



# Griswold Public Schools

## Monthly Newsletter

MARCH

2017

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 Superintendent...

Dear Family & Friends,

The month of March marks many transitions: we move from winter to spring; the spring sports season begins; college admissions notifications continue to come in; and the school year moves ever so closer to a conclusion.

In addition to the important district dates to know, we wanted to share with you all that the Connecticut School Finance Project will present at our March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Board of Education meeting. This is a great opportunity to learn more about how Connecticut funds public education. The event will be held in the Griswold Middle School auditorium at 6pm. We will begin that evening by honoring the GHS Chamber Choir for earning top honors at the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival on February 11<sup>th</sup>.

As always, please visit our district web site to stay up-to-date on all that's happening at GPS.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna  
Superintendent

### Important District Dates to Know....

The month of March—Music in Our Schools Month/Youth Art Month

March 2<sup>nd</sup> —National Read Across America Day

March 6<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>—National School Breakfast Week

March 10<sup>th</sup>—Professional Development Day—no school for students

March 12<sup>th</sup>—Spring Ahead!: Daylight Savings Time begins.

March 13<sup>th</sup> —BOE meeting, GMS auditorium, 6pm.

March 13<sup>th</sup>—Board of Education Members Appreciation Day

March 16<sup>th</sup>—Coffee & Chat with the Superintendent, Central Office, 9:00 am-10:00am.

March 20<sup>th</sup>— First day of spring

March 23<sup>rd</sup>—Griswold Instructional Assistant Appreciation Day

March 27<sup>th</sup> —BOE meeting, GMS media center, 6pm.

March 30<sup>th</sup>—Griswold Reads, Slater Library, 5:30pm.



### DISTRICT MISSION

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

### DISTRICT VISION

The community of Griswold Public Schools excels at education for excellence for all students to be college and/or career ready.



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

We appreciate your continued support. 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: [smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org](mailto:smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org)



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

## GES MARCH NEWS

Dear Families:

The **4th Annual Gris-Waldo Reading Challenge** has arrived. We are all very excited and ready to read, read, read! All students are being challenged to meet or exceed the Griswold Elementary School goal of 300,000 total pages read. We are in hopes that EVERY student will read 500 total pages to contribute towards the GES goal. Students who submit all 4 reading logs: 1. Will be entered in a drawing for a “special reading prize” and 2. Will be able to select a GES library book to have their “label” (name) placed inside the front cover to show future GES students that they have read and enjoyed the book. There will be an additional “surprise” at the celebration ONLY if the total school goal of 300,000 total pages read is achieved. The Challenge began on Saturday, February 25, and will end on Wednesday, March 22. Thank you for your reading support at home!

### Important GES Dates

- Friday, March 10 – No School (Professional Development)
- Tuesday, March 14 – PTO Meeting (6:00, GES Library)
- Wednesday, March 15 – Parent Teacher Conferences (1:10 Dismissal)
- Thursday, March 16 - Parent Teacher Conferences (1:10 Dismissal)
- Monday, March 22 – Report Cards emailed home
- Wednesday, March 22 - School Family Community Partnership (SFCP) meeting (3:30, GES Library)
- Wednesday, March 29 – Art Show (Grades Kindergarten and 1)
- Thursday, March 30 – Art Show (Grades 2, 3, and 4)

## GMS MARCH News

GMS Families:

Happy March! Our days are beginning to show signs of spring and we are delighted. This month has several highlights:

\* SBAC/Science CMT testing begins at the end of March and will continue through April. We are asking families to avoid scheduling appointments on the days that your child is testing. In addition, we cannot stress enough the importance of students being well rested, well-nourished and afforded some down time with family and friends during this time.

\* Incoming 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents Night, Thurs., 3/9 at 6:00 pm in the cafe. The administration team and 5th grade teachers are excited to meet our new parents and provide an overview of 5<sup>th</sup> grade and our middle school.

### OTHER DATES OF INTEREST:

\*EXPLORATORY NIGHT: Wednesday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, at 6:25 pm.

This evening showcases the exploratory subjects and student projects.

\*Professional Development, No Students, 3/10

\*NJHS Induction Ceremony, 3/16, 6 p.m.

\*Reach for the Stars, Dinner Theater, 3/23 at 6 p.m.

\*5th Grade Concert, 3/29, 7 p.m.

\***8th Grade Parents:** Please mark your May calendar **ExPO Exhibition Evening will be Thursday, May 18th at 6:00 pm.** 8<sup>th</sup> grade students will showcase their ExPO projects for parents, and the community.

We look forward to seeing parents during the month of March!



## GHS MARCH NEWS

Dear GHS Parents and Families:

As we close out the month of February, we prepare for a big month of March ahead. The School Counseling office is working diligently to finalize our Program of Studies for the 2017-2018 school year, and, soon, scheduling will be well underway. CAPT Science Testing for our 10th graders will commence on March 28th and 29th. Following that, we gear up for SAT Day (11th graders) on April 5th.

Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, March 23rd, from 5-7 p.m. We strongly encourage all parents to attend and take some time with your child(ren)'s teachers. In addition, we are looking to have an important informational meeting on Advanced Placement courses, and the School Counseling Department will look to provide some post-secondary training, as well. Please look for more information to come very soon!

The Drama Department is hard at work preparing for the Griswold High School's production of Disney's "The Little Mermaid." Tickets will go on sale at the GHS Box Office and online [www.griswolddrama.com](http://www.griswolddrama.com) at 7:00 a.m. on Friday, March 10th. Tickets are \$12. The show will run Wednesday, April 19th-Saturday, April 22nd at 7 p.m., with a matinee performance on Saturday at 1 p.m. Fun for all ages!

On Saturday, March 11th, join Ariel and friends at The Little Mermaid Character Breakfast. Join us anytime between 8 a.m. - 11 a.m. in the GHS Cafeteria. There will be music, face painting, games, and photo opportunities all morning! Cost is \$5 per person.

Other Important Dates:

March 1st -- PAC Meeting at 7 p.m.

March 10th--PD for staff; No Students

Thank you so much! Here's to a GREAT month!!



### *Special Education Notes....*

Even though we are all hoping that winter weather is behind us, the Special Education Office wanted to provide a reminder regarding weather events and Planning and Placement Team (PPT) meetings.

If school is cancelled PPT meetings are "cancelled" and rescheduled. The Special Education Office will contact you with new possible dates and times.

If there is a delayed opening or early dismissal any meeting scheduled during the window when school is not in session is "cancelled" and rescheduled.

For example, if your meeting is scheduled for 9:15 at the high school and there is a delay which moves the start of school until 9:35, your meeting would not be held as scheduled.

Please remember that offices are also delayed or dismissed during weather events.



## **UPDATES FROM OUR TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT**

Griswold Public Schools had its first Technology for Seniors Day on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. GHS senior students volunteered to be paired with community senior citizens to help them with their technological devices.

We were told to expect 7 seniors and we ended up with almost double (thank you Marc Cote for more chairs). The senior citizens were instructed to bring any type of technological device with which they needed help. We saw everything from flip phones to new laptops. Seniors were asking for help from learning how to text their children and grandchildren to opening a Facebook account so that they could reach out to relatives in other parts of the country.

Our senior citizens worked well with their GHS assistants. We had previously chatted with the students to see what strengths and skills each had, and students were paired with seniors based on the needs of the senior citizen. This enabled the students to feel very comfortable and resulted in each person getting one-to-one support. Because we ended up with more senior citizens than anticipated, members of the technology department (thank you Kyle and Lisa) helped out. Afterwards, the seniors had coffee and dessert courtesy of the culinary program. Our senior citizens left very excited and many said they were coming back with other technological devices that they have at home and they just don't know how to use. Everyone had a great time and the students were exceptional!!!!



### **PRESENTATION BY**

### **THE CONNECTICUT SCHOOL FINANCE PROJECT**

**WHEN: Monday, 3/13**

**WHERE: GMS AUDITORIUM**

**TIME: 6:00pm**

**This presentation will be at the 3/13 BOE meeting. To learn more about the Connecticut School Finance Project, please visit their web site here:**

**<http://www.ctschoolfinance.org/>**



**FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY FIRST  
GRISWOLD**  
Equity and Social Justice Subcommittee

**Families and Community First Griswold (FCFG)** will participate in a series of trainings called **SANKOFA**, which incorporates the historical context of race and poverty in order to build a better future for those adversely impacted by these inequalities.

This timely program features **EIGHT (8) INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS FROM JANUARY TO APRIL** (see schedule below), each lasting 2 1/2 hours. Participants will engage in dialogue, self-discovery, and activities in order to develop anti-racism leadership and advocacy skills that will benefit the entire community.

**THE SUCCESS OF THIS PROGRAM** begins with the support of the entire collaborative and so it is vital to secure your participation and commitment. This is challenging, yet rewarding, work. Simply put, racial reconciliation is the "unfinished agenda" of this nation.

**We also are seeking members of the community to lend their voices to this dialogue.** To participate in the sessions, an individual must first become part of the social justice and equity subcommittee. For more information, contact Adam Bowles at [860-861-4246](tel:860-861-4246) or [adambowles@sbcglobal.net](mailto:adambowles@sbcglobal.net).

**Wednesday, March 8, 2017 - 6:00-8:30pm**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2017 - 6:00-8:30pm**

**Wednesday, April 5, 2017 - 6:00-8:30pm**

**Wednesday, April 19, 2017 - 6:00-8:30pm**

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017 - 6:00-8:30pm\*\*\***

\*Most meetings are scheduled on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month.

\*\*Meeting will occur on 1st and 3rd of the month.

\*\*\*Snow date

*Location to be determined*

**Child care will be available.**

**Food and refreshments will be available between 5:30-6:00pm.**

*This Equity Learning Partnership training is available to FCFG due to a generous grant from the William Caspar Graustein Memorial Fund*



“Griswold Reads” is a newly established book discussion partnership between the Griswold Public Schools and The Slater Library. During the school year, we will host a book discussion series on select, mass-market titles that explore relevant topics pertaining to public education while casting a wide net on reader interest. The book discussions will be held at the Slater Library, and the library will have a few copies of each title for circulation. Griswold Public Schools educators will partake and lead the discussions, which will be an hour long and are open to the public. The book discussions begin promptly at 5:30pm. We hope you can join us!

<b>BOOK DISCUSSION DATE</b>	<b>BOOK TITLE</b>
Thursday, March 30th	<p><i>The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business</i></p> <p>By Charles Duhigg</p> <p>GPS Facilitators: Joseph Bordeau &amp; Rita Quiles-Glover</p>
Thursday, April 27th	<p><i>The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups</i></p> <p>By Leonard Sax</p> <p>GPS Facilitators: Erin Palonen &amp; Michele Demicco</p>



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

Griswold Public Schools  
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# Character Breakfast!

March 11th, 2017

8-11am

GHS Cafeteria

\$5 per Person

Facepainting, games  
and

more will be available!



Disney THE LITTLE  
MERMAID

# Griswold High School Presents

Tickets available @  
[www.griswolddrama.com](http://www.griswolddrama.com)  
& Box Office

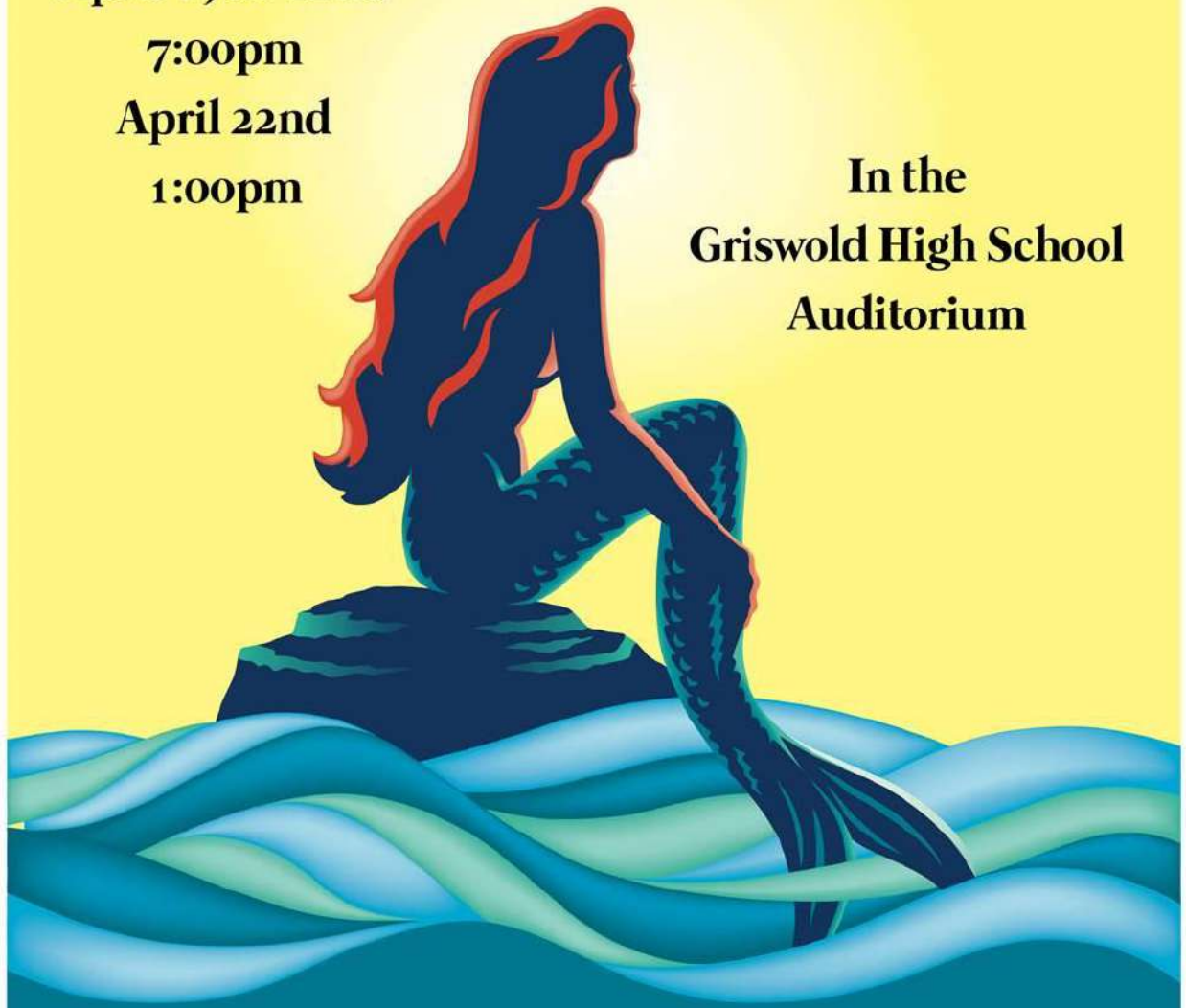
April 19th-22nd

7:00pm

April 22nd

1:00pm

In the  
Griswold High School  
Auditorium



Disney THE LITTLE  
MERMAID