

# GPA Newsletter

December 2011

## Inside this issue:

High Five Update	2
Boston Celtics Grant	2
Parent Teacher Conferences	2
Core Values	3
Friday Arts Showcase	3
Adult Education	3
Celebration of Arts and Culture	3
YMCA/GPA Update	3
Calendar	4
Zumba	4
Updates from the Health Room	4

## K-8 Update

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Gardner Pilot Academy has been full of exciting news this month. To begin, our K-8 expansion proposal was approved by the school committee! This means starting next school year we will have our first class of sixth graders at GPA. All of our current fifth graders will have the opportunity to remain at the school with a few additional seats opening for community members to join our sixth grade. As we are planning our middle school we would love to

have your voice in the process. Please contact Elba Mendez if you are interested in joining our K-8 task force that meets once a month on Monday afternoons from 3:00-4:30.

Thank you again for all your support and involvement.

Best, Erica Herman Principal

## SQR Update

During the month of November Gardner Pilot Academy went through our School Quality Review process. This was to evaluate our success as a pilot school after five years of

work. We want to extend a HUGE thank you to all the families who participated in our focus groups with this process. It was wonderful to have your voices heard. The initial feedback is that

Gardner Pilot Academy is an exceptional school for students, families and faculty. Thank you for helping GPA be such an amazing place to learn!

### Before School Program

Please note that Before School starts at 7:30am. Students should not be left on school ground or should be in the building before 7:30am. This is a huge safety concern. Please make sure that you drop off or your child or that he/she arrives to school at 7:30 for the before school program.

## High Five



As a school we have been working hard on two major goals with HIGH FIVE. Each month we celebrate classes who wear their uniform each day and who have the highest attendance. Our goal is to increase our school wide attendance rates from 93.7% last school year to 95% this year. PLEASE help with this goal by sending your child to school each day and sending in excuse notes for when they are absent. Each month classes are celebrated at our monthly assem-

blies for winning HIGH FIVE RIBBONS. The two top classes who earn the MOST ribbons win a trip at the end of the year to an amusement park! Attendance and Uniforms EVERYDAY!



## Boston Celtics Grant

In November we won a grant from the BOSTON CELTICS to support reading at home. Please support your child to read at least 5 nights per week for 20 minutes and they will win prize from the CELTICS at the end of November. This incentive is only for students in grades 1-5. In order to win your child must send in their

home reading log to their teacher. This program runs again in January and March.

Please support your child to read at least 5 nights per week for 20 minutes.

## RIF Grant

In addition to the CELTICS home reading Ashley Baima (first grade teacher) helped us to win a RIF Grant to get all of our students FREE BOOKS to bring home. Our first RIF event is on December 22nd where EVERY student at GPA receives a FREE book. Please see Ashley Baima if you are available to volunteer for this event.



## Parent Teacher Conferences

As a school we have a goal of having EVERY parent meet with their child's teacher during the month of January. Teachers will be sending home notices for parent teacher conferences. We need 100% participation. Please

contact Elba Mendez if you need support with translation or transportation in order to attend these very important meetings.

## Core Values

As a school we are working hard to reinforce positive behavior around our core values of CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT. We are also working to develop more consistent systems for addressing challenging behaviors. We believe strongly in supporting every child to be successful. We

also believe that providing consistent, clear and related consequences support students to make good choices. We will be asking parents for feedback on our school consequences at our parent council meeting in January. Please come to parent council and Hispanic Coffee Hour so your voices can be heard.

## Friday Arts Program Showcase

The first showcase of the school year for the Friday Arts Program will take place at 8:30AM on Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to ask your student what they will be showcasing.

## Adult Education

Classes have been absolutely fantastic in the Adult Learning Centre! All of my students have been really enthusiastic and energetic, and we have already learned so much. A little bit into the semester we started "Technology Tuesday" in which we take advantage of the computer lab that is downstairs. We also try to sing songs every Tuesday, anything from The Beatles to Shakira! Soon we will be focusing on the upcoming holidays,

especially Thanksgiving and Christmas traditions. I have already received a couple of requests for singing Christmas songs. Grammar-wise we have been focusing on questions, and the verbs be, have, and like. I ask my students if they like English and class and hear one loud and happy shout: "Yes, we do!"



## Celebration of Arts and Culture



**December 21st from  
5:00-6:30pm**

The Celebration of Arts and Culture will be held on December 21<sup>st</sup> from 5:00-6:30PM. After school will dismiss early on that day. We are still looking for families interested in showcasing a talent to share with the GPA community.

The event will include an arts showcase, a family arts project, potluck dinner and entertainment. We look forward to see you all there and more details will follow in a flyer soon.

## YMCA/GPA Afterschool

After School students have been working hard on projects that they will be showcasing to families and peers. These projects will demonstrate their learning in afterschool. Please be on the look out for the individual grade level invitations if your child is in the after school program. We currently have space in the program; please call to speak to Lauren if you are interested.

# December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 *	2	3
4	5	6 *	7	8 *	9	10
11	12	13 *	14 *	15 *	16 *	17
18	19	20 *	21 *	22 *	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

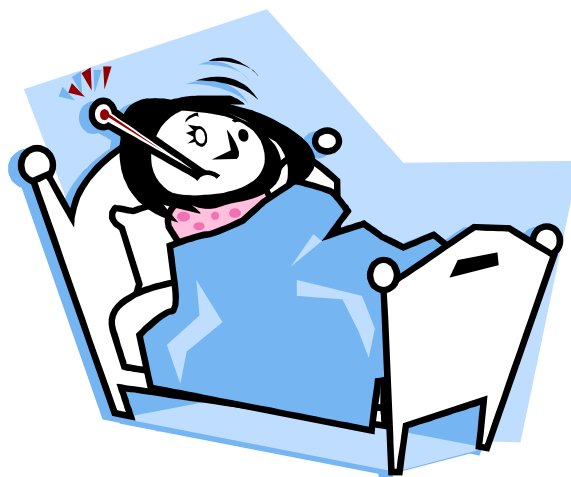
## Schedule of Events

- \* Dec 1st @8:30am—Hora del Cafe
- \* Dec 13th—KIPP Academy Site Visit
- \* Dec 14th—Brookline School site visit
- \* Dec 15th 6:30-8:30 Adult Ed Event
- \* Dec 16th 10-2pm. Zumba Thon. See Nurse Dana or Coach Mary to get more involved.
- \* Dec 21st @ 5:30pm Celebration of Arts and Culture.
- \* Dec 22nd 7:30am Governing Board
- \* Dec 22nd—RIF event
- \* Dec 23rd-30 No School Winter vacation.
- \* Tuesday's and Thursday's—6-8:30pm Adult Ed (ESL)

## Updates from the Health Room

Please remember that children who are ill with flu-like symptoms (sore throat, cough, aching muscles, headache) plus a fever should be kept home until they are fever-free for **24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin**. Children may still be contagious and pose a risk to their classmates if they are sent to school any earlier after being ill. Thank you for your cooperation with this important Boston Public School policy.

Nurse Dana



## Zumba-thon

The Wellness Council is pleased to be hosting a ZUMBATHON® fundraiser on December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 to 1:30 in the auditorium. Information regarding pledges and event details went home with students the week of Thanksgiving break. The money raised through this exciting event will go to support the continuation of the Playworks program here at GPA. Please see Nurse Dana if you would like to volunteer!