

October
2013



GPA Newsletter

Leadership Update

Gardner Pilot Academy is off to a great start to the 2013-2014 school year. We are thrilled to have our first class of seventh graders at the school who continue to inspire us with their excellent ideas and leadership. Students are receiving health education in middle school once per week in the first half of this year. Students also have the opportunity to be a Peer mediator in middle school this year, a new initiative for GPA! We also have started our middle school leadership block allowing students to engage in creative leadership cycles. 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 last 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.

Our student wide success block begins at 8:30am on Monday, September 30th, please support this important learning time by ensuring your stu-

dents is here by 8:15am for breakfast. There will be a group of Brazilian principals visiting GPA for the day on Oct 9th.

Lastly we have many new adult faces at GPA. Coach Caroline is our new Playworks coach and we have the following new middle school staff: Marcus Penny, Randy Wilkerson, Katherine Akins-Pattison, Stephen Shapinski and Debbie O'Shea. We also have the following new elementary staff: Robyn Antonucci and Erin Egan. The following staff are covering maternity leaves Katie Sweeney (covering Christy Nelson), Ellen Pogson (covering Christine Ferguson).

Adult Ed

It's back to school for GPA's adult education program! We welcomed each other back and discussed some of our plans for the upcoming year. We are hoping to better our communication with the people we speak English to everyday. By focusing on pronunciation and our accents, we will build our confidence to present our ideas and speak aloud. We want to motivate each other to look forward to learning, not only twice a week, but every day. Through newspapers, music, local events and even games, we can enrich our vocabulary, reading and understanding. Of course, we *always* need more work with prepositions!

Written by, High Intermediate/Advanced Class

Upcoming Events

Parent Council meeting October 9th @ 6pm
Election - October 9th from 7:45am-7pm
Hispanic Coffee Hour - October 9th @ 5:30pm and October 10th @ 9:30am.
Governing Board - October 24th @ 7:30am
Adult Education - Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-8:30pm
No school October 14th—Columbus Day

Nurses Corner

Welcome back to the start of a healthy and successful new school year! A few reminders from your school nurse: **GPA has a Healthy Snack and Beverage Policy.** If you plan to bring in treats for a class party or your child's birthday, please contact the classroom teacher ahead of time. If you are interested in joining our Health & Wellness Team, which meets once monthly on a Wednesday afternoon, please contact Nurse Sarah (617-635-9562 or skalil@boston.k12.ma.us). If your child requires any medications during the school day, including inhalers or Epi-pens, please contact Nurse Sarah. Please remember to have your whole family get an annual flu shot!

Governing Board and Parent Council

Elections for Parent Council (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) and Governing Board (1 board seats and 2 alternates) will take place on Wednesday October 9th from 7:45am—7:00pm at the Gardner. Nomination forms have been sent home and are due in the office by Monday, September 30th. If you have any questions regarding the roles and responsibilities for these positions please contact Elba Mendez at 617-635-8365.

After School

We are excited to be starting another amazing year of GPA/YMCA After School with over 90 students enrolled! There are still spots open in all grades. Please pick up an application in the main office if you are interested. Including one month's worth of paystubs may qualify your family for financial assistance as weekly fees for the program are based on family yearly income. The program is open to the whole school, K-1 through 7th graders, and we work hard to ensure exciting partnerships, project-based learning, academic support and social opportunities, as well as fun, for all students! Please contact Ms. Fleisher in the main office with any questions.

Cradles to Crayons

Cradles to Crayons is a Boston non-profit organization that helps to provide children with essential items such as clothing, books, backpacks, and supplies. They are a very generous partner of the Gardner, and have selected our school to benefit from one of their community events. As a result, before winter break in December every GPA student in grades K1-5 will receive a free pair of new pajamas and a book to take home for break. You will receive a letter home asking you to provide your child's pajama size. Please return it to school before **October 11th**. If you do not want your child to receive the pajamas/book, please indicate that on the letter home. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sarah O'Connor at oconnoso@bc.edu/ 617-201-6397.