



## **Panda Paws Groveland Park Elementary Newsletter January 9, 2017**

### **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).

### **National African American Parent Involvement Day (NAAPID)**

Please join your student(s) on Monday, February 13, at school as part of National African American Parent Involvement Day. Parents are also welcome to join their student(s) for breakfast which begins at 9:15. A schedule of events will be sent home with students very soon.

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

Groveland is a SPCO CONNECT School. Students in grades 1-5 are part of the SPCO CONNECT program. Families may also attend SPCO concerts. Tickets are available at [groveland.spps.org](http://groveland.spps.org)

On January 20 at 2:30, students will hear a musician from SPCO as they prepare for an upcoming concert of the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra at the Ted Mann Concert Hall in February.

### **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.**

### **News by Parents for Parents**

[PTO/FOG Committee Reports 01.09.17](#)

[PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE](#)

[PTO President & PTO Vice President – Neha Lang and Marjorie Bequette](#)

Our first school-wide PTO Meeting of the new year is on Jan 19 from 6-7:30 p.m. in the library. During the meeting 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.

[No Cuts to Kids District Group - Parent Representative](#) - With the new year, NCTK will be monitoring district budget discussions as the district prepares FY18 budgets in the spring. We will also be attending the Superintendent community meetings and Board meetings this month.

Saturday, January 14, the Love Hope Rise 2017 Coalition is hosting a Love Hope Rise family and friends solidarity march to stand for positive values: *justice, dignity, equality, freedom, stewardship, peace, and the basic principle of treating others as you want to be treated.* There is a pre-march program from 1-2:30, including music at 2 p.m., at the Unity Church-Unitarian at 733 Portland Avenue, with a march to the Governor's Mansion at 2:30. More information is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1827515444157775/>. A Groveland parent helped in organizing the event. This is a family-friendly event. Please join us!

PTO Family Directory - The 2016-2017 directories are in and being distributed! If you haven't received yours yet, look for it in this week's take home folder. We apologize if there are any errors in information or any omissions. To correct an error or to be included in future printings, please login to [www.myschoolanywhere.com](http://www.myschoolanywhere.com) (or [www.join.myschoolanywhere.com](http://www.join.myschoolanywhere.com) keyword: groveland for new members) or email Jessica at [groveland.pto.directory@gmail.com](mailto:groveland.pto.directory@gmail.com). The online directory is always available for families as well.

#### FRIENDS OF GROVELAND (FOG) -

Apex Fun Run is from February 27-March 10. Students will learn leadership skills, participate in a fun run and raise needed funds to support all children at Groveland. We are looking for Corporate Sponsors of the Fun Run. If you own a business or know of one that is interested in being a sponsor please email [friendsofgroveland@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofgroveland@gmail.com). Corporate sponsors will be recognized in emails, on facebook and signage. Last year neighborhood and parent businesses contributed \$1400!

#### Book Fair Chair -

A new Book Fair co-chair is needed for the 2017/18 school year. Training begins with this Spring's Book Fair in March. If interested please contact either Sabrina at [stpaulskigrl@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulskigrl@gmail.com) or Emily at [emily.ml.daniel@gmail.com](mailto:emily.ml.daniel@gmail.com)

#### **Groveland Calendar:**

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. 20	Hat Day
Jan. 20	2:30 - Assembly Musician from Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra
Jan. 25	School Tour – 10:00 for prospective families
Jan. 26	Prospective Family Open House – 6:00-7:30 p.m. Artist and Writers' Fair – Gym 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Jan. 27	No School - Staff Professional Development Day
Feb. 13	National African American Parent Involvement Day
Feb. 13	PTO – library 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Feb. 20	No School – Presidents' Day
Feb. 27	APEX Fun Run Kickoff/Student Assembly
Mar. 3	No School - Conference Preparation Day
Mar. 9	APEX Fun Run - Gym
Mar. 9	PTO – library 6:00-7:30 p.m.
Mar. 17	PTO Movie Night
Mar. 23	<b>PreK ONLY</b> -No school/Gr. K-5 have school
Mar. 23	PreK have conferences during the day
Mar. 23	Evening Conferences for PreK-Gr. 5 4:30-8:00
Mar. 24	No School PreK-Gr. 5 Conferences 10:30-7:00
Apr. 3-7	No School – Spring 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., Jan. 18 and will be sent out Mon., Jan. 23. Send articles to [Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org](mailto:Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org)

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