you with various summer offerings across the city. It is important to register as early as possible as summer programs fill up quickly and require applications or prepayment. Please feel free to contact me to assist you with the camp process or to stop by my

space in the main office at GPA. Best wishes for an educational and recreational summer 2012!

Sarah O’Connor  
City Connects School  
Site Coordinator  
617-635-8365  
[oonnosso@bc.edu](mailto:oonnosso@bc.edu)

## Leadership Update (continued from page 1)

This month we had a very unfortunate accident during drop off. One of our students was hit by a car while they were crossing Athol Street. This horrible accident serves as a very important reminder of the care and monitoring needed to ensure the safety of all students and families in our community. As a follow up to this incident we are seeking parent volunteers to support with drop off to school from 7:30-8:15 and again from pick up from after-school from 5:30-

6:00. If you are interested in volunteering or have any ideas on the best structure for these critical safety times please see Elba Mendez. In addition, we are instituting a very strict policy of no parking on the sidewalks. Cars who do park on the sidewalks will be reported to Boston Police Department. Our rationale is that Athol Street is a one way street and is not for parking on both sides of the street. If you are doing a drop off in the morning, please stay in the road and

drop your child off. Wait until you see them safely on the sidewalk and then drive away. **DO NOT PULL OVER SO CARS CAN PASS.** If you need to come into the school, you **MUST** park in a legal parking spot and walk your child into the building. It is all of our responsibilities to ensure the safety of our students and the community. Please help by following these procedures and alerting the school if others are not following these procedures.

## Wellness Council Update



The Wellness Council invites you to share your favorite healthy family recipes!!! We are compiling a Gardner Pilot Academy Healthy Cook Book which will be used to raise funds for needed programs at our school. Recipes can be handwritten and sent to school in your child's folder or emailed to me at [dulrich@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:dulrich@boston.k12.ma.us).

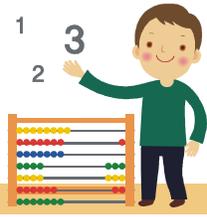
We will also be looking for volunteers to help compile and illustrate the cookbook! Please let me or Coach Mary know if you are interested.

Thank you.

Nurse Dana

# GPA Newsletter

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Math Night Wednesday, April 11th @ 5:30pm

## HASI Math Night

The Harvard Achievement Support Initiative is sponsoring GPA's Family Math Night on Wednesday, April 11th starting at 5:30pm. All families are encouraged to attend and math supplies for every student will be given and dinner will be provided.

## GPA/YMCA Afterschool Update

The GPA/YMCA After School Program completed their cycle 2 showcases for the year. Students showcased their cooking, dancing, science, social studies, Zumba and weaving learning in after school!!!

## Student Leadership Team



The Student Leadership team comprised of 9 of our 5th grade students have created an anti-bullying video which they will be sharing with students and families of 5th grade students in May, date TBD.

## GPA/YMCA Summer Program

Summer Program applications are available in the main office. The summer program will run from 8:30-5:30 Monday-Friday from Monday, July 2nd-Friday, August 3rd here at the GPA. In addition, there will be an optional before school beginning at

7:30am for \$2.00 per student per day. For more details, please contact Lauren Fogarty in the main office or email her at [lfogarty@boston.k12.ma.us](mailto:lfogarty@boston.k12.ma.us)

# April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 SPIRIT WEEK 3pm K-8 task force	3 SPIRIT WEEK	4 walk-a-thon 3pm wellness council	5 SPIRIT WEEK 6pm-adult ed	6 <b>HOLIDAY</b>	7
8	9 5:30pm Fundraising Comm	10 6pm-adult ed	11 5:30pm HASI Math Event	12 6pm-adult ed	13	14
15	16 *****	17 *****	18 <b>SPRING BREAK</b>	19 *****	20 *****	21
22	23	24 6pm-adult ed	25	26 6pm-adult ed	27	28
29	30 3pm K-8 task force					

# May 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6pm-adult ed	2 3pm wellness council	3 7:30 am Gov Bd 6pm-adult ed	4	5
6	7	8 6pm-adult ed	9	10 6pm-adult ed	11	12
13	14	15 6pm-adult ed	16	17 6pm-adult ed	18	19
20	21 3pm K-8 task force	22 6pm-adult ed	23 5:30pm HCH 6:00pm PC	24 8:30am HCH 6pm-adult ed	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day	29 6pm-adult ed	30 3pm wellness council	31 6pm-adult ed		

June Events:

Field Day: K-1-2nd June 12th; 3rd-5th June 13th