

GPA Newsletter



Governing Board mtg notes (Sept 12th)

Principal Report: Classes are completely full. All inclusions seats are full other than middle school. We have 5 new staff members for middle school. And 4 new staff members for elementary. Back to school night is on Sept 18th. We received the NAYCE accreditation.

Family Report: Parents wrote and attended meetings to try and get support from Harvard re: their expansion. It was suggested to volunteer with adult ESOL program to get in touch with parents who may not feel comfortable joining board because of language barrier.

Financial Report: A development team has been created. Interested staff or parents can contact the school to become a member.

Recent Grants;

\$1,000 wellness grant. \$12,000 for pre-algebra curriculum. \$20,000 anonymous donation in unrestricted funds. \$20,000 technology grant from American Tower.

Harvard expansion: Harvard will have a 10 year master plan agreed upon in next month. Very limited focus on GPA in their draft. Information and signatures to be presented to families at Back to School Night.

Election Process: information to be avail to families at back to school night. Parents will reach out to families to encourage them to be part of PC or GB. Elba will call families and encourage them to run. Deadline for nominations is Monday Sept 30th. Parents will get candidate bios on Oct 2nd. Voting will take place on Oct 9th from 7:45am-7pm. Results will be announced on Oct 11th. It was suggested to improve translation efforts in meetings. To make translator a paid position for a parent.

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Technology Goes Home (4th, 5th, 6th & 7th graders)

This year two of our teachers Hanh Truong and Michelle Sanchez will be offering a FREE weekly class for 4th, 5th, 6th & 7th grade parents and their child to learn how to use a computer and the internet. The program will meet once a week for 6 weeks (most probably in the spring). At the end of the course you will have the option of purchasing a BRAND NEW portable Netbook computer for only \$50.00. Please contact the school if you are interested in enrolling at 617-635-8365.

Nov 13th Parent Council

Principal Erica Herman will be presenting school academic data at our November Parent Council meeting. The meeting will be from 6-7pm in Room 11 in the Gardner. Childcare and pizza will be available for the children. We hope to see you there. Please contact Elba Mendez at 617-635-8365 with any questions.

Celebration of Culture and Community through the Arts



Gardner Pilot Academy, in collaboration with GPA Parent Council and Art Resource Collaborative for Kids (ARCK), will be hosting a Celebration of Culture and Community through the Arts on December 19th from 5:30-7:30PM at GPA. This event will include an opportunity for students artwork to be displayed and we will be holding a raffle and all proceeds will go towards supporting the arts at GPA. We are looking for all families attending to bring a food item as the dinner shared will be potluck style. If you are interested in volunteering to prepare for this event which can include preparing the raffle as well as mounting student artwork, please contact Lauren Fogarty or Elba Mendez at [\(617\) 635-8365](tel:6176358365) as soon as possible.

Parent Election Results

Parent Council

Chairperson –Acacia Aguirre

Co-Chair—Farah Faldonie

Treasurer– no one. See Elba if interested

Secretary (take notes in English) - LaToya Tutt

Secretary (take note in Spanish) -Ana Marleny Zaldivar

Governing Board

Acacia Aguirre (voting member)

Claudia Morales (1st alternate)

Jimmy King (2nd alternate)

GPA/YMCA After School

After school project-based learning curriculums are underway, in addition to a ton of amazing community partnerships that come to the building to provide opportunities to our students. There are open spots in all grades with the exception of 2nd grade. Please contact Ms. Fleisher in the main office with any question or to join in on the fun and learning! Scholarships are available.

PARENT COUNCIL DATES & EVENTS

MEETINGS ARE HELD FROM 6-7PM IN ROOM 11

CHILDCARE AND PIZZA IS PROVIDED

October 9—Parent Elections

Nov 13

Dec 11

Dec 19—Arts and Culture Event

Jan 8

Feb 12—MCAS Info Session

Mar 5th—ELA/Health Night

Mar 12

April 9th — Math /Science Night

May 14

June — TBD End of Year Celebration

GOVERNING BOARD DATES

ALL MEETINGS ARE FROM 7:30-9:30am IN THE ART ROOM

October 24

November 14

December 19

January 16

February 27

March 27

April 16

May 29

June TBA

Nurses Corner



This year, our Health & Wellness Team is working on a number of initiatives to support the health of our students and staff. We are very concerned that our proportion of overweight and obese students is higher than both district and state averages. In this year's first grade class, 50% of the students are either overweight or obese. Therefore, we know these wellness initiatives are needed now more than ever.

We are working on encouraging teachers to incorporate movement breaks into their classroom schedule. We have also secured a grant to start the 100 Mile Club at GPA, which supports students in tracking how many miles they run or walk over the course of the school year. The goal is to complete 100 Miles by the end of the school year, and prizes are given throughout the year for students' accomplishments.

Finally, we are excited to host the following school and community-wide health events. Please mark your calendars!

Zumbathon: Dec. 23

ELA/Health Night: March 5

Walkathon: April 17

Adult Education

The Low Intermediate ESL class is studying hard this year. We are working on improving our grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, reading, writing, and speaking skills. We want to improve our English so that we can do many things: get better jobs; help our kids with homework; go to college; obtain citizenship; and improve our communication in all areas of our lives. At each class, we practice speaking in English, and we have made a commitment to speak only English during class time. Ad-

ditionally, we have chosen to have homework once a week to help us practice and improve our English at home. We try to do activities outside of class that will help us with English as well, such as reading a newspaper in English, watching TV in English, or joining a conversation class at the local library. We have set many goals for ourselves this year, and we are working hard to achieve them all!

UNIFORMS

Please send your child in uniform every day (blue bottoms, maroon GPA shirt).

Uniforms can be purchased /ordered:

- Online at www.FrenchToast.com
The school code is QS44VN
or at
- L&M Bargain Stores (2 locations)
745 Dudley Street, Dorchester, MA and 640 American Legion Highway, Roslindale, MA

Please note that when you purchase from frenchtoast 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.

Box Tops for Education



Dear Parents and Guardians,

My name is Fabienne Eliacin and I'm the volunteer Box Tops Coordinator at Garnder Pilot Academy

This year, our goal is to raise \$200.00. Here are three easy ways you can help:

1. Clip — Clip the Box Tops from hundreds of participating products and send them to school. Each one is worth 10¢ when our school redeems them from Box Tops for Education.
2. Shop online — Shop at your favorite online stores through the Box Tops Marketplace® (boxtops4education.com/marketplace). Our school can earn eBoxTops® with every qualifying purchase you make, at no additional cost to you.
3. Sign up to support our school at boxtops4education.com, where you can:
 - See how much our school is earning with Box Tops
 - Enter online promotions for chances to win eBoxTops and other prizes
 - Print coupons for your favorite Box Tops brands

You can also sign up for Box Tops email newsletters that will keep you updated on the program, and for Marketplace newsletters that include offers from online retailers where you can earn eBoxTops.

To learn more, visit boxtops4education.com. Thanks for choosing to make a difference for our school with Box Tops!

Sincerely,

Fabienne Eliacin

Fabienne Eliacin

Box Tops Coordinator at Gardner Pilot Academy



November

November 6th @ 3pm - Wellness Council

November Tuesdays and Thursday's—Adult Ed 6pm-8:30 (no adult ed on 11/26)

November 11th - Veteran's Day No school

November 13th @ 5:30 - Hispanic Coffee Hour

November 13th @ 6pm - Parent Council

November 14th @ 9:30am -Hispanic Coffee Hour

November 14th @7:30am -Governing Board

November 19th—report cards grade 6-7

November 22nd—showcase

November 27th—early dismissal @ 12:45pm

November 28th and 29th - Thanksgiving break (No School)



December

Dec 4th @ 3pm -Wellness Council

December Tuesday and Thursday's Adult Ed 6pm-8:30 (no adult ed on 12/19)

Dec 9th -Report card grades 1-5

December 11th @ 5:30—Hispanic Coffee Hour

Dec 11th @ 6pm—Parent Council

December 12th @ 9:30am—Hispanic Coffee Hour

Dec 17th Adult ed Celebration

Dec 19th @ 5:30-Celebration of Arts and Culture

Dec 19th-Progress Reports

Dec 19th @ 7:30am -Governing Board

Dec 23rd-Zumbathon

Dec 24-Jan 2nd - Winter vacation (no school)