

OCTOBER 2011

# GPA Newsletter



## K-8 Transition Update

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Last spring Gardner Pilot Academy heard from our Deputy Superintendent, Michael Goar, that our proposal to convert our school to a K-8 model starting next fall was accepted. Our full proposal will be voted on by the school committee in Octo-

ber. This means that starting in the fall of 2012 we will open with our first group of 6th graders at GPA. All families in our 5th grade will have the opportunity to remain at GPA. We are currently in the planning process to determine our model for the

middle school grades. We are seeking parents to serve on our planning task force. We meet on Monday afternoons one time per month from 3:00-4:30. Please see Erica Herman if you are interested in serving on the K-8 Planning Task Force. We will be

updating families of our planning progress at our monthly Parent Council meetings.



## Transportation Update

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On behalf of the Boston Public Schools, we want to apologize for the transportation delays many of you have experienced this fall. We are working diligently with the district transportation department to ensure these are corrected

and that all students arrive on time to school. We expect all students to be in classrooms ready to learn by 8:30 daily. This means we expect buses to arrive at 8:20 to allow all students to take part in our universal free breakfast pro-

gram. If you are still experiencing any transportation issues that are preventing your child from being in school every day ready to learn by 8:30 please send a note to the school so we can communicate these to the district personnel in charge

of transportation. Although we are doing our best to support every family and hear your challenges, transportation is handled centrally by Boston Public Schools and not directly at the school.



# Parent Election Process 2011-2012

As you may already know elections are held every fall for parents to elect representatives from within the parent community to serve as parent council officers and to serve on the Governing Board at GPA.

**Nominations are due Friday,**

Parent representation on the Governing Board and Parent Council is very important to the GPA

school community. Below is the Election Process for the Gardner.

We would like to extend an invitation to all family member of GPA to consider running for Parent Council and Governing Board. Please feel free to contact Elba Mendez at 617-635-8365 with any questions.

Parent Election Process	Important Dates	Information & Parent Responsibilities
Nominations	Wednesday, September 21st	Parents receive election information and nomination forms.
Submit Nominations	Friday, September 30th	Deadline for nomination forms to be submitted.
Candidate Biographies	Tuesday, October 4th	Parents receive information on all candidates running for elected positions and think about whom they would like to vote for. Biographies go home to families.
Election Day	Friday, October 7	Parents come to the school between 7:45am and 5:45pm to vote for candidates they would like to elect. There will be <u>one</u> vote per family.
Election Results	Tuesday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	The results of the parent election will be announced to the school community.



## Spanish Club

A 10 week Spanish Club for children to learn Spanish in a fun and relaxed way through songs, games and activities. There is some reading and writing with the upper grades. It is open to all children regardless of which school they attend.

Program Start Date: Tuesday, October 11, 2011

Tuesday: 3:00 - 3:45 pm (K1 - 1st grade)

Tuesday: 4:00 - 5 pm (2nd - 5th grade)

Tuition: \$120

If you are interested in enrolling your child, please call Rita Vaidya (parent volunteer) at 617-562-8693, email rita.vaidya@gmail.com or Elba Mendez (GPA parent coordinator) at 617-635-8365.

# Updates from the Health Room



Welcome back!

I hope everyone had a wonderful, healthy summer! Please remember to bring copies of updated physical exams and immunizations for school. Now is also the time to get flu shots for the entire family. Flu shots can be obtained through your and your child's doctor, at Walgreens or Target pharmacy, or at a Boston Public Health Commission free flu clinic. Please visit their website at <http://www.bphc.org/Pages/Home.aspx> for clinic dates and times. Thank you!

Nurse Dana

## Afterschool



There are currently openings in grade 1, grade 2 and grade 3 for after school. Please pick up an application in the main office if you are interested. If you are interested in programming and your child is not in one of these grades, please contact Lauren Fogarty at [\(617\)635-8365](tel:6176358365).

## Adult Education

GPA NEWSLETTER

This year the ESOL program at the Gardner has combined the High Intermediate and the Advanced classes. We have gotten off to a great start with an enthusiastic group of eager and motivated students. We dove right in to reviewing the simple past tense and how to ask questions about the past. As the semester continues, we'll be studying the other past tenses and the future tense.

Every lesson this year will include a special segment on phrasal verbs. In addition, we'll be using computers in class weekly to augment our text and other written materials.



### UNIFORMS

Please send your child in uniform every day.

Uniforms can be ordered:

- Online: [www.FrenchToast.com](http://www.FrenchToast.com)
- Phone: 1-800-373-6248
- FAX: 1-888-296-4966
- Mail: Fill out order form (forms available in the main office) and send to:

3003 Scarlett Street, Suite  
25 Brunswick GA 31520

The school code is QS44VN

Please note that when you purchase from the school catalog or online the school receives 5% cash back on all purchases plus technology rewards at certain sales levels. If you need help with ordering please call Elba Mendez at 617-635-8365.

Please note that students can continue to wear the former GPA uniform shirt.