



Earth Day – April 22



## Griswold Public Schools Educating for Excellence

### Superintendent's Update – April 21, 2014

*The community of the Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by empowering students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society. - Griswold 2022*

The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations who words of thanks will not be heard.

~ Gaylord Nelson, former Governor of Wisconsin, founder of Earth Day

### Calendar

- **Monday, April 21 – Special Meeting of the Board of Education – Budget Workshop - in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM.** At the Board of Finance Budget Workshop, the Education Budget was cut by \$85,000. The Board of Education must make difficult decisions as to which Green Tier items to cut along with supplies, equipment, and instructional materials. This meeting is open to the public and there will be an opportunity for public comment.

- **Tuesday, April 22 – Earth Day.**

- **Wednesday, April 23 – Administrative Assistants Appreciation Day.** Don't forget to thank the most important people in our buildings: the secretaries and administrative assistants!

- **Wednesday, April 23 – GES School Family Community Partnership Meeting in the GES Library, 3:30 PM.**



**Wednesday-Saturday, April 23-26 – GHS Music Presents the annual Spring Musical, "Tarzan."** It's show week. Don't miss this year's production. Tickets can be purchased at any time online at [www.griswolddrama.com](http://www.griswolddrama.com).

- **Friday, April 25 – Pasta Dinner Fundraiser at GMS to raise funds for the annual Grade 8 Promotion Dance in the GMS Cafeteria, 2:30 – 6:00 PM.** *Eat in or take out!* On your way to the musical at the high school, stop in for a pasta dinner and help support the Promotion Dance for our Grade 8 students. \$8.00 PASTA WITH MARINARA & \$9.00 PASTA WITH MEAT SAUCE - SERVED WITH GREEN BEANS AND BREAD. *All tickets are presold* and order forms are available at GMS or on the school's website. Order tickets by April 21.
- **Friday, April 25 – Preschool Community Literacy Night in the GES Cafeteria, 6:00 PM.**
- **Monday, April 28 – Board of Education Meeting in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM.** At this meeting, the Instructional Assistant of the Year, Lisa Barber will be recognized by the Board. Childcare is available.
- **Wednesday, April 30 – Special Meeting of the GPS Building Committee.** Bids for the GHS Roof Replacement Project are due the afternoon of April 24. The bids will be reviewed and a recommendation made to the Town on the April 28. The project is on schedule to begin after GHS Graduation and be completed prior to the start of the school year.
- **Thursday, May 1 – Grade 3 Spring Concerts in the GES Cafeteria, 6:00 PM & 7:15 PM.**
- **Friday, May 2 – Children First Griswold Meeting at GHS (Room 3103), 9:30 AM.**
- **Friday, May 2 – Grade 5 & 6 Dance in the GMS Cafeteria, 2:30 – 4:30 PM.**
- **Saturday, May 3 – Griswold Recreation Department Event: Harlem Superstars Basketball Team in the GHS Gym, 7:00 PM.** Tickets are \$8.00 in advance or \$10.00 at the door. [Click here for information.](#)

- Monday-Friday, May 5-9 – National Teacher Appreciation Week.

- Monday, May 5 – Town of Griswold Annual Town Meeting in the GMS Cafeteria, 7:00 PM.** This meeting will precede the referendum on the budget to be held the next week. Please review the budget information later in this update.

- Wednesday, May 7 – National School Nurse Appreciation Day.

- Wednesday, May 7 – The annual A.C.E.S. event (All Children Exercising Simultaneously) for GES and GMS, 10:00 AM.** Look for details on the walking course in your mailboxes! Project ACES was begun as a method of motivating children to exercise. The ACES walk takes place on the first Wednesday in May as part of National Physical Fitness and Sports Month along with National Physical Education Week. It has been labeled as "the world's largest exercise class" by the media. Since 1989, millions of children from all over the world exercise together to promote proper health and fitness habits. Griswold is proud to participate!
- Wednesday, May 7 – BOE Policy Subcommittee in the Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 7 – Grade 3 Spring Concerts in the GES Cafeteria, 6:00 PM & 7:15 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 7 – GPS Building Committee in the GES Library, 6:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 7 – Griswold High School Parents Advisory Council (PAC) - GHS Library, 7:00 PM.**
- Thursday, May 8 – GMS PTO meeting in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM.**
- Friday, May 9 – Pre K Screening for 3-year olds in the Pre K Foyer of GES, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.**
- Monday, May 12 – Board of Education Meeting in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM.** Childcare available.

- Tuesday, May 13 – Budget Referendum on the 2014-15 Budget, 6:00 – 8:00 PM.** Please review the budget information contained later in this Update.

- Tuesday, May 13 – Grade 7 Spring Concert in the GMS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 14 – "Coffee and Chat" / Superintendent's Advisory Council in the Superintendent's Office at GMS, 7:30 AM or 8:45 AM.** *This is the last meeting of this group for the year.* Consider attending and giving the Superintendent your feedback on the 2013-14 School Year!
- Wednesday, May 14 – The Griswold High School Wolverine Warrior Fitness Challenge.** If you are interested in proving that you are *Wolverine Strong*, sign up with Mr. Bruno or Mrs. Moore by May 7 to compete individually or with a team to promote physical fitness! Activities include a one mile run, one minute of push-ups, one minute of curl ups, and an obstacle course.
- Wednesday, May 14 – Grade 8 Spring Concert in the GMS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- Thursday, May 15 – Griswold Middle School Art Show in the GMS Cafeteria, 6:00-8:00 PM.**
- Saturday, May 17 – Junior Prom in the Griswold High School Gym, 7:00 PM.**
- Tuesday, May 20 – Griswold High School Choral Pops Concert in the GHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 21 – BOE Policy Subcommittee in the Superintendent's Office, 4:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 21 – GPS Building Committee in the GES Library, 6:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 21 – Griswold Middle School Book Fair in the GMS Cafeteria, 5:00 – 7:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 21 – Grade 8 Spring Concert in the GMS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.**
- Thursday, May 22 – Grade 2 Spring Concerts in the GES Cafeteria, 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM.**

- Friday, May 23 – Professional Development Day for Teachers.** No School.

- Monday, May 26 – Memorial Day.** No School.

- Tuesday, May 27 – Board of Education Meeting in the GMS Library, 6:00 PM.**
- Wednesday, May 28 – Grade 1 Spring Concerts in the GES Cafeteria at 6:00 PM & 7:00 PM.**

- Thursday, May 29 – Griswold High School Instrumental Pops Concert in the GHS Auditorium, 7:00 PM.
- Friday, May 30 – GHS Senior Prom.
- Saturday, May 31 – Griswold Recreation Department Event: Youthtopia “Lumber Jack Day” held at the Veterans’ Memorial Park on Ashland Street in Jewett City, 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM.

*If you would like a school event/meeting listed in the Calendar section, please forward date and information to Paul Smith: [psmith@griswoldpublicschools.org](mailto:psmith@griswoldpublicschools.org)*

## Notes

### ■ April Employees of the Month

After the winter we had this year, the GPS Snow Removal Team deserves our recognition!

# EMPLOYEE of the MONTH APRIL 2014

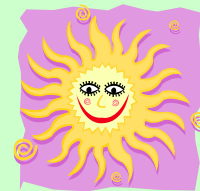


**Ed Bill**  
**Gary Buffin**  
**Marc Cote**  
**Rich Fontaine**  
**John Henn**  
**Mike Millovitsch**  
**Andrew Zuraw**



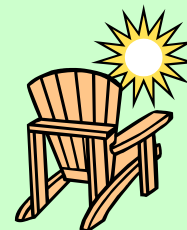
### ■ End-of-year update!

At the April 14 BOE Meeting, the following dates were confirmed:



Grade 8 Promotion GMS - **Thursday, June 19 - 6:00 PM**

Last day for students will be **Friday, June 20**



Graduation, Class of 2014 - **Saturday, June 21 - 10:00 AM**

Last day for teachers will be **Tuesday, June 24**

## **Griswold Board of Education Meeting Highlights (4/14/14)**

- The following dates were confirmed by the Board:
  - GMS - Grade 8 Promotion will be held on Thursday, June 19 at 6:00 PM.
  - GPS - The Last Day of School for Students (Half Day) will be Friday, June 20.
  - GHS - Graduation for the Class of 2014 will be held on Saturday morning, June 21 at 10:00 AM.
  - GPS - The Last day of School for Teachers will be Tuesday, June 24.
- The Board reviewed a new policy presented by the Policy Subcommittee: #45118.51 – *Social Networking*. This policy provides guidelines to employees of the Griswold Public Schools in the use of social networks, texting, and e-mail where students are or could be involved.
- The Board approved the annual Resolution for Schools and Libraries Universal Services (e-Rate) for 2014-15. By approving this resolution the school system receives funding for phones, internet, and website.
- The Board accepted a gift from the GES PTO in support of the IDOLS program.
- The Board received information about the GHS Roof Project, which included details of a walkthrough by potential bidders on the project – 11 potential contractors were on site for the walkthrough. The bid opening is April 24 and will be reviewed by the town prior to a special meeting of the Building Committee on April 30.
- The Board reviewed tuition paid for students who attend magnet schools. The number of magnet schools continues to increase and as it does the district's tuition payments to magnet school increases. In 2014-15, \$88,066 was paid for regular education students to attend magnet programs, double what the figure was in 2012-13. The Board directed the Superintendent to send a letter to the Commissioner in support of a moratorium on additional magnet schools.
- The Board reviewed the process for selecting the next Assistant Principal at GMS.

## **Are you ready for the challenge?**



**The Griswold High School Wolverine Warrior Fitness Challenge will be held on May 14.** Sign up by May 7 with Mr. Bruno or Mrs. Moore to compete individually or with a team to promote physical fitness!

Demonstrate your fitness on the **one mile run, one minute of push-ups, one minute of curl ups**, and an **obstacle course**. The event is sponsored and organized by the CT Army National Guard and the GHS Physical Education Department.

## **Summer opportunities at Three Rivers**

**Three Rivers Community College's Division of Workforce and Community Education** is pleased to announce summer programming for children ages 11-18.

Three Rivers Community College has organized a variety of offerings for students who are **11-15 years old**, such as: baking, math boot camp, pottery, and robotics – just to name a few of the many interesting options. Please contact Peg Stroup at [mstroup@threerivers.edu](mailto:mstroup@threerivers.edu) or 860-215-9296 for more information.

One of the highlights for **High School students** will be a Veterinary Medicine Program. Please contact Ellen Clinesmith at [eclinesmith@threerivers.edu](mailto:eclinesmith@threerivers.edu) or 860-215-9224 for more information.

If anyone has questions, or would like to set up a meeting with one of Three River's coordinators to discuss the programs, please contact the school using the above e-mails.

## **The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Eastern Connecticut Walk Against Hunger – Sunday, May 18**

The **Walk Against Hunger** is a three-mile, non-competitive walk to benefit the [Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center](#), located in New London and serving the entire county, and to raise awareness about hunger-related issues in our community.

The family-fun walk will begin at Chelsea Parade in Norwich and wind its way in and around the city of Norwich. Registration begins at 1:00 PM with the walk starting at 2:00 PM.

[Click here to register online on Connecticut Food Bank's website.](#) Once registered, walkers and teams will have access to a participant center with "Walker Tools" on Connecticut Food Bank's website to assist with fundraising goals and promotion of your participation. In addition to fundraising ideas, walkers are provided with sample e-mails to help them reach out to their social networks to gain support. Prizes are awarded to the top three teams and individuals for fundraising as well as for creativity for team name, spirit and costume.

If you can't walk on **Sunday, May 18**, you can still register online as a "virtual" walker and be part of the event. Individuals, whether walking or not, are also encouraged to donate non-perishable food items that day for the Food Center.

## Thoughts



At the April 15 meeting of the Griswold Board of Finance, the Board of Education budget was reduced by \$85,000. In order to make these cuts, the Board of Education will need to prioritize items in the Green Tier of the Budget (see below) and eliminate a majority of these important educational enhancements or reduce other supplies, equipment, and instructional materials.

As a result of the cuts, the current Town and School Budget increase represents a 1.23 mill increase, the same mill increase approved by voters in 2013. While that seems a positive number with which to move forward, the cuts to the Board of Education will have impact on programming for 2014-15.

2014-15 Budget as set by <u>Board of Finance</u>	\$ 25,615,300	<i>(A reduction of \$85,000)</i>
2013-14 Budget	\$ 25,123,850	
Increase	\$ 491,450	
Percentage Increase	<b>1.95%</b>	

The students in Griswold are going to lose new teachers and new programs that have been asked for by our staff and our parents. They will also lose supplies, equipment, and essential instructional materials.

The Board of Education worked in a serious manner to review every request over four months and trimmed the budget from an initial increase of 2.99% in January down to 2.39% in February and down to 2.29% in March.

As of April, the Board of Finance has cut the budget an additional \$85,000 bringing the increase down to 1.95%.

### **Our children cannot lose more.**

Please support the 2014-15 Board of Education Budget on Tuesday, May 13 at the annual Budget Referendum.

Please mark the following dates on your calendar!

**Monday, May 5** – Town Meeting on the School and Town Budgets in the GMS Cafeteria at 7:00 PM

**Tuesday, May 13** – Budget Referendum, Town of Griswold from 6:00 AM – 8:00 PM.

## Green Tier Budget Highlights

### Items that were originally included in the 2014-15 Budget

The items below were included in the original 2014-15 Budget developed by the Board of Education.

The funding for these items was requested by Principals and program leaders during the budget process. They were suggested by department heads, teachers, staff, parents, and community members.

**As of April 15, the Board of Education Budget was reduced from an increase of \$576,450 (2.29% increase) to an increase of \$491,450 (1.95% increase).**

**The Griswold Board of Education will need to reduce \$85,000 from the 2014-15 Budget.**

**The reductions will come from new items listed below  
and/or supplies, equipment, and instructional materials.**

Building Program	Description	Cost
GES Staffing	<b>Add 1.0 FTE Third Grade Teacher at Griswold Elementary School</b> There are currently 143 students in Grade 2 in 7 sections ranging from 19-21 students per section. This teacher will be needed for the foreseeable future as there will continue to be seven sections.	<b>\$ 42,000.00</b>
GPS Staffing	<b>Add 1.0 FTE Math Interventionist/Coach for Griswold Public Schools</b> Currently, there is no Math Intervention in the Griswold Public Schools. The number of students scoring at the "goal" level in mathematics in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, & 8 in 2012-2013 decreased.	<b>\$ 42,000.00</b>
GMS Staffing	<b>Increase 0.2 FTE String Teacher at Griswold Middle School</b> In 2013-14 a 1.0 FTE music position that had been eliminated in 2012-13 was reinstated as a 0.5 FTE position. With strings being returned in Grade 5 and 6, the goal is to increase the position by .2 to allow the program to move forward and include grade 7 - in addition to 5 and 6.	<b>\$ 8,000.00</b>
GHS Staffing	<b>Increase in Athletic Trainer Services and Coverage at Griswold High School</b> An athletic trainer provides safe practice settings for athletic teams by examining students with injuries and working with students and coaches to prevent injuries. The trainer monitors students with injuries guarding against further injury or strains.	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>
GHS Common Core	<b>Plato Software (Licenses) at Griswold High School</b> Plato Software plays an important role in providing students and teachers with a variety of resources including: dropout prevention, diagnostic assessment, personalized learning, and credit recovery.	<b>\$ 7,500.00</b>
<b>Total of Green Tier Items</b>		<b>\$102,500.00</b>

**Even though this will result in a large cut from these items and other budget areas, it is important to support the budget at the May 13 Budget Referendum to avoid additional cuts.**

The Board of Education will have a special meeting on Monday, April 21 at 6:00 PM in the GMS Library, which will be an additional budget workshop. This is an open meeting of the Board of Education and the public is welcome to attend.

Support the 2014-15 Budget. Support our children. You are their voice.  
Paul K. Smith



What we need is not evolution but a revolution in education.

~Sir Ken Robinson