

- **Thursday, March 26 – GES Family Reading Night, 6:00-8:00 PM.**
- **Friday, March 27 – Griswold Instructional Assistants Appreciation Day.** We will take the day to honor those who work very closely in the lives of our students! We will also announce the 2015 Instructional Assistant of the Year!
- **Wednesday, April 1 – “Target Meeting” in the GMS Library, 5:30 PM Dinner & 6:00 PM Meeting.** Please come and be part of this one-hour meeting. Your input is crucial. Childcare is available.
- **Wednesday, April 1 – GPS Building Committee in the GES Library, 6:00 PM.**
- **Wednesday, April 1 – Griswold High School Parents Advisory Council (PAC) in the GHS Library, 7:00 PM.**
- **Thursday, April 2 – HALF DAY of School for Students: Professional Development in the afternoon.** Griswold High School and Griswold Middle School will be dismissed at **12:00 Noon** and Griswold Elementary School will be dismissed at **1:10 PM**. Lunches will be served and regular bus transportation will be provided.
- **Friday, April 3 – Good Friday. No School.** School Offices will be closed for the day.
- **Tuesday, April 7 – BOE Policy Subcommittee in the Superintendent’s Office, 9:00 AM.**
- **Tuesday, April 7 – Parent-School Collaboration Special Education Meeting in the Special Education Office (Room 3105) at GHS, 9:00 AM.** This is an opportunity to meet with the Director of Special Education.
- **Tuesday, April 7 – Public Hearing on Town and School Budget in the GMS Cafeteria, 7:00 PM.** This is an important meeting in the Budget process. All parents are urged to attend!
- **Wednesday, April 8 – Grade 5 Concert in the GMS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.** Come and hear the sounds of the Grade 5 Band, Orchestra, and Chorus.
- **Friday, April 10 – Nominations due for the Griswold Public Schools 2015-16 Teacher of the Year.**
- **Monday-Friday, April 13-17 – April Vacation Week. No School**

If you would like an event listed in the Calendar section, please forward date and information to Paul Smith: psmith@griswoldpublicschools.org.

Notes

Griswold Board of Education Meeting Highlights (3/10/15)

- The Board of Education recognized the February Employees of the Month: Eliza Czczotka, Vicki Donahue, Melissa Blondett – GHS Secretaries.
- The Board members were recognized and honored as part of Board of Education Appreciation Month.
- The Board accepted the generous gift of new Wenger Choral Risers for the GMS Music Department from the Quinebaug River Church, Joshua George – Pastor. Pastor Josh and his wife Patricia were thanked by the Board.
- The Board accepted \$330 for GES from Target as part of their *Take Charge of Education* program.
- The Board accepted \$500 for the GHS Science Department from the Exxon Mobil Education Alliance Grant. This grant is made possible by Chucky’s/Mobil in Lisbon.
- The Board voted to approve the 4000 Policy Series: Personnel.
- The Board discussed the 2015-16 Budget and then approved the Budget in the amount of \$25,488,215 – an increase of \$340,949 – to be sent to the town for review by the Board of Finance on March 17 at 7:00 PM in the Town Hall. Due to changes in the grand list, the increase in the budget represents a 0.32 mill increase.
- Principal of GES, Joe Bordeau, gave a presentation on the performance of full-day Kindergarten students over the last two years. Their academic level is higher than students who had half-day K, the amount of intervention required for students is less, and the anecdotal information from teachers in Grade K and 1 indicate that the social and emotional development of students who have had full-day K is more advanced than those students who had half-day K. This presentation certainly shows what a powerful investment full-day K is for the community of Griswold.
- Steve Cravinho gave an update on the ECC Conference. As a result of potential moves to other conferences by several schools, Griswold and other ECC schools are considering a petition to the NCCC for acceptance in what would hopefully be a NCCC East conference. No moves will likely take place until the 2016-17 school year.

Nominate our Teacher of the Year!



We're looking for nominations!

Help us honor one of our deserving Teachers for recognition as the

**Griswold Public Schools
2015-16 Teacher of the Year**

The Griswold Teacher of the Year will then be eligible for recognition as the 2015-16 State of Connecticut Teacher of the Year.

Nomination forms are on the district website.

Anonymous nominations are accepted, too!

Nominations are due to Robin Drobiak by Friday, April 10.



[Click for Budget Information](#)

Budget Update

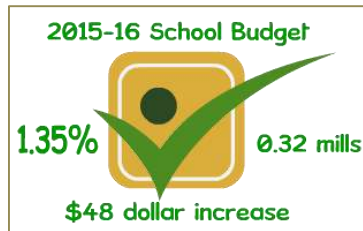
At last week's Board of Education meeting (3/9/15), the Board approved sending the 2015-16 School Budget to the town with an increase of 1.35%.

Please consider attending the **Board of Finance meeting** this week at the Town Hall (Tuesday, March 17 at 7:00 PM). At that meeting Board of Finance will review the Griswold Public Schools 2015-16 Budget. Your presence at that meeting shows public support for the crucial funding of trimmed back programming included in next year's budget. Your presence matters!

Cuts made to the budget at this point will severely impact our performance as a school district in the most negative way at a time when the demand for excellence from schools has never been more important. Thank you for your support of the Griswold Public Schools and our most important community asset – the children of Griswold!

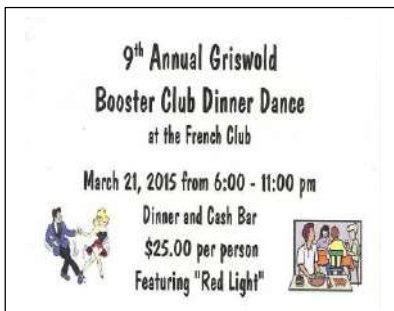
Budget Dates:

Tuesday, March 17	Board of Finance Discussion on 2015-16 Budget	7:00 PM	Town Hall
Tuesday, April 1	Public Hearing on 2014-15 Budget	7:00 PM	GMS Cafeteria



The school budget for 2015-16 includes a 1.35% increase, which is a 0.32 increase to taxpayers. This equates to a \$48.00 increase (on home worth \$150,000). Our goal this year is to pass the referendum the first time!

Please support the Booster Club Annual Fundraiser



DON'T MISS the Booster Club's 9th Annual Dinner Dance at the French Club on Saturday, March 21 from 6:00-11:00 PM.

You can get tickets (\$25.00 per person) to this annual fundraiser for Griswold Athletics by contacting Booster Club Member Laurie Sorder at lsorder01@snet.net or Mr. Steve Cravinho at GHS. Roast Beef dinner includes mashed potatoes/gravy, vegetables, salad, and dessert.

■ **Get your tickets for this year's musical (made possible by Jewett City Savings Bank)**

GHS Music Department Presents the 2015 Spring Musical:

Footloose

April 22, 23, 24 at 7:00 PM
April 25 at 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM

Tickets are \$11 and go on sale Tuesday March 17th at 7:00 AM.

Box Office hours at the High School are
7:00-7:30 AM, 10:30-12:00 PM,
and 2:30-4:30 PM on weekdays.

Tickets are also available with credit card at:
www.griswolddrama.com



The bank's generous donation has made possible
the Spring Musical at GHS.
Without the financial support of the bank,
this program would not occur this year.

Thoughts



It's the "best marketplace for new grads" – if you have the right credentials

One of the most important responsibilities as a school and town is to prepare our students for success in college and careers. "Companies that deal in software, mobile apps, social media, and network infrastructure really never had an employment crash, even at the height of the financial crisis," according to the article below in *Marketplace*.

Companies are actively looking for and recruiting engineers and computer science graduates for employment – and offering great starting salaries. It means that our schools must provide students an exposure to engineering and technology if we want to ensure that our own students are competitive in the job market. In the future, we need to increase the amount of technology courses and pre-engineering courses we offer to our Griswold students. We want them to have these jobs!

We want our Griswold graduates to have the best future!

2015 the best job market in years for tech grads by Mitchell Hartman in *Marketplace* - www.marketplace.org

Companies that deal in software, mobile apps, social media, and network infrastructure really never had an employment crash, even at the height of the financial crisis. Hiring slacked off, but it was still hard to recruit and retain the best-qualified engineers and computer-science graduates, especially in technology hubs like Silicon Valley, Seattle, and New York.

Now, the job market for tech workers is heating up even more. Recruitment at colleges will be up more than 50 percent this year, according to a survey by Michigan State University; the average increase in recruitment across all employment sectors is 16 percent. Engineering graduates will earn by far the most money on average in their first jobs: \$63,000, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE); petroleum engineers will be the highest-paid engineers, at \$80,600. And according to the recruitment website *Jobvite*, the position that is hardest to fill right now is software engineer in the New York and Detroit markets, at 364 days.

At several high-tech startups we visited in Portland, Oregon, perks on offer to employees included the typical creature comforts at these firms: ping pong tables and old-school video games; free food and gourmet DIY coffee; board games and a cozy cubbie for napping.

But companies are also competing more fiercely for new talent on salary, benefits and career opportunities now than at any time since the Great Recession, says Curt LaCount of Jacobs Engineering, a 70,000-employee company that

builds massive infrastructure, including oil and gas facilities, all over the world. LaCount was at a standing-room-only recruitment fair recently at the University of Portland.

“This is probably the best market for new grads in five or six years,” says LaCount. “I wouldn’t say it’s a frenzy. But companies are getting a lot more aggressive.” He says the pickup in recruitment and hiring has two causes: companies held back on hiring during and after the recession, and many older engineers are now retiring.

Dallas-based Match.com is also competing hard for new employees now, says human resources manager Lisa Nelson. She says that while having online-dating experience with one of the company’s products (the parent company also operates OkCupid and Tinder) isn’t a requirement of employment, “we have many employees that found their significant other or spouse using a Match product and they will tell their story to anyone who will listen.”

Nelson says the company is now vying for software and mobile engineering talent not only with other dot-coms, but also with companies in retail, real estate, and finance, too.

Dan Finnigan runs the recruitment site Jobvite. He says bargaining power is shifting to the potential employee in many fields. He says the companies that will be most successful at recruiting “are the ones who have redesigned their career website to be quite appealing, you can apply on your mobile device. They are targeting high-demand people the way marketers do to sell their products.”

The future success of our students must be the number one consideration when the community votes on the school budget!

Have a great week!
Paul K. Smith



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[Griswold 2025](#)

I think we were born into this world and inherit all the grudges and rivalries and hatreds and sins of the past. But we also inherit the beauty and the joy and goodness of our forebears. And we’re on this planet a pretty short time, so that we cannot remake the world entirely during this little stretch that we have. But I think our decisions matter. At the end of the day, we’re part of a long-running story. We just try to get our paragraph right.

~ Barack Obama (from an interview in *The New Yorker*, <http://wapo.st/1Fz0SPg>)

The Superintendent of Schools sends out text messages and e-mail reminders and other information using **Remind**. *Remind* is a one-way text messaging and email system. With *Remind*, all personal information remains completely confidential. If you would like text message reminders about Griswold Public School events directly from the Superintendent of Schools please visit <https://www.remind.com/join/grisw> and simply enter your mobile phone number.



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