

GPA Newsletter



MARCH / APRIL 2014

Governing Board Jan 16th

The Governing Board met on Jan 15th and discussed the budget. We thought we had more allocated to us but in fact we have less. There was a discrepancy of capacity and projection in middle school of \$144,000.

Budget Breakdown

Total budget 3,681,718 of that ..

3,566,720.25 = Salaries (3,536,720.25 general school funds + 30,000 Title One)

Contracts total 160,00 actual in budget 90,000.

stipends 6,106.

Budget Cuts:

- curriculum and assessment coordinator position
- Media teacher (specialist)
- Contracts—total needed is 160,000 (fundraising needed for Friday arts \$40K, playworks 30K) total 90,000

Programmatic recommendations:

- Increase time on instruction in core content areas in grades k-5
- 90 minutes for collaborative planning in grades K-4 or 60 minutes for content planning in grades 6-8
- 3 individual planning periods

No intern funds for next year. Increasing cluster sub positions. Cluster sub = 30K and is a certified teacher. The position can be used creatively to sub but also as additional instructional support.

Scholastic Book Fair March 3rd-5th

I'm inviting you to be a part of our School Book Fair. It's taking place Monday, March 3 through Wednesday, March 5. Students will visit the fair on Monday and Tuesday during select school day hours (by classroom) and families will have an opportunity to visit the fair with their children during ELA/Health Night on March 5th from 5:30-7:30pm (the fair will be open from 6-7pm). You can shop for books for your entire family. If for some reason you can't make it or you want to continue shopping from an expanded selection, [you can now visit the Fair online](http://www.scholastic.com/fair) www.scholastic.com/fair or <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/gpa>. The Online Book Fair is available until March 4th.

The Online Fair:

- Gives you the opportunity to purchase books from the online Classroom Wish list that the teachers have created for their homeroom, which will help refresh their classroom library and give students access to a variety of new books. To view the teachers Classroom Wish list, select the "Classroom Wish Lists" tab on the online Book Fair site. Then look for the teachers name under the grade listing on the left.
- Is available for an extended time, and all orders ship FREE to school.
- Provides a chance for you and your child to create and send Wish Lists to invite friends and family to participate in the Book Fair!
- Offers an expanded book selection for all ages—from preschool to adult

All in-school and online Bok Fair purchases benefit our school. Thanks for helping connect more kids with books they want to read. See you at the Book Fair.

Inside this issue:

Adult Education	2
GPA/After School Program	2
Nurses Corner	2
Summer Plans for your child	2
GPA/YMCA Summer Program	2
PC Email Address	2
Math and Reading Websites	3
Technology Goes Home	3
Special Points of Interest	3
MCAS	3
Calendar	4

GPA Newsletter

Adult Education

The Basic Beginner English class at GPA is learning many things. We are learning vocabulary and different verbs. We learned past, present, future, and present continuous tense. We learned time and the clock, numbers, marital status, weather, months, and addresses. We practice conversations and write. We use computers to learn and practice vocabulary. Our class is big and happy and we are learning to speak English better.

GPA/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 Ari Fleisher at the school for more information.

Nurses Corner

This school year has brought a number of wellness initiatives to GPA, some old and some new. Students danced in shifts all day long in the third annual Zumbathon, which took place just before winter break. Over \$1500 has been raised to support our Playworks Coach, with more pledges still to be collected. Students have been enjoying the weekly movement minute over the morning announcements, and using the same exercises for movement breaks throughout that week. You may have seen photos of students stretching, touching toes, and doing jumping jacks on the GPA Facebook page!

Our GPA Fit Club (new this year) is up and running. The 165 GPA students participating in Fit Club run, walk or jog during their Thursday and Friday recesses. They have not let indoor recess due to snow or freezing temperatures slow them down, either -- students engage in other indoor-friendly exercises like lunges, running in place and squats. Students are looking forward to earning their T-shirt at the 25-mile mark! ELA/Health Night on March 5 is quickly approaching. The Health and Wellness Team is working diligently to recruit vendors that work towards promoting a healthy lifestyle. Mark your calendars for this event!

Summer Plans for Your Child

Are you interested in sending your child(ren) to summer camp? Sarah O'Connor City Connect School Site coordinator has a number of resources on camps in the community for children all of ages and needs. If you would like help selecting the right camp for your child, do not hesitate to contact her at 617-201-6397.

GPA/YMCA Summer Program

GPA Summer Program will be run at GPA from Monday, June 30—Friday, August 1st. This five week program will serve students in K-1-8th grade (ages 5 and up). 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 Ari Fleisher at the school for more information. Applications will be available in the main office by April.

Parent Council email address

Please feel free to contact our Parent Council Chair person (Acacia Aguirre) and Co-Chair (Farah Faldonie) at the following email address. We would love to hear any suggestion and or agenda topics for the upcoming meetings.

parentcouncil.GPA@gmail.com

The Nurses Office is in need of some supplies. Your generous contribution of the following items will be greatly appreciated. You can drop them off at the main office or the nurse's office.

- Lysol wipes
- Cough drops
- Tissues
- Feminine hygiene supplies (pads)
- Nutritious snacks (whole grain crackers, granola bars, cereal) for kids who miss meals or are nauseated
- Ace wraps- any size
- Cold packs (instant or reusable)
- Ibuprofen/Advil, Acetaminophen/Tylenol
- Ziploc bags (sandwich or snack size)
- Hand sanitizer
- Non-latex exam gloves

Congratulation to the
12 students who
qualified for AWC!!!!

Special points of interest:

Academics:

Be sure to take advantage of our FREE before school program each day beginning at 7:30AM. All students across all grades can be served and we are focusing on math fluency and comprehension during this time.

Parent Engagement:

Thursday, March 20th is our monthly Family and Community Outreach Team meeting from 8:30-9:30AM. We are looking for parents to join! Please contact Elba or Lauren if you are interested. The date for the April meeting is April 17th.

Extended Services:

Be on the lookout for America Scores applications for students in middle school. These will be distributed on Monday, March 3rd!

GPA's ELA and Health Night is taking place on Wednesday, March 5th from 5:30-7:30PM at GPA. Check out the flyer with all the details, come out and enjoy with your child!

Friday, March 7th is our 2nd Friday Arts Showcase of the year at 8:30AM in the GPA auditorium.

GPA's Science and Math Night is taking place on Wednesday, April 16th at 5:30PM at GPA, mark your calendars - more details to come!

GPA's annual Walk-a-thon will be held on Thursday, April 17th all day, details and pledge forms to come.

April break will take place from Friday, April 18th- Friday, April 25th.

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

Math and Reading Websites

Here are some website that your child can use at home to reinforce math and reading. The students have used these website in class and know their password. If you need help please contact us. The Boston Public Library (www.bpl.org/boost) provides free homework help, academic support and mentoring in all subject areas for students K-8. Honan-Allston hours: Monday-Thursday 3:30-5:30

Reading:

Starfall.com

Teachyourmonstertoread.com

Pottermore.com

Theproblemite.com

Funbrain.com

Math:

Mathfactcafe.com

MCAS

Students in 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 7th grade will be completing the MCAS assessments on days during the following weeks: week of March 18th and week of March 24th

The testing schedule is as follows:

- Tuesday, March 18th - 4th grade and 7th grade long composition
- Wednesday, March 19th - 3rd grade English Language Arts (ELA), session #1
- Thursday, March 20th - 4th grade and 7th grade ELA, session #1
- Monday, March 24th - 5th grade and 6th grade ELA, session #1
- Tuesday, March 25th - 4th grade and 7th grade ELA, session #2
- Wednesday, March 26th - 3rd grade, session #2
- Thursday, March 27th - 5th grade and 6th grade ELA, session #2

Technology Goes Home (4th-7th graders)



This year Ms. Sanchez and Ms. Wasserman will be offering a FREE weekly class for 4th, 5th 6th and 7th grade parents and their child to learn how to use a computer and the internet. The class will be Wednesdays from 6:00-8:30pm for 6 weeks starting on February 24th. At the end of the course you will have the option of purchasing a BRAND NEW Google CHROMEBOOK computer for only 50.00. Please contact the school if you are interested in enrolling at 617-635-8365. Sign-up forms have already gone home.

March 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 BOOK FAIR 5:45pm Tech Goes Home	4 BOOK FAIR 6pm adult ed	5 BOOK FAIR 5:30pm ELA/Health Nite	6 6pm adult ed	7 8:30am Show-case	8
9	10 5:45pm Tech Goes Home	11 6pm adult ed	12 5:30pm HCH 6:00pm PC (MCAS info sess)	13 8:30am HCH 6pm adult ed	14	15
16	17 HOLIDAY	18 MCAS (7th long comp) 6pm adult ed	19 MCAS (3rd ELA #1) 3pm Wellness Team	20 MCAS (4th & 7th ELA #1) 8:30am FCO 6pm adult ed	21	22
23	24 MCAS (5th & 6th ELA #1) 5:45pm Tech Goes Home	25 MCAS (4th & 7th ELA #2) 6pm adult ed	26 MCAS (3rd ELA #2)	27 MCAS (5th & 6th ELA #2) 7:30am Gov Board 6pm adult ed	28	29
30	31 5:45pm Tech Goes Home					

April 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 6pm adult ed	2	3 6pm adult ed	4	5
6	7	8 6pm adult ed	9 5:30pm HCH 6pm PC	10 8:30am HCH 6pm adult ed	11	12
13	14	15 6pm adult ed	16 5:30pm Science/Math Nite 7:30am Gov Bd 3pm Wellness Team	17 Walk-a-thon 8:30am FCO 6pm adult ed	18 HOLIDAY	19
20	21	22 *****	23 SPRING BREAK	24 *****	25	26
27	28 .	29 6pm adult ed	30			