

October
2012



GPA Newsletter

Leadership Update

Welcome Back!

Gardner Pilot Academy is off to a great start to the 2012-2013 school year. We are thrilled to have our first class of sixth graders at the school who continue to inspire us with their excellent ideas and leadership. In preparation for our middle school we are doing a little bit of work on the third floor installing new lockers and getting new furniture. The three year plan is to have the entire third floor become our middle school serving grades 5-8. Most recently our 6th graders wrote our skits for our welcome back assembly for the entire school. They helped to teach our younger students our core values of CARING, HONESTY, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY and ACADEMIC

ACHIEVEMENT. Please be sure to attend our parent council meetings to learn more about our middle school planning.

On the younger side we welcomed a new class of kindergarteners at GPA this month. It is always so wonderful to have the kindergarten energy and enthusiasm for learning in our classrooms. Our kindergarteners will be studying through six different themes this year all aligned to the common core. Please be sure to speak with your child's teacher to learn how to get involved at GPA.

Lastly, we have many new adult faces at Gardner Pilot Academy. We are so excited to be able to offer more enrichment for our students. Ms. Bak is

teaching music, Ms. Sanchez is teaching media, Ms. Tarshish is teaching art and Coach Caitlin is our new playworks coach. Ms. Sarah Khoury is our new school nurse who is very excited to work with our parents to ensure we have healthy students and a healthy staff.

We hope many of you will run for our open seats on the governing board and will get involved in our Parent Council. This is going to be a GREAT year!

Sincerely,

Erica Herman

Joe Sara

Adult Ed

The Gardner Pilot Academy's Adult Education program is happy to announce that classes have begun and is off to another successful year. Thanks to city funding awarded to GPA, the Adult Education Program is once again offering free ESOL classes serving five levels of English instruction with certified teachers. These classes will focus on listening, speaking, reading, and writing with an integrated technology piece offered once a week to each class. Please have a look at our website if you would like to learn more about the program www.gpaesol@weebly.com or come in to talk with Michelle Duval on Tuesday or Thursday evenings from 5:30-8:30.

Nurses Corner

Every day we strive to keep our students at GPA healthy and happy. A big part of this is encouraging and modeling healthy eating behaviors with our Healthy Snack Policy! Given that this year 34% of our first graders are overweight or obese, we are especially concerned. To find out more information about our Healthy Snack Policy – or if you are interested in becoming part of our school Health and Wellness Committee – please contact Sarah Khoury, school nurse, at 617-635-9562 or skalil@boston.k12.ma.us.

Governing Board and Parent Council

Elections for Parent Council (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and Governing Board (4 board seats and 2 alternates) will take place on Wednesday October 10th from 7:45am—7:00pm at the Gardner. Nomination forms have been sent home and are due in the office by Monday, October 1st. If you have any questions regarding the roles and responsibilities for these positions please contact Elba Mendez at 617-635-8365.

After School

There are spots open in all grades. Please pick up an application in the main office if you are interested in enrolling. Please be sure to include one month's worth of paystubs. Fees for the program are based on family yearly income. *There is no after school when we have half days of school.

There will be after school elective opportunities for students in 4th, 5th and 6th grade that are not enrolled in after school. These opportunities have a nominal cost associated with them and parent drop off and pick up is required. Please be on the lookout for applications and return as soon as possible as openings are first come first serve.

Upcoming Events

Friday Arts Showcases: The Friday Arts performances will take place in the GPA auditorium on the following dates:
12/7/12 at 8:30AM, 3/15/13 at 8:30AM and 6/14/13 at 8:30AM.

October 3rd — k1 & k2 field trip to the farm (apple picking)

Parent Council meeting October 10th @ 6pm (Rm11)

Election - October 10th from 7:45am-7pm

Hispanic Coffee Hour - October 10th @ 5:30 and

October 11th @ 8:30am.

Governing Board - October 17th @ 7:30am (Rm11)

Adult Education - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8:30pm

No school October 8th—Columbus Day