

GPA Newsletter



MARCH / APRIL 2015

Leadership Update

Wow, this winter has had A LOT of snow! We hope that everyone has stayed safe and warm during this very long winter. We are all ready for spring! As a result of all of the snow days, the school calendar has changed for this spring. We are now attending school on March 17th and June 17th. Our last day of school is currently June 29th. We will update families of any further changes from the snow.

GPA is very excited this year to launch our HOME VISIT initiative for the school. All of our teachers were trained by the office of family and student engagement on how to be a part of a home visit. We know that when there is a strong relationship between the school and the home student learning is improved. We also know that the research on home visits is all incredibly positive and is noted as one the strongest strategies to support student learning. If you want to learn more about our home visit initiative please check in with your child's teacher. We hope to get feedback from parents at the end of this year about home visits to do even more of them next year!

We also wanted to let families know about all the testing that starts in March. All students in Boston will be taking the PARCC exam instead of MCAS for English and Math. It is very important for students to have strong attendance and be on time for school in order to be fully ready for these new tests. Please review the testing dates below and mark your calendars as a reminder. For more information on this new test parents should visit the following site. <http://www.bostonpublicschools.org/parcc>

PARCC Testing Schedule

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will take the PBA (Performance Based Assessment) PARCC the week of **March 23rd-April 3rd**

All students will take 3 tests in ELA (English Language Arts) and 2 tests in Math for a total of 5 tests during this two-week window. It is very important for students to be present each day.

Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 will take the EOY (End of Year) PARCC the week of May 11th-May 22nd.

Grades 3-5 will take 1 test in English and 2 tests in Math for a total of 3 tests

Grades 6-8 will take 2 tests in English and 2 tests in Math for a total of 4 tests.

Grade 5 and grade 8 will still take the science MCAS on May 5th and 6th.

If you have any questions about these tests please reach out to your child's teacher.

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GPA Newsletter

Nurses Corner

Our Wellness Team has been diligently working on a number of initiatives to support student health.

Students danced in shifts all day long in the fourth annual Zumbathon, which took place just before February break. Thank you to our wonderful volunteer Zumba instructors!

Students have been enjoying movement minutes led by our GPA mascot the GPA Griffin!

Wellness Week (Week of April 13), including Health

and Science Night on April 15, is quickly approaching. Mark your calendars for these events!

Tips to stay active during school vacations and snow days:

- Ask your child to teach you their favorite “movement minute”
- Go on a walk together as a family- outside or around the neighborhood in nice weather, or around the mall in bad weather!
- Do chores together as a family -- lifting laundry,

cleaning the floors, and yard work are all great exercise.

- Please reach out to school nurse Sarah Khoury (617-635-9562 or skalil@bostonpublicschools.org) or social worker Molly O’Connor (617-635-8365 or ocannonhb@bc.edu) if you or your family is in need of warm clothing (including coats, hats, gloves, etc.)



Summer Plans for Your Child

Are you interested in sending your child(ren) to summer camp? Molly 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 *Molly* at 617-201-6397 or molly.oconnor.5@bc.edu.

GPA/YMCA Summer Program

YMCA/GPA Summer Program will be run at GPA from Monday, July 6th-Friday, August 7th. This five week program will serve students in K-1-8th 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 Maridel Perdomo at 617-549-8452 for more information. Applications are available in the main office.

Adult Education

“Nice to meet you!” That’s what the Basic Beginner Adult ESL class started with in September. From introductions, we’ve moved week by week to learning about each other, the weather, telling time, food shopping, clothes shopping, and how to count money. Each class we make vocabulary flash cards so we can practice at home. Here are a few of the New Year’s resolutions from student writing: “Work out at the gym two times a week,” wrote Walter. “Speak English and help my children build my house,” wrote Suyapa. “Eat more vegetables and fruits and walk for 30 minutes every day,” wrote Blanca. “To study English and become a carpenter,” wrote Carlos. “I will try to be a great mother,” wrote Eliete. Last month we set up a make-believe store to buy and sell clothing with play money. Angela wrote, “I love my closet! My favorite piece of clothing is my pajamas.” We play Simon Says to make sure we remember the words for body parts, to keep laughing, and to get some exercise in the middle of the class.

Special points of interest:

- Smart Smiles dentist March 9-15th.
- 2nd Friday Arts Showcase for Kindergarten through 6th grade students on Friday March 13th from 8:30-9:30AM.
- There **WILL** be school on Tuesday, March 17th
- After school showcases of student learning for their 2nd unit will take place the week of March 30th
- Science and Health Night will be taking place on Wednesday, April 15th from 5:30-7PM. At this event we will be also be holding our scholastic book fair (April 13-15th book fair)
- GPA's Annual Walkathon will take place on Friday, April 17th
- April break will take place from Monday, April 20th-Friday, April 4th
- 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.
- Please be sure to “like” us on facebook by going to the Gardner Pilot Academy page on facebook and clicking “like”.
- 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 Maridel Perdomo at the school for more information.

March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 6pm—adult ed	4	5 6pm—adult ed	6 MFA (Rms 25, 24, 22)	7
8	9	10 9:30 FCO 6pm—adult ed	11 3pm Wellness Team	12 7:30am Gov Board 6pm—adult ed	13 2nd and 3rd to BC	14
15	16	17 6pm—adult ed	18 5:30pm HCH 6:00pm PC	19 8:30am HCH 6pm—adult ed	20	21
22	23 PARCC	24 PARCC 6pm—adult ed	25 PARCC 8:45am Mom's Group	26 PARCC 6pm—adult ed	27 PARCC	28
29	30 PARCC	31 PARCC 6pm—adult ed				

April 2015

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