



Griswold Public Schools

Monthly Newsletter

OCTOBER 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 Superintendent...

Dear Family & Friends,

I hope that our October newsletter finds you all well. The students have been doing an outstanding job (re)acclimating themselves to the new school year during the month of September, and we all continue see great strides in our students as we head into this fall season.

Of course, our faculty and staff have been doing an equally outstanding job. We are appreciative of all of their efforts as we continue to make the 2016-2017 school year a success.

Be sure to visit our district and school web sites frequently. There are many programs that cast a wide net on different community members.

A reminder to all students, parents, and caregivers: there is no school on Friday, October 7th, and on Monday, October 10th. Do enjoy this long weekend.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna
Superintendent

Important District Dates to Know....

October 1st—Begins NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October 7th—PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT—NO SCHOOL

October 10th —COLUMBUS DAY—No School

October 11th—NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH WEEK BEGINS

October 11th—BOE Meeting, 6pm

October 17th—GRISWOLD PRINCIPAL APPRECIATION DAY (National Boss's Day)

October 17th—NATIONAL BUS SAFETY WEEK

October 24th—BOE, Meeting, 6pm

October 27th—GRISWOLD READS, 5:30 pm, Slater Library

October 31st—HAPPY HALLOWEEN—Be safe ☺



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 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: smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org

Research has shown that parental

involvement is the most important factor in a student's success in school.

GES OCTOBER NEWS

Dear Families,
Happy Fall! As we move into the fourth week of school, I am asking that anyone picking up a child at regular dismissal time (3:10) park in the Griswold High School parking lot. These parking spaces are located directly behind the line of shrubs. The main road between GES and the GHS parking lot is closed during this time due to adults and children walking from GES to the GHS parking lot. The parking spaces directly in front of GES are for visitor parking only. They are not to be used during student dismissal. Please contact the main office if it is essential that one of these spaces is occupied by you during student dismissal time (2:50-3:10).

Your Personalized Path to Classroom

Success Griswold Elementary school uses Reading Street and Envision Math to enhance student learning in the classroom. Your child has an account that they can use in school and at home to practice their skills. The link that your child can use from home is <https://www.pearsonsuccessnet.com/>. Your child has a username and password is based on their year of graduation and their first and last name. Example, if your child is a 2nd grader and their name was John Doe, their year of high school graduation is 2025 so their user name would be 25jdoe, and password Griswold1. We invite you to use these products at home. If you have any questions, please contact us at school.

Wolverine Pride, "At Griswold Elementary School we believe that all children will be thoughtful members of the school community."

GMS September News

GMS is buzzing with enthusiasm and activity as students and staff settle into the new school year. September was a great start and we are gearing up for a full October. Here's a brief recap of our September:

*We had great attendance at our Back to School Nights. Special thanks to everyone for attending!
*8th gr. ExPO is progressing nicely. Students are selecting topics and refining their research questions.

*Grades 5 – 8 celebrated the 2016 International Day of Peace on the 21st by creating *Peace Pinwheels*. During the morning, students planted their pinwheels on our front lawn and created a peace symbol in honor of this important day.

*Students are completing benchmark testing in reading and math.

* We kicked off our Annual Fundraiser on 9/14. Please remember that orders are due by 9/28 and we thank you for your participation.

Autumn allows us to enjoy hot cocoa, warm sweaters and crisp air. The season also allows us to celebrate the GMS 19th annual *Red Ribbon Week*. Be sure to visit www.redribbon.org for details about the red ribbon campaign and the GMS website (www.griswold,k12.ct.us) for GMS news including:

*Advisory in Oct. will be dedicated to the importance/awareness of living a drug free life and culminate with our Red Ribbon Rally on Oct. 28. GMS Spirit Week will take place Oct. 24- 28. Details coming soon.

*Parents are encouraged to attend this month's PTO meeting on 10/13 at 3:45 p.m. in the main office.

*Oct. 14th is our 5th and 6th Grade Fun Night sponsored by our GMS PTO. We are looking for parent volunteers to chaperone or provide donations of beverages/snacks.

*Nov. 4th is our 7th and 8th Dance sponsored by our GMS PTO. We are also looking for parent volunteers to chaperone and/or provide donations. We appreciate our families taking the time to participate in our upcoming events because together we're making great things happen.

Hello GHS Families,

Welcome fall! October brings forth much excitement for Griswold High School. Some important dates:

- Wednesday, 10/5: PAC meeting at 7 p.m. in LMC
- Friday, 10/7: Professional Development Day--No Students
- Monday, 10/10: Columbus Day--No School
- Friday, 10/14: Lifetouch Picture Retakes
- Monday, 10/17 through Friday, 10/21: GHS Spirit Week!!
- Wednesday, 10/19: PSATs for our 10th and 11th grade students
- Friday, 10/21: Homecoming Parade and Football Game
- Saturday, 10/22: Homecoming Dance at GHS

Thank you to all parents who have read and signed our Parent/Faculty/Student Handbook and our Acceptable Use Policy for technology. We are still reaching out to students who do not have completed forms. Please check with your child if you have not signed these important forms, as they need to be signed annually.

Please continue to check your child's Plus Portals account. If you need any support, please contact us!

We are always updating our webpage, so please continue to check in for updates and happenings at GHS!



Special Education Notes...

Student Services

Parent Resource: The State Department of Education has provided "A Parent's Guide to Special Education in Connecticut" to assist parents with understanding the special education process and role as part of the planning and placement team. The guide can be found on the Griswold Public Schools website under Student Services or by visiting the following link.

http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/DEPS/Special/Parents_Guide_SE.pdf





UPDATES FROM OUR TECHNOLOGY DIRECTOR



High School and Middle School Parents should have received their username and password for the parent Portal by now. The parent portal allows parents to view their student's progress, grades, homework, attendance and more.... If you missed the email or need more information, please email the Technology Director - Jill Curioso @ jcurioso@griswoldpublicschools.org

OCTOBER APP TO TRY

<http://www.jamendo.com/en/> - A Music website with no copyright restrictions. Can be used for websites, powerpoint presentations, background music for video projects, etc. --Only requirement is to attribute the music to the artist at the end of your presentation. It's free and legal. Downloads in mp3 format.



OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October has been designated as National Bullying Prevention Month. The State of Connecticut Department of Education has resources for parents, caregivers and students. To learn more about bullying, prevention, and trends, visit this web site:

<http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/cwp/view.asp?a=2663&q=334606>



A GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

Connecticut State Department of Education | December 2012



“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!

BOOK DISCUSSION DATE	BOOK TITLE
Thursday, October 27th	<p><i>Odd Girl Out: The Hidden Culture of Aggression in Girls</i></p> <p>By Rachel Simmons</p> <p>GPS Facilitator: Marceline Macrino</p>
Thursday, November 17th	<p><i>Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys</i></p> <p>By Dan Kindlon & Michael Thompson</p> <p>GPS Facilitators: Sean McKenna & Christopher Champlin</p>

<p>Thursday, February 23rd</p>	<p><i>Mindset: The New Psychology of Success</i> By Carol Dweck GPS Facilitator: Michele Raynor & Michele Demicco</p>
<p>Thursday, March 30th</p>	<p><i>The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business</i> By Charles Duhigg GPS Facilitator: Joseph Bordeau & Rita Quiles-Glover</p>
<p>Thursday, April 27th</p>	<p><i>The Collapse of Parenting: How We Hurt Our Kids When We Treat Them Like Grown-Ups</i> By Leonard Sax GPS Facilitator: Erin Palonen & Michele Demicco</p>



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