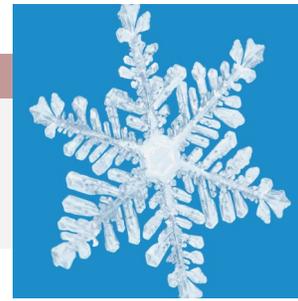


NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

# GPA Newsletter



## Leadership Update

Dear Families at GPA,

This fall students have been learning a great deal and working hard to show the core values of GPA. This year at GPA we have adopted new curriculum resources in reading, writing and math to align with the new standards of Common Core and the new assessments of PARCC. Starting this year the state of Massachusetts will be shifting from MCAS testing to the new PARCC exam. In order to prepare students we are teaching using common core aligned curriculum resources. In math we are using a curriculum called Eureka Math in grades K-8 (otherwise known as EngageNY math). For more information on this curriculum please visit <http://commoncore.org/maps/math/faq>. This year we are also thrilled to have the computer based program called FIRST IN MATH to support students math fluency at school and at home. In writing we are using a curriculum from Teacher's College across grades K-8. For information on this curriculum please

visit <http://unitsofstudy.com/writing-grade-by-grade/>. In reading we are using a new resource to support students in grades 3-8 called Expeditionary Learning (<http://elscholls.org/>) and in K2 we are using a curriculum written for Boston called Focus on K2. We are continuing to use ANET as a way to assess students understanding of the standards and measure progress across the year.

As a school we are committed to having 100% of our parent conferences this fall to work in full collaboration with families. Our goal is to share with families each students individual academic and learning strengths and area of needs, as well as to answer any families questions about our curriculum resources and assessments. This year we are also committed to Home Visits with families and would love to be invited to hold parent conferences at students homes. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you are interested in having your parent conference as a home visit this

year.

While we have been working hard on our teaching and learning, we also have been celebrating our school climate at GPA. This fall we have had our first Golden Hand Assembly hosted by our fifth graders and look forward to our November assembly hosted by our fourth graders. Each classroom nominated a GOLDEN HAND WINNER who consistently shows the values of caring, honesty, respect, responsibility and academic achievement. We also had our first community field trip to the New England Aquarium which was a huge success!

We are also very proud to announce the winners for our student council elections held this fall in our middle school. Student council is committed this year to creating a positive school culture, fundraising for causes and for raising funds to build a turf soccer field in our back playground. Please see the attached order form for the student council's first fundraiser selling 2014 LIMITED EDI-

TION GPA SUPER FAN GEAR. Orders are due by November 7th to ensure orders arrive before the holidays. Congratulations to all of our students who ran for seats on our Student Council. We are so proud of their hard work!

President: Cullen Pietrantonio

Vice President: Mario Pineda

Secretary Miggy Antonio

Treasurer: Thalita Correia

Historian: Alyssa Dunn

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# Celebration of the Arts



Gardner Pilot Academy, in collaboration with GPA Parent Council , will be hosting a Celebration of Culture and Community through the Arts on December 17th from 5:30-7:30PM at GPA. This event will include an opportunity to view students artwork which will 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 to attend and 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 Lafferty or Elba Mendez at (617) 635-8365 as soon as possible.

## Parent Election Results

### Parent Council

Chairperson – Priscilla Anderson  
Co-Chair— Jose Mari Jonathan T. Antonio  
Treasurer– See Elba if interested  
Secretary - Amanda Barber

### Governing Board (voting members)

Priscilla Anderson  
Xiomara Gomez  
Victoria Hom  
Rita Vaidya  
Jose Mari Jonathan T. Antonio

2 alternate seats available. Please let Elba Mendez know if interested.

### PARENT COUNCIL DATES & EVENTS

**MEETINGS ARE HELD FROM 6-7PM  
IN ROOM 11  
CHILDCARE AND PIZZA IS  
PROVIDED**

*October 8—Parent Elections*  
*Nov 19*  
*Dec 17— Celebration of the Arts*  
*Jan 21*  
*Feb 25—MCAS Info Session*  
*Mar 18 — Literacy Workshop*  
*April 15th — Math /Science & Book Fair  
Night*  
*May 20*  
*June 5 — End of Year Celebration*

### GOVERNING BOARD DATES

**MEETINGS ARE FROM  
7:30-9:30am IN ROOM 11**

*October 23*  
*November 13*  
*December 11*  
*January 22*  
*February 5*  
*March 12*  
*April 9*  
*May 28*  
*June TBD*

## Nurses Corner

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As the winter cold and flu season is upon us, supplies are especially needed for the health office! Our yearly budget for health supplies for the nurse's office is \$150.86 (\$0.38 per student), and the supplies used to take care of your children during the school day are already running low. Your generous contributions are greatly appreciated and every little bit helps! The most needed items are as follows:

- Lysol wipes
- Cough drops
- Kleenex / tissues
- Feminine hygiene supplies (pads)
- ACE wraps- any size
- Ibuprofen/Advil and Acetaminophen/Tylenol (Liquid or chewable)
- Ziploc bags (sandwich or snack size)
- Non-latex exam gloves
- Sweat pants (Kids Size 12 and Up)

Please remember that GPA has a Healthy Snack and Beverage policy. If you plan to bring in any food items for class parties/celebrations, **please discuss the item with your child's classroom teacher before purchasing and bringing the item to school.** *Here are some ideas for acceptable food items:*

- Veggies with dip (bean dip, salad dressing or hummus)
- Chips with salsa or guacamole
- Popcorn or Veggie Stix
- Fresh, Dried, or Freeze-Dried Fruit
- Homemade, whole-grain fruit muffins or bread
- Fruit smoothies (frozen fruit, yogurt, & fruit juice)
- Apples or graham crackers and dip (low fat yogurt, honey, cinnamon)
- Trail Mix (raisins, whole grain Chex, pretzels, Cheerios, dried fruit)
- Fruit parfaits (yogurt, cereal or crushed graham crackers, and fruit)
- Beverages such as 100% fruit juice (servings of 4 oz. or less), low-fat plain milk, water, seltzer

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## Adult Education

The low-intermediate class is happy to learn English at the Gardner Pilot Academy. We are more than 20 people and we come from eight different countries: Brazil, Honduras, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, China, Estonia, El Salvador and Canada! This month we are working together to learn about comparative and superlative adjectives. We also read a lot of stories in class and sometimes we make presentations about them in front of the whole class. All of us are looking forward to improving our reading, writing, listening and speaking and other English language skills. We hope that our understanding will be stronger when we receive our diplomas at the end of the school year. We will feel very proud.

# November



November 8th—Exam School Test

November - Tuesdays and Thursday's—Adult Ed 6pm-8:30 (no adult ed on 11/11, 11/25 and 11/27)

November 11th - Veterans Day (No School)

November 17th @ 7:30am Governing Board (rm 11)

November 14th— Field Trip to Museum of Fine Arts (Rooms 26, 28 and 21)

November 15th—School Previews

November 19th @ 5:30pm Hispanic Coffee Hour

November 19th@ 6pm Parent Council

November 20th—School Picture Day

November 20th @ 8:30am Hispanic Coffee Hour

November 21st—showcase

## GPA/YMCA After School

*After school project-based learning units 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 3rd grade. Please contact Ms. Maridel Perdomo in the main office with any questions or to join in on the fun and learning! Scholarships are available.*

# December



December Tuesday and Thursday's Adult Ed 6pm-8:30

December 11th @ 7:30am Governing Board

December 11th @ 5:30 Hispanic Coffee Hour

Dec 11th @ 6pm Parent Council

December 12th @ 8:30am Hispanic Coffee Hour

Dec 17th @ 5:30pm Art Celebration

Dec 23rd- Zumbathon

Dec 24-Jan 1st - Winter vacation (no school)

### UNIFORMS

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

Uniforms can be purchased /ordered:

- Online at [www.FrenchToast.com](http://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.



# Gardner Pilot Academy

Proceeds Benefit the Student Council  
 Don't miss out on your chance to get New Apparel!  
**Order now for the Holidays! Due by: 11/7/14**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Grade: \_\_\_\_\_ Homeroom Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

		Size (check one)	QTY	SUB-TOTAL
	Short-Sleeve T-Shirt (\$10)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth S <input type="checkbox"/> Small		
	MAROON	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth M <input type="checkbox"/> Medium		
	Add \$2.00 upcharge for 2XLarge	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth L <input type="checkbox"/> Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Youth XL <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2X-Large		
	Long-Sleeve T-Shirt (\$15)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth S <input type="checkbox"/> Small		
	MAROON	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth M <input type="checkbox"/> Medium		
	Add \$2.00 upcharge for 2XLarge	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth L <input type="checkbox"/> Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Youth XL <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2X-Large		
	Crewneck Sweatshirt (\$18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth S <input type="checkbox"/> Small		
	MAROON	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth M <input type="checkbox"/> Medium		
	Add \$3.00 upcharge for 2XLarge	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth L <input type="checkbox"/> Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> Youth XL <input type="checkbox"/> X-Large		
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2X-Large		
	Sweatpants	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth S <input type="checkbox"/> Small		
	With Pockets and Elastic Bottoms	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth M <input type="checkbox"/> Medium		
	(Youth \$18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth L <input type="checkbox"/> Large		
	(Adult \$20)	<input type="checkbox"/> X-Large		
	NAVY BLUE	<input type="checkbox"/> 2X-Large		
	Add \$3.00 upcharge for 2XLarge			

TOTAL \$

Please make CHECKS written to Gardner Pilot Academy. Put order form with check in envelope marked: Gardner Pilot Gear. Send to school with your child or drop off at the front office.