

# GPA Newsletter

## Governing Board Notes—April 24th

May / June 2013

### Principal's Report:

School Choice Model has changed to a home base model. GPA is part of Network D. One major impact is that we are part of the Allston/Brighton network. This new model will be effective for school choice 2014-2015. We received our 7<sup>th</sup> grade list, but that was not to capacity yet. We are also going through NAEYC Accreditation, will have visit by the end of the year. We had a successful Walk-A-Thon! We also had a Jeans for Joy Event to raise money to send supplies overseas. Student Leadership Team is having a Boston Pride Day this Friday. Donation is \$1 and will benefit victims of Boston Bombing.

**Parent Report:** Stand Up Against Racism Event is taking place on Friday, April 26th. Members from Parent Council are busy planning Friendship Feast which will take place on June 7th. Dr. Paez from BC lead a discussion at the April 10th HCH about the importance of Bilingualism and gave parents three books in both English and Spanish to take home and read to their children.

**Teacher Report:** Technology goes home starts Wednesday, April 24th. We had a RIF event at the Walk-A-Thon, and all students got to take a book home. Miss Amy's last day was the Friday April 12th. We will miss her!

**Funding Report:** Currently, Genzyme is still our only partner on Funding Factory. If you know of any other businesses, please let Lauren know. We raised \$7,100 at "Put Your Hands Up for GPA" at Harvard, will definitely do it again next year. Liz raised over \$36,000 during her run! Health & Wellness grant for moving – we will find out in June. Arts expansion grant was submitted – will also hear about in June. Meeting with Shippy model this week.

**Looking at Our Priorities:** Reviewed the Governing Board priorities and asked how do we know what we're doing is working? How do we evaluate that? David made a list of potential priorities in order to collapse what we have and make it more streamlined to 5 priorities. Looking for Board's assistance on re-wording and/or tweaking. Sometime between May-June we could potentially have a Governing Board retreat at the Ed Portal at Harvard. Erica and Irwin will discuss.

**Operational Updates:** Update on where we are on Inclusion as a school priority Erica handed out a FAQ sheet on Inclusion to give parents as a tool (this is our 1<sup>st</sup> draft). GPA is not yet recognized as an inclusion school. This year, we have students who are in a gen ed classroom who were previously taught in a sub-separate classroom. Thinking about how we make this model known to all potential families.

**Middle School Planning:** Employing our K8 Task Force to think about our middle school, particularly in the area of curriculum. Will have updates after our next meeting. Moving fully ahead with AVID for our Middle School. AVID – Idea of organization (study habits, etc.) and college-readiness (strategies on learning, etc.). GPA is the only new school in AVID this year,

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all teachers in grades 6 and 7 will attend a Summer Institute on AVID in preparation for the '13-'14 school year

**Uniform Change:** Discussion arose about using navy pants as part of the uniform instead of khaki. All voting members of the Board voted to have navy be our pant color of choice now. Students can wear navy/khaki pants until the end of the year. Starting September, all students must wear navy. Erica will send out a letter and an all call. Students must also wear closed-toe shoes with rubber soles.

**Facility Update:** We will have four classrooms for middle school (History, ELA, Math, Science). We are still fine-tuning what that staff/transitions will look like for next year

**Closing Remarks:** In order to receive a free book at the Stand up Against Racism Event you have to stay for the entire event and answer a parent survey.

**Hiring Update:** We have hired two people already for next year. Still have three middle school positions available (5 total positions). Ideal candidates are diverse candidates (linguistic diversity as well) with experience.

## Adult Education

The High Intermediate/Advanced ESOL class has been working hard this year, but of course we are also having a ton of fun learning so much more than *just* grammar! Of course, grammar is important, which is why this year we have been focusing on the present perfect tenses and on learning all of those irregular participles. Using this construction, students are making conjectures and reflections about the past, and are giving advice in the past using modal verbs. We now fully understand the English expression “coulda shoulda woulda!”

Students have also been focusing their efforts on independent Inter-

net research and they use it to prompt reading comprehension and writing, especially summarizing what we read. Each week, students investigate various facets of American life and history, and along the way learn the tricks of finding what we need on the Internet and how to do an effective search for information. With a simple list of historical figures, important events or icons in American culture, and a few target questions, students are able to learn on their own, and discuss with each other their findings. Class is fascinating because of so much cultural sharing and comparing, all the time!

## GPA/YMCA After School Program

The GPA/YMCA After School Program has open seats in all grades and is looking for more GPA students to join our high-quality, and top ranked by the state after school program. We offer reduced weekly fees for families in need of financial assistance. We are eager to work with families to ensure cost is not a barrier to participation. Please call Arielle Fleisher at the school for more information.

## Nurses Corner

In the last Nurse’s Corner for the school year, let’s reflect on our accomplishments that have supported and encouraged the health and wellness of our students. In September at Back to School Night, students and families enjoyed the Healthy Snack Sale and learned about our Healthy Snack Policy for school parties and functions. At the Zumbathon in January, students took shifts dancing all day long, and projected \$2,700

in pledges to support our Playworks Coach position. So far we have received \$1,200 of the money pledged.

Through our partnerships with Joseph Smith Community Health Center, registered dietitians led first grade students on a supermarket tour in January followed by a series of nutrition workshops about healthy eating. Also thanks to Joseph Smith, we were fortunate provide our sixth graders with a

series of puberty education seminars from February to April. Students speed-walked laps around the school at our Walkathon in April—we are still tallying the proceeds!

Our exciting health events capping of the year include:

Playworks 5K in Moakley Park on May 4th—Proceeds go directly to Playworks at GPA

Health Week is May 20-24. May 20 is both our GPA Health Fair and Math Night!

If you would like to volunteer or be otherwise involved, please reach out to our Health and Wellness Committee (contact School Nurse Sarah Khoury at 617-635-9562 or skalil@boston.k12.ma.us)

## GPA/YMCA Summer Program

GPA Summer Program will be run at GPA from Monday, July 1st-Friday, August 2nd. This five week program will serve students in K-1-6th grade. This program is a balance of academics and enrichment and has been deemed as highest quality by the Department of Early and Secondary Education. Each Friday, all students and staff will attend full day Friday field trips. We offer reduced weekly fees for families in need of financial assistance. We are eager to work with families to ensure cost is not a barrier to participation. Please call Arielle Fleisher at the school for more information. Applications are available in the main office.



## Would you like to win a new IPAD mini? (Friendship Feast)

The Parent Council and Hispanic Coffee Hour invite you to join us for our **Friendship Feast** on Friday, June 7th at 5:30pm (rain or shine). We'll have a raffle, a silent auction, music, games and food from all over the world—at reasonable prices!.

**The Grand prize for the raffle is a mini iPad. The raffle book will go on sale on Monday, May 6th. You can purchase 1 ticket for 1.00 or a book of 6 for \$5.00.**



## Facebook

Please be sure to “like” us on facebook by going to the Gardner Pilot Academy page on facebook and clicking “like”

## MCAS

Students in 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th grade will be completing the MCAS assessments on days during the following weeks: week of May 6th, May 12th and May 19th.

The testing schedule is as follows:

- Monday, May 6th - 5th grade Math
- Tuesday, May 7th - 6th grade Math
- Wednesday, May 8th - 4th grade Math
- Thursday, May 9th - 3rd grade Math
- Friday, May 10th - 5th grade Science
- Monday, May 13th - 5th grade Math
- Tuesday, May 14th - 6th grade Math
- Wednesday, May 15th - 4th grade Math
- Thursday, May 16th - 3rd grade Math
- Friday, May 17th - 5th grade Science
- Monday, May 20th - Make-up day
- Tuesday, May 21st - Make-up day

## Special points of interest:

Kindergarten Welcome event will be held here at GPA on May 6th at 5PM.

Math and Literacy Night this year will be held on Monday, May 20th and include a health and wellness fair in the GPA Auditorium. The event will begin at 5:30PM and include take-home materials for families and dinner!

No school on Monday, May 27th.

Spirit Week will be taking place from Tuesday, May 28th - Friday, May 31 - details to come.

Last week of school will be June 24th- June 28th. June 27th and June 28th are both half days. Promotion ceremonies will take place during the first 3 full-days of this week, details to come. The last two days of school will be GPA service days.

Adult Ed's year end event will be held on Tuesday June 4th from 6-8:30pm.

Adult Ed will be selling raffle tickets to raise funds for program supplies starting on May 1st. Winners will be announced on June 4th at their year end event.

Adult Ed will be holding a Career Explorations Workshop for the Advanced ESOL class and these sessions will take place in class on 4/11, 4/25, 5/2 & 5/9



## Playworks 5k

Playworks 5K will take place at Moakley Park on Saturday, May 4th. All registration fees brought directly to GPA will go towards our Playworks Program at GPA. Additional registration forms can be found in the main office.

# May 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6-8:30pm—Technology Goes Home (TGH)	2 6pm—adult ed	3	4 Playworks 5K Moakley Park
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<i>Math and Science MCAS</i>						
	<u>5th grade Math MCAS</u> 3-4:30 K-8 task Force 5pm Kindergarten Welcome	<u>6th Grade Math MCAS</u> 6pm—adult ed	<u>4th Grade Math MCAS</u> 3pm Wellness Team 5:30pm HCH 6:00pm Parent Council 6-8:30pm—TGH	<u>3rd Grade Math MCAS</u> 8:30am HCH 6pm—adult ed	5th grade Science MCAS	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<i>Math and Science MCAS</i>						
	<u>5th grade Math MCAS</u> 3-4:30 K-8 task Force	<u>6th Grade Math MCAS</u> 6pm—adult ed	<u>4th Grade Math MCAS</u> 6-8:30pm—TGH	<u>3rd Grade Math MCAS</u> 6pm—adult ed	5th grade Science MCAS	
19	20 5:30pm HASI Math Night	21 6pm—adult ed	22 7:30 am Gov Bd 6-8:30pm—TGH	23 6pm—adult ed	24	25
26	27 HOLIDAY	28 6pm—adult ed	29 6-8:30pm—TGH	30 6pm—adult ed	31	
<i>SPIRIT WEEK</i>						

# June 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 3-4:30 K-8 task Force	4 6pm—Adult Ed End of Year Event	5 3pm Wellness Team	6	7 5:30-7 Friendship Feast	8
9	10	11	12 7:30 am Gov Bd	13	14	15
16	17 HOLIDAY	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 FIELD DAY REPORT CARDS	25 FIELD DAY K1 PROMOTION CEREMONY	26 K PROMOTION CEREMONY 5TH GRADE GRADUATION	27 1/2 day	28 <u>LAST DAY</u> 1/2 day	29
30						