



Panda Paws Groveland Park Elementary Newsletter November 7, 2016

Kids' Vote

All students at Groveland Park Elementary will have the opportunity to vote in the Presidential election for students on November 8, 2016. Fifth grade student leaders in partnership with Kids Voting Minnesota Network will conduct the elections. The **Kids Voting Minnesota Network** is a nonprofit, nonpartisan coalition working to help students state wide learn about the right to vote, democracy, civic responsibility, and the importance of participation in the political process.

Celebrate! Groveland

Celebrate Groveland is this weekend on Saturday, November 12! This fun-filled fund raiser and social event for parents and friends of Groveland is from 7:00-11:00 p.m. at the Macalester Art Commons-Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center, 130 Macalester Street, St. Paul, MN. For more information see the section under News from Parents.

Reminder - Parent Teacher Conferences

PreK Conferences are November 17-18 and PreK does not have school on Nov. 17. All other grades have school on November 17. Groveland students K-5 had Goal Setting Conferences in September and October so will not be having conferences in November. Students in PreK – grade 5 do not have school on November 18. Progress reports will be sent home after November 14.

OLPA

Students in grades 3-5 are taking the OLPA (MCA) over the next several weeks. The information from the assessment will help teachers plan their instruction for students.

Music Program Schedule

The following classrooms will have their music program in the gym on Monday, Nov. 21 at 2:45:

Ms. Clark Gr. K

Ms. vanNatta Gr. 1

Ms. Johnston Gr. 1

Ms. Hanson Gr. 3

Mr. Lish Gr. 4

Ms. Murphy's Gr. 2/3 class will perform during a drumming residency concert on Friday, Dec. 2.

Five classes will have a dress rehearsal Thursday, Nov. 17 at 2:45. (This does not include Ms. Murphy's class.) If you do not see your child's class listed it means they have music in the winter or spring.

Extended Day for Learning – EDL – Still Time to Sign Up for Music

EDL has started but your child may still sign up!! EDL is from 4:00-5:45 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Students 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 is the site leader. Musical instrument instruction will be offered for grades 4-5. If students are already signed up for Lego League and they want to take music, a music form can be filled out.

Parent's Right to Know – Title I Schools

At the beginning of each school year, school districts must notify parents of children attending Title I schools that they can request information regarding their children's teachers. In addition, if students are taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified the parents of students in Title I schools must be notified, in a timely manner, if their child has been assigned to, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified. A request form is attached.

Bus Information

Contact Becky Pedersen – Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org or Gilbert Hale –

gilbert.hale @spps.org for general bus problems.

Contact Michele Brinkhaus - Michele.brinkhaus@spps.org for route information

CogAT7 Assessment (Refer to past Panda Paws for the complete information on the CogAT7.)

The CogAT7 is a standardized screening used in St. Paul Public Schools to identify children in kindergarten-grade 5 for accelerated services. 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.

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. The 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 recreation 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.**

News from Parents – PTO

3rd Grade Girl Scouts would like to thank all the families who brought in cash and food donations to Groveland After Dark. Your generosity helped us raise \$166.25 and 152 pounds of food for Second Harvest Heartland food bank.

PTO/FOG Committee Report November 3, 2016

PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PTO President and PTO Vice President -

Updates to our PTO/FOG website presence is underway. Now at your fingertips you will find committee volunteer contact information, PTO/FOG calendar of events, committee reports, family directory sign up, online donation, volunteer sign ups, download FOG reimbursement forms, and much more. We hope you enjoy the ease of it all.

We are in the FAMILIES section of the Groveland website, under PTO/FOG

(<http://groveland.spps.org/Page/11285>)

- Σ [Friends of Groveland - Fundraising](#)
- Σ [PTO/FOG Committee Contacts](#)
- Σ [PTO/FOG Calendar of Events](#)
- Σ [PTO/FOG Committee Reports](#)
- Σ [PTO Meeting Agendas/Minutes](#)
- Σ [PTO Family Directory SIGN UP](#)
- Σ [PURCHASE Spirit Wear](#)
- Σ [Groveland on Facebook](#)
- Σ [PTO/FOG Volunteer Information and SIGN UP](#)
- Σ [DONATE NOW](#)

PTO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Classroom Village Coordinator (CVC)

- Σ Information about Classroom Villages can now be found online. Classroom Village Coordinator contact information, the mission, foundation, CV classroom gathering ideas, and much more. Find the CV in the FAMILIES section under PTO/FOG, PTO/FOG Volunteer Sign Up, Classroom Villages/Community Engagement. [Classroom Villages / Community Engagement](#) <http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28528>

- Σ Special Thanks to all the wonderful organizers, volunteers, and actors who helped put on a great performance at Groveland After Dark this year. It was wonderful.

Lunch Buddies -

Now you can sign up directly at our Groveland website:

[Lunch Buddies http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28536](http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28536)

PTO Family Directory -

Now you can sign up directly at our Groveland website:

[PTO Family Directory SIGN UP http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28524](http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28524)

Volunteer Coordinator -

Now you can sign up directly at our Groveland website:

[PTO/FOG Volunteer Information and SIGN UP http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28527](http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28527)

FRIENDS OF GROVELAND (FOG) - FUNDRAISING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Friends of Groveland (FOG) Co-Chairs -

Direct Drive Update and Give MN Day--November 17:

We have received about \$4,000 from parents and families for the Friends of Groveland Fall 2016 Direct Drive Fundraiser. Thank you for those of you who have sent in your donation forms and reached out to your families for donations! We have about 488 students at Groveland this year and donations have come in from 30 of them or just 6% of our students. In order to fund our enrichment programs for this year we need to raise at least \$6,000 more in addition to the money raised at Celebrate Groveland and the APEX Fun Run. We depend on you!

Please consider donating to the Direct Drive. Also, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends appreciate the opportunity to support our school. Please share the donation forms with your network of support; any gift of any amount helps. Packets were sent out at the end of September with more forms are available in the office. You can mail your donations, drop off in the office, or send with your child to give to your classroom teacher. You may also contribute to the Direct Drive on Give to the Max Day.

Give to the Max Day is on Thursday, November 16. You may schedule your gifts during a special giving period from November 1 –November 16! All gifts made during this time will be automatically set to be processed on Give to the Max Day, making them eligible for all Give to the Max Day prizes, including a special \$10,000 Super-Sized Golden Ticket just for scheduled gifts. Avoid the rush on November 17 and get a jump start on your donation today:

<https://www.givemn.org/organization/Friends-Of-Groveland-Park-School>

Let's get our enrichment programs funded for all children at Groveland!!

Also check out our new presence on the Groveland website:

[Friends of Groveland - Fundraising http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28587](http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28587)

Thank you,

Christine Melchert and Heather Allison

Co-Chairs, Friends of Groveland Committee

FOG VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Celebrate Groveland Chair -

Now you can find out all about Celebrate Groveland online at our Groveland website. Purchase tickets to the event, plan and register a Groveland Gathering, sign up to volunteer, and buy auction items/Groveland Gathering tickets after the event. Visit:

[CELEBRATE GROVELAND http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28537](http://groveland.spps.org/Page/28537)

Spirit Wear -

Thanks to all the families ordering Spirit Wear! Orders are now closed and are being processed with Graphic Traffic. We expect to have the items in 1-2 weeks, and will distribute to students listed on the forms at school. Contact Caroline Marin (carolinermarin@gmail.com) with any questions.

Groveland Calendar:

Nov. 8	Kids' Vote/National Election Day (No activities at school after 6:00 p.m.)
Nov. 11	End of Quarter One
Nov. 12	Celebrate Groveland at Macalester - Art Commons 7:00
Nov. 15	Retake Picture Day
Nov. 17	Conference Day for PreK - No School PreK only (Gr. K-5 have school)
Nov. 18	No school for Gr. PreK – 5
Nov. 21	Music Program (refer to article for classes) 2:45 in gym
Nov. 24-25	No school – Thanksgiving Holiday
Dec. 2	Music Program – Ms. Murphy's 2/3 class
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break

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., Nov. 16 and will be sent out Mon., Nov. 21. Send articles to Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org

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2016 Board of Education**

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