



## **Panda Paws Groveland Park Elementary Newsletter December 19, 2016**

### **Winter Break**

Students have school through Wednesday, December 21. Winter break begins on Thursday, December 22. The Groveland Staff wishes all of you a wonderful winter break and holiday season! Students return to school on Tuesday, January 3, 2017.

### **Spirit Day in December**

Wednesday, December 21, is one of the days Student Leadership has planned as a Spirit Day. Students may “Dress Fancy” on that day and/or wear school colors – red, black, gray and white – or Groveland wear - to show off their school spirit. Way to go Pandas!

### **School Choice Fair**

The district wide School Choice Fair will be held at Washington Technology on Saturday, January 7, from 9:30-2:00. The fair is an opportunity for families of future PreK and kindergarten students to visit with staff and parents from district schools. Please let friends in your neighborhood know about this popular event. Current Groveland parents are encouraged to be present with Groveland staff to talk with prospective parents. If you can volunteer for an hour or two on January 7, please contact the school office or [Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org). We would love to have you join us!

### **PTO Resumes in January**

Our first Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) meeting of the new year will be on Thursday, January 19, from 6:00-7:30 in the library. Childcare is available for school age children. A light snack will be served. PTO is an opportunity to meet other Groveland parents and plan for your student's educational experience. Join us as we look forward to planning for the future of Groveland students.

### **Artist and Writers' Fair**

Student writing and artwork will be showcased at the Groveland Artist and Writers' Fair on Thursday, January 26, from 6:00-7:30. It is also Prospective Family Open House evening. Prospective families will have the opportunity to take school tours, talk to staff and see the fabulous writing and art projects of Groveland students. The evening will also feature the fine arts' talents of special community guests. Please remember to invite your friends and neighbors who are looking for a school community for their child(ren).

### **Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra (SPCO)**

Groveland is a SPCO CONNECT School. Students in grades 1-5 have the opportunity to hear Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra at an off-site concert in February. Families may also attend concerts and a flyer is attached with tickets.

### **Important Newsletter Reminder**

Please check your child's backpack daily to ensure that dangerous items, toys and non-educational items are left at home. While we understand that children like to share their favorite items with one another, bringing these items to school may have serious consequences - including toys that look like weapons.

### **Winter Weather and Recess**

Students go outside for recess if the temperature or wind chill is 0 degrees or above. ALL students need to come to school with the proper outside attire for winter including boots, a hat, mittens or gloves, and snow pants. Please have your child come to school with the clothing needed to keep warm.

### **Bus Information – Who to Contact:**

General Bus Concerns - Contact Becky Pedersen – [Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org) or Gilbert Hale – [gilbert.hale@spps.org](mailto:gilbert.hale@spps.org)

Bus Route Information - Contact Michele Brinkhaus - [Michele.brinkhaus@spps.org](mailto:Michele.brinkhaus@spps.org)

### **School Nurse**

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

## **Parent News**

### **PTO/FOG Committee Reports**

We hope you all have a beautiful holiday full of love and laughs.  
~PTO/FOG

### **PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **PTO President & PTO Vice President -**

Our first school-wide PTO Meeting of the new year will be held on Jan. 19 from 6-7:30pm in the library. During the meetings child care and a light snack for children three and over are provided in the cafeteria. Transportation to meetings is available if needed. Families must contact the main office on the day of the meeting to arrange transportation. Hope to see you there.

### **PTO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE**

#### **Classroom Villages -**

Attention 1st and 3rd Grade Families - Our holiday Classroom Village Event is Monday, December 19th from 6-7:30 in the school cafeteria. This event is for the whole family. We will channel the spirit of giving this holiday season by making cards for children who are hospitalized.

### **FRIENDS OF GROVELAND (FOG) - FUNDRAISING EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### **Friends of Groveland (FOG) Co-Chairs -**

Most, if not all, of the new library books have been processed and shelved! Thanks to the library staff and volunteers for their help with this project. This library upgrade of \$10,000 was made possible by you and the funds donated last year for the APEX FUN RUN.

Thank you for your generosity to our school's fall fundraisers! We are so appreciative to be able to fund amazing enrichment residencies for all students at Groveland (like the recently completed second grade African Drumming residency with Brother Ghana). Your giving makes this possible.

Last week, many families participated in Davanni's Night which brought in \$347. The Direct Drive/Give to the Max Day has collected \$7,000. Celebrate Groveland has earned \$13,000 thus far. We are about \$6,000 behind our projections for these fundraisers. It is not too late to contribute as 2016 comes to a close! Here are 2 ways to give.

1. Direct Drive: 100% of your tax deductible donation goes to Groveland if you submit a check to Friends of Groveland. Checks can be dropped off or mailed to school.

Mail to: Friends of Groveland Park Elementary School  
2045 St. Clair Avenue  
St. Paul 55105

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

2. Groveland Gatherings: Meet people, build community, learn a new skill and have fun while supporting enrichment for all students at school.

Groveland Gatherings are available for purchase at [Celebrate Groveland 2016](#). To sign up for an event--register as a user and then choose to buy a spot at the Groveland Gathering of your choice. You can also sign up for gatherings by contacting Justi Leroe @ [justileroe@gmail.com](mailto:justileroe@gmail.com) The number of attendees is limited for each gathering so sign-up quickly.

Have a wonderful holiday break filled with love, peace and joy!

Christine and Heather

#### Box Tops -

Please keep collecting and clipping Box Tops! You can find Box Tops on General Mills items, Kleenex, Ziploc bags, cereals, Annie's, Mott's apple sauce, Lysol products, and so many more. Each Box Top earns 10 cents for Groveland! A little tip--we have collected extra by asking relatives and neighbors to save their Box Tops too. We will be collecting your baggies of Box Tops at the end of January. The winning class gets an ice cream party at Snuffy's! Thank you!

Spirit Wear - Spirit Wear orders have now been separated and delivered to students at the school. If your order is missing, please contact Caroline Marin at [carolinermarin@gmail.com](mailto:carolinermarin@gmail.com). A second order will be added in the spring, and more information will follow in the coming months.

#### Groveland Calendar:

Dec. 21	School Spirit Day – Dress Fancy or school colors
Dec. 22-Jan. 2	Winter Break
Jan. 3	Classes resumes
Jan. 4	School Tour – 10:00 for prospective families
Sat., Jan. 7	School Choice Fair 9:30-2:00 at Washington Technology for PreK –K Prospective Families
Jan. 16	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
Jan. 18	School Tour – 10:00 for prospective families
Jan. 19	PTO – library 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Jan. 25	School Tour – 10:00 for prospective families
Jan. 26	Prospective Family Open House /Artist and Writers' Fair 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	No School - Staff Professional Development Day

#### **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., Jan. 4 and will be sent out Mon., Jan. 9. Send articles to [Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org)

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