



Panda Paws Groveland Park Elementary Newsletter September 26, 2016

Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO)

Groveland Park is part of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra's CONNECT program. The CONNECT program was developed over 20 years ago as a partnership between SPCO and St. Paul and Minneapolis Schools. Students will have an assembly with an SPCO member and attend a full orchestra concert for grades 1-5 at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in Minneapolis in February. This music program will also be taught during music class by Ms. Anita McLaughlin, music teacher at Groveland. Families are invited and encouraged to attend additional concerts by the SPCO for greatly reduced ticket prices of \$5. A flyer is attached. Attend a concert this year and enjoy the wonderful music of the SPCO!

Latino Consent Decree (LCD)

The latest LCD flyer will be attached and contains the calendar for family district events.

MCA Spring 2016

The MCA III scores for Groveland showed that 70% of our students were proficient in math, 77% were proficient in reading and 77.6% of fifth graders (the only elementary grade taking the test) were proficient in science. Science and reading saw large increases from last year while math stayed about the same. Overall, these were very good gains for Groveland. More information can be found on the Minnesota Department of Education website.

Extended Day for Learning – EDL

EDL will begin on October 11 and goes from 4:00-5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students will have a snack, academics and enrichments during the EDL time. If students are bused during the school day they are eligible for a bus for the EDL program. Mr. Gilbert Hale will be the site leader and Ms. Amy McDonald will be the Lego League coordinator. Musical instrument instruction will be offered for grades 4-5. Contact the school office if you need a registration form for musical instruction or EDL.

CogAT7 (Assessment)

The CogAT7 is a standardized screening used in St. Paul Public Schools to identify children in kindergarten-grade 5 for accelerated services. The CogAT7 measures learned reasoning and problem-solving skills. The dates and deadlines for the test that determines student eligibility for accelerated services in Saint Paul Public Schools, the CogAT7, have been set.

Who will take the CogAT7? When will it take place?

The CogAT7 test will be provided to all SPPS students in kindergarten and to any **previously unidentified** students in second grade, from Oct. 10-Nov. 15, 2016. (At Groveland students in kindergarten will be assessed Nov. 7-15. Grade 2 and nominated students will be assessed Oct. 10-24.)

Students in grades 1, 3, 4, and 5 can be nominated by parents or teachers to take the CogAt7. If you have questions about how to nominate your child, please talk to your child's classroom teacher or contact Becky Pedersen, Principal at 651-293-8760 or rebecca.pedersen@spps.org.

Families can expect to receive the results from the CogAT7 assessment in January. Once results are received, parents who would like a portfolio submitted for their child should notify the classroom teacher directly. Portfolio materials and online forms will be available online in fall 2016. Students who are identified for accelerated services during the 2016-2017 school year will be eligible to apply for [Capitol Hill Gifted and Talented Magnet](#) for 2017-2018.

Arrival and Dismissal

Student may enter the building at 9:15 a.m. to get breakfast and go to class. Students should not arrive at school before 9:15 a.m. Our day begins at 9:30. Dismissal is 4:00 p.m.

Please drop off and pick up students on Sargent Avenue. A staff member and patrols are on Sargent from 9:15-9:25 and 4:00-4:05 daily.

Please leave the entire bus drop off/pick up area on St. Clair open for buses. We have 9 buses as well as district vans needing the busing area. Please do not pull up to drop off or pick up students on St. Clair.

Parents walking to pick up students should meet the students by the east (or small) playground by the rec center. Students need to stay with their class until the teacher and parent see each other. Dismissal is 4:00 p.m.

Goal Setting Conferences – Fall Book Fair – FLU CLINIC

Grades K-5 will have scheduled goal setting conferences beginning September 29-October 6. Your child will bring conference slips home to you soon. Goal setting conferences are different than the November conferences we have had in the past. It is our hope that these conferences, set up earlier in the year, give your student and family an opportunity to meet with your student and their teacher early in year to set up goals for the year.

As in past years the Fall Scholastic Book Fair will be held during conferences. The schedule for the Book Fair is included in this newsletter. The Flu Clinic will also be held during conferences on Thurs., Oct. 6 from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Library

At this time we are searching for a library TA.

School Nurse

Jessica Lux is our new school nurse. Her days at Groveland are Tuesday, Thursdays and Fridays. **Her direct line is 651-888-7627.**

School Counselor

Megan Rinn is our school counselor. She is at Groveland on Mondays, Thursdays and every other Tuesday. (She will be at Groveland on Tuesday, Sept. 13.)

ELL

English Language Learner Teacher Kelli McCully is on a leave through the middle of January. We are currently seeking a long-term guest teacher to take her place while she is away. In the meantime, please call the main office with questions.

News from Parents –

In addition to the information below, please see the attached newsletter from the PTO.

Robotics Class – EXTENDED DATE SIGN UP NOW

The Before School Robotics Club returns to the Groveland Rec Center! Youth in grades 2 to 5 join Robots-4-U at this exciting club where technology meets

creativity. Students will design and build their own robots each one with increasing complexity. Robots will be challenged with races, games and demos. This is a multi-leveled group, where each student works at his or her own pace. Students who participated last year will start where they left off, while new students will start from the beginning of the leveled curriculum.

Classes are Tuesday or Wednesday mornings from 8-9:15 in the Rec Center, beginning on September 27 or 28.

Tuesday:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/Activity_Search/39092

Wednesday:

https://apm.activecommunities.com/saintpaul/Activity_Search/39091

Book Fair

Groveland's Fall Book Fair is almost near! Join us in the library to browse and buy books for your friends, family and child's classroom while giving \$\$ back to our school community. Last year we earned over \$2300 in books for our school library! *Interested in volunteering to help set-up and cashier?* Contact Sabrina Sutliff-Gross at stpaulskigr@gmail.com

There are three opportunities to purchase books.

Parent Pre-Sale:

Wednesday, Oct. 5 from 9:30-11 a.m.

(after student drop-off) The Book Fair is in the Library.

Book Fair:

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 4:30 –7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6, 4:30 –7:30 p.m.

(Find us in the Library during conferences.)

Online anytime: Oct.1-15 at

<http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/grovelandparkelemschool>

Groveland Calendar:

Sept. 29	4:30-8:30	Goal Setting Conferences (scheduled with teacher)
Oct. 4-7	9:30	Grade 5 goes to Camp Wiji, Ely, MN
Oct. 5	9:30-11:00	Parent Preview Book Fair – Library
Oct. 5	4:30-7:30	Book Fair -- Library
Oct. 5	4:30-8:30	Goal Setting Conferences (scheduled with teacher)
Oct. 6	4:30-7:30	Book Fair – Library
Oct. 6	4:30-7:30	Flu Clinic - Groveland
Oct. 6	4:30-8:30	Goal Setting Conferences (scheduled with teacher)
Oct. 13		Student Picture Day – Lifetouch
Oct. 17	6:00-7:30	PTO Meeting – Note that it is on a Monday this month.
Oct. 20-21		No School – State Teachers Conference

Oct. 28 No School for PreK-5/Report Card Marking Day for
teachers
Nov. 12 Celebrate Groveland

Panda Paws – Groveland’s Newsletter

Panda Paws will be sent out to families two times a month via email (or hard copy if requested).
Articles for the next Panda Paws are due on Wed., Oct. 5 and will be sent out Mon., Oct. 10.
Send articles to Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org

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