



Panda Paws Groveland Park Elementary Newsletter October 10, 2016

Extended Day for Learning – EDL

EDL will begin on Tuesday, 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.

Congratulations, Mr. Nelson!

Mr. Paul Nelson, grade 5 teacher, received a First Place Award for the Thrivent Financial sponsored Personal Finance Educator Awards. The award was through a workshop Mr. Nelson took through the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. Mr. Nelson will be honored at a celebration held at 3M in Maplewood. Our Congratulations, Mr. Nelson!

Little Library

Groveland has a Little Free Library in front of the building! Anyone may use the library – friends, neighbors and passersby. The books are always free. If you see a book you like, you may take it. You may leave a note in a book you have enjoyed for others to read. You may return a book to the Little Library, keep it or pass it on for others to read. Groveland Girl Scouts will be the stewards of the Little Library. Read more about Little Libraries at LittleFreeLibrary.org

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.

Lockdown and Fire Drills

Groveland has 5 fire drills and 5 lockdowns each year. Please talk to your child about the drills as they are new for our PreK and Kindergarten students. October is Fire Safety Month and we will have the Fire Department out with a fire truck for one of our drills in October.

Arrival and Dismissal

Students 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 4:00-4:10 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.

School Nurse

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

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 –

Workshop Presented by Groveland Parents

Two Groveland parents, Leon Wang and Tiffany Dreher, will each be presenting workshops at the Twin Cities Social Justice Education Fair (<https://tcedfair.org/>), held later this month on October 21 in Minneapolis. Over 60 workshops will be offered, including our two parents speaking about making protest posters and about PTO advocacy. All are welcome, and registration is free. Please consider attending!

Girl Scouts

Third Grade Girl Scouts starts Friday, October 14!

Our troop will have lots of fun this year, making new friends and strengthening existing friendships while developing leadership skills, learning about self empowerment, doing service projects, and exploring creativity, kindness, physical activity, and music.

Meetings take place on the second Friday of the month during the school year, from 4:00 to 5:15 p.m., in the Groveland Cafeteria.

Groveland After Dark Returns Oct 27!

Please mark your calendars for an all new, magical, outdoor play preformed by former Groveland Students, Parents and Staff! More information to follow.

Want to get involved? email GrovelandAfterDark@gmail.com to find out how you (or Groveland Alumni) can help. We need lots of volunteers the night of to

support the actors, guide groups, help with the line and more.

We also are in need of a few things for our set, props and costumes. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any of these items we can borrow GrovelandAfterDark@gmail.com. Please plan to mark all items so we can return them to you.

Lanterns (battery or propane)
Shepherd Hooks
Renaissance or Medieval era costumes, dance tutus/dresses
Musical Bells

Coffee

Love coffee? Love Groveland? Stop into Caribou Coffee on Friday, October 14 and donate a pound of Amy's Blend to our elementary school. An added perk is that 10% of all Amy's Blend purchases goes to CancerCare to help support local cancer patients. There are 3 participating Caribou Coffee locations; Ford Parkway, Fairview & Randolph, and Grand Ave & Snelling Ave. Hoping to see you there!

PTO/FOG Committee Reports **PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** **PTO President & VP -**

Our first school-wide PTO Meeting will held on Monday, Oct. 17 from 6-7:30p.m.in the library. During the meetings childcare and a light snack for school-age children is provided in the cafeteria. Transportation to meetings is available if needed. Families must contact the main office by 10:00 a.m.day of the meeting to arrange transportation. This will be the only PTO Meeting in 2016. Our next meeting is in January 2017.

PTO/FOG Open Positions:
Lost and Found Chair
Talent Show/Open Mic Night Coordinator
Apex Fun Run Co-Chair
Celebrate Groveland Co-Chair
Grant Writing Chair

If interested in volunteering for one of these positions please email groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com

PTO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Classroom Villages (CV) -

GROVELAND AFTER DARK our outdoor theater extravaganza for the whole family is on Thursday Oct 27th. For more information please contact grovelandafterdark@gmail.com This year the Grade 3 Girl Scouts Troop will be organizing a food drive at the event. More information to come.

Classroom Village Coordinator (CVC) -

Many volunteers have stepped forward to fill the role of Classroom Village Coordinators in their child's classroom. Ideally every classroom will have a Coordinator or two working to engage and strengthen their classroom community. Below is a list of classrooms that are in need of a CVC. If your child is in one of these classrooms please consider taking on the rewarding and fun role of a CVC volunteer.

Ms. Fox 1st Grade
Ms. Johnston 1st Grade
Ms. Martin 3rd Grade
Mr. Lish 4th Grade
Mr. Gunsten 4th Grade
Mr. Gunsten 5th Grade
Mr. Nelson 5th Grade
Mr. Sambs 5th Grade

To volunteer email: groveland.pto.cv@gmail.com

Facebook -

Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/Groveland-Park-School-Community-149487845110765/?fref=ts> (This is a Groveland facebook page sponsored by Groveland parents.)

Talent Show/Open Mic Night Chair

Please consider reviving the all-school Talent Show tradition. In search of a parent lead/committee to make this happen this year! Funds available from Friends of Groveland. Contact Christine Melchert if interested cmelchert@gmail.com.

FRIENDS OF GROVELAND (FOG) - FUNDRAISING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friends of Groveland (FOG) Chair - We welcome several new parents to the FOG committee: Heather Allison-Co-Chair, Sarah Murphy-Box Tops, Emily Daniel-Communications, and Mary Maltese-Direct Drive. Anyone is welcome to

join the committee at any time.

Please donate to our Fall Direct Drive. Our direct drive allows us to avoid having our children sell wrapping paper, frozen foods or coupon books. 100% of your donation directly supports all students and teachers at Groveland. Letters, forms and envelopes were sent home in students' backpacks. Remember to share with family members. Our goal is to raise \$10,000 of our \$50,000 budget to support a variety of programs and enrichment activities this school year. Extra forms are available in the front office. You can also give online at <https://givemn.org/organization/Friends-Of-Groveland-Park-School>
Thanks you for your generosity!

FOG Expense Treasurer

Teacher grants were given this week to classroom, ELL and support teachers. These grants help offset the amount of money that teachers personally spend on supplies their students and classrooms need. Specialist teachers are also supported with funds from Friends Of Groveland to purchase needed supplies and equipment. Thank you to our donors for helping make this happen!

FOG VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Apex Fun Run -

Date change The fun run dates have been changed to February 27 - March 10, 2017.

Celebrate Groveland

Save the date for Celebrate Groveland - November 12, 2016!

-Want to get involved and be apart of putting on the event, please email Justi Leroe @ justileroe@gmail.com. We can always use extra hands and are actively seeking a co-chair to take over next year.

Grant Writing

We patiently await news of an Ecolab grant written by Tobie Vickers-Lee and Christine Melchert to help support art, music and dance activities associated with NAAPID. Keep your fingers crossed!

Spirit Wear

Get your Groveland gear! Through the month of October, use this link to order your gear: <http://bit.do/GPEspirit2016>. (Check out as guest for the easiest experience - we'll still get your order!) Can't order online? Order forms are available in the office or through your child's classroom teacher. Deadline is October 31. Items will be sent home with students about two weeks after the order. Contact Caroline Marin with questions: carolinermarin@gmail.com.

Groveland Calendar:

Oct. 11	4:00-5:45	Extended Day for Learning (EDL)
Oct. 13		Student Picture Day – Lifetouch
Oct. 17	6:00-7:30	PTO Meeting – Note that it is on a Monday
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. 19 and will be sent out Mon., Oct. 24. Send articles to Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org

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