



# Griswold Public Schools Superintendent's Update

March 2016

The community of the Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by empowering students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society.

## From the Office of the Interim Superintendent...

### Dear Parents and Guardians:

Thank you to all who attended the Public Hearing on the School Budget on February 1, 2016. The budget presented at that time included an increase of 2.87% over last year's total budget. Since that time, further information has led to clarification of actual expenses and costs. As such, on Monday, Feb. 22, the Board of Education approved the revised proposed budget with a **2.62%** increase over last year's total budget. **Next steps – Please join us...**

**Tuesday, March 15** – The Superintendent and the Board of Education present the Budget to the Griswold Board of Finance at the Town Hall at 7:00 PM. This event is open to the public. Please feel free to attend.

**Tuesday, April 5** – There will be a public hearing on both the Town and School Budget in the Griswold Middle School Cafeteria at 7:00 PM. All Griswold residents are urged to come and voice their opinion on both budgets.

**Please be part of the budget process!** The Board of Education and the Superintendent Office have been diligent to try to balance the important school needs with that of the community needs. We've worked to maintain fiscal responsibility while meeting the needs of our school population. The 2016 – 17 school budget includes a 2.62% increase. The budget is on GPS website – please become knowledgeable, share your thoughts! We truly value your input!

## Important District Dates to Know....

- March 1<sup>st</sup>-Presentation to Republican Town Committee 7:00pm
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Presentation at the Senior Center -12:00pm
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>- GHS Juniors/Sophomores take the Science CAPT/ SATs-arrival 11:50-12:00
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>- GMS Parent Teacher Conferences 12:00pm
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>-GMS Parent Teacher Conferences 6:00-8:00
- March 5<sup>th</sup> –GHS Student Council Dance 7:00-9:30
- March 6<sup>th</sup>- Read Across America Day 2016
- March 8<sup>th</sup> –GES PTO 6:00 Library
- March 9<sup>th</sup>- Presentation to Democratic Town Committee 7:00pm
- March 9<sup>th</sup>-GMS- Parent Night for Incoming Grade 5 (Information for current grade 4 parents) 6:00 Cafe
- March 10<sup>th</sup> – GES Movie Night 5:30 Café
- March 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> – GHS Band and Chorus students travel Quebec
- March 10<sup>th</sup> –GHS from 5:30-8:00 Parent/Teacher Conferences
- March 11<sup>th</sup> – GPS No School (Professional Development)
- March 14<sup>th</sup>- Board of Education Meeting 6:00 GMS LMC
- March 14<sup>th</sup>- Reports cards distributed
- \*March 15<sup>th</sup>- 16<sup>th</sup> -GES Parent Teacher Conferences March 16<sup>th</sup>- GMS Jazz Band Concert 7:00 Cafe
- March 18<sup>th</sup> – GES Art Show (Grades k-1)
- March 19<sup>th</sup> – GES Art Show (Grades 2, 3, 4)
- March 22<sup>nd</sup> GMS Dinner Theater 6:00 Café
- March 23<sup>rd</sup>-GMS - NJHS Induction 6:30 auditorium
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> GES Family Reading Night 6:00-8:00
- March 23<sup>rd</sup> – GES School Family Community Partnership Meeting - 3:30 Library
- March 24<sup>th</sup>-GHS Instrumental Concert 7:00-Cafe
- March 28<sup>th</sup>-Board of Education Meeting 6:00 GMS LMC
- March 30<sup>th</sup> – GES Final Gris-Waldo Reading logs are due
- March 30<sup>th</sup>- GES Art Show (Gr. K-1)
- March 31<sup>st</sup>-GES Art Show Gr. 2-4)

*\*Note date change from original district calendar*

## Did You Know?

### Bet on Breakfast!

From Kids Activities.net

Mornings can be chaotic, leaving breakfast and better nutrition in the lurch. Kids who eat breakfast take in more of the nutrients they need. Breakfast skippers do not make up for the missed opportunity the morning meal provides. What you eat for breakfast matters. Cereal, particularly whole-grain types, with milk and fruit make a quick meal that offers an array of nutrients!



**Griswold Public Schools would not be successful without the continued support of all parents and community members.**

We are appreciative of you and invite your continued participation with all we do. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with your child's school or with the Superintendent's office directly. The Superintendent can be reached by calling 860-376-7600 or email: [sroure@griswoldpublicschools.org](mailto:sroure@griswoldpublicschools.org)



**Research has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student's success in school.**



## Informational Notes from Our Schools

### **GES Notes...**

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gris-Waldo Reading Challenge has arrived. We are all very excited and ready to read, read, read. The students are being challenged to meet or exceed the goal of 300,000 total minutes read. Students who submit all 4 reading logs: 1. Will be entered in a drawing for a "special reading prize" and 2. Will receive an individual recognition based on the reading challenge theme to be displayed in the GES main hallway. There will be an additional "surprise" at the celebration only if the total school goal of 300,000 minutes is achieved in order to celebrate the students who contributed to reaching the school goal. The Challenge will take place between Saturday, February 27, and Wednesday, March 23. Thank you for your reading support at home!

### **GMS Notes....**

During the month of March at Griswold Middle School our students will be taking the Smarter Balance Assessments in reading and math as well as the CMT in science. We encourage students to get their rest and have a good breakfast each day during this time to ensure that they are performing at their best.

Also this month, we have parent conferences scheduled on Wednesday 3/2 (12:00-2:30) and on Thursday 3/3 (12-2:30 and 6:00-8:00 pm). We encourage parents to contact their student's teacher to set up a conference if they have not already done so.

### **GHS Notes...**

*Here are some important announcements:*

- Sophomores and Juniors will take the Science CAPT/ SATs on Wednesday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Seniors are expected to arrive between 11:50-12:00.
- Parent/Teacher Conferences for 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester will take place on Thursday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-8:00 pm.
- Band and Chorus students will travel to Quebec, Canada from March 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> for the Music Trip
- Student Council Dance will be held on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>
- GHS welcomes Science teacher Lena Poitras; SPED teacher Jennifer Landry; long-term SPED substitute Rachel Lapham; long-term Art substitute Cordelia Baker

### **Special Education Notes....Griswold Alternative School**

A class favorite for many of the students attending Griswold Alternative School continues to be drawing/art. We are proud to display numerous beautiful pieces throughout our building. There is an amazing mural painted along one of the main walls newly completed by one of our students! Katey Mann and her chocolate lab, Mali, visit us weekly and bring us so much sunshine. Students are also busy preparing for CAPT Science and the SAT coming up in March.

### **Special Education Notes**

Special Olympics Speed Skating for our high school student athletes and unified partners will take place in Simsbury, CT on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Best of luck to our amazing athletes! Thank you to the volunteers supporting our students.

### **GPS Sports Notes...**

GMS- Boys' Basketball team won the QVJC regular season and tournament championships.

GMS- Girls' Basketball team won the regular season championship and were the runner up in the tournament championship.

GHS- All High School Teams qualified for post season play this winter.

GHS-Indoor Track has completed the ECC, class M state championships, State Open Championships. The girls were the ECC runner up at the championship meet on 2/6

GHS-Several students qualified for State Open and we have one athlete that is competing on Sunday 2/28 at the New England Championships in Boston.

GHS- Wrestling had 15 wrestlers qualify for the Class S state championships. Two wrestlers have advanced to the State open on Friday 2/26 and Saturday 2/27.

GHS-Fencing will compete in the ECC Championships on 2/27 here at Griswold High School at 9:00 am. Several individual fencers will participate in the state individual championships on March 6th.

GHS- Cheerleading won first place in the Small division at the ECC competition on 2/20. They are preparing for the state championships on March 4th.

**Reminder:** Spring Sports registrations for GMS and GHS are available at FamilyID.com.

## Making the Most of Parent Teacher Conferences in March

Just as the teacher must prepare for the conference, so should you. Here are some ideas for how you can get the most out of your parent-teacher conferences.

1. **Talk to your child before the conference.** Ask your child what he/she would like you to discuss at the meeting. One strategy is to say, "I'm going to be meeting with teacher; what will he/she tell me?" Your child's response will give you ideas for what to discuss with the teacher. If your child responds, for example, that the teacher will say he/she is terrible in math, or that she talks all day long, then you should address these issues in the meeting.
2. **Ask questions.** Come to the conference with a list of questions regarding your child's academic and social issues, as well as questions about the teacher's philosophy. Some good questions to ask may include:
  - What are my child's strongest and weakest subjects?
  - What can I do from home to extend my child's learning at home?
  - Is my child working up to his or her ability? If not, what can we do to change that?
  - How well does my child get along with classmates?
  - How do you evaluate my child?
  - How can you challenge my student if he is excelling? How can you support my child if he is falling behind?
  - What is your homework policy?
3. **Share information about your child.** Teachers need your help as they educate your children. And no one knows your child better than you. Bring to the conference sample work that you'd like to discuss, or if it's an early-in-the-year conference, bring work from last school year. The more you share about your child—both her strengths and weaknesses—the better the teacher will successfully meet her needs.
4. **Raise issues of concern.** Plan ahead of time how you will raise issues of concern. When expressing concerns be tactful, but not so much that you don't communicate the problem clearly. Listen to what the teacher has to say in response to the problem. Then work together to find a solution.
5. **Take notes.** Take notes during the conference so that you remember everything the teacher says. After the meeting, review your notes. If something is unclear, schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher to clarify.
6. **Make the most of your time.** Conferences are usually scheduled for a half-hour. Make the most of your meeting by arriving on time. Try not to bring babies or young children to the meeting as they can cause distractions.

So, how much of the conference should you share with your child? Francine Ballan recommends only telling what is helpful, focusing as much as possible on the positive aspects. It's essential that your child understand that you and the teacher are there to support him and to make his school experience the best it can be.

Source: Education World & Discovery Education



### Plan a Pi Day Party for March 14

Teachers in many classrooms celebrate Pi Day this month. Pi -- the number 3.14... gets its own special day on 3/14, or March 14.

EdWorld editors have gathered a collection of links to ideas and activities that will help you plan a Pi Day celebration for your classroom or school. - See more at: <http://www.educationworld.com>



### **White House Establishes Mentorship Program to Help 1 Million Students Increase School Attendance**

The White House announced last week education initiative, My Brother's Keeper, will now include an extensive mentorship program that will seek to pair 1 million at-risk students with mentors to prevent them from missing school. - See more at: <http://www.educationworld.com>



**From Our Nurses.....**

**Griswold High School** Spring Sports Sign Up's will soon be upon us!!!! Please make sure your child's physical/sports physical is up to date so they can start the season off right without interruption. If you are not sure if your child's physical/sports physical is current (it must be dated no earlier than March 12<sup>th</sup> 2015 for Pitchers and Catchers and March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015 for all others) please contact the Nurses Office or have your child stop by and we will let them know. If they have a new physical/sports physical and you have not yet sent it in, please do so. You can also have their doctor fax it to us. If you have any questions please contact the nurses office at (860) 376-7647 Fax (860) 376-7677.

**Griswold Middle School---Griswold High School** **A reminder to all parents' of 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students!** All 6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade students need a complete physical assessment and updated immunizations to enter the 7<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grades in the fall of 2016. Please direct all question to the appropriate health office. **GMS 860-376-7624 GHS 860-376-7647**

**Griswold Elementary School** Please contact the Griswold Elementary School Nurse for specific physical assessment and immunization requirements for entry into Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten. **GES 860-376-7615**

The following are State of Connecticut requirements and **must** be met before your child **may enter** the pre-school program. **Please provide this documentation as soon as completed by your child's practitioner, but at least 2 weeks prior to your child's enrollment date.**

<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Description</b>
Physical Exam with Hemoglobin/Hematocrit	Dated within one year of the start of school
4 doses DTP	Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis
3 doses Polio -	Polio Vaccine
1 MMR	Measles, Mumps, Rubella – 1 <sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday
Hep B Series	3 in a series, last dose must be after 6 months of age
1 dose HIB	Haemophilus Influenza - one dose on or after 1st birthday
Varicella	1 dose of varicella vaccine given on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday or doctor's documentation of the disease
1 dose Pneumococcal	1 dose after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday
2 doses of Hep A	given 6 mo apart– 1 <sup>st</sup> dose on or after 1 <sup>st</sup> birthday
Influenza	2 documented doses, (for those receiving flu vaccine for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time, doses must be at least 28 days apart)
Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 Lead screening with results</li> <li>• 1 Tuberculosis screening with results</li> <li>• Hearing and Vision Screening</li> </ul>	



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Visit us at: [griswoldpublicschools.org](http://griswoldpublicschools.org)