Congratulations Lego Team!
Groveland’s fifth grade Lego League Team participated in a Saint Paul Public Schools’ Lego League Tournament at Capitol Hill on Saturday, January 18. The team has been facilitated by Groveland parents, with Nicole Theis-Mahon as the lead coach, and sponsored by 3M. The team was named, “City Chickens,” and won a medal in Robot Design. Congratulations Lego League!

If you are a parent interested in coaching a Lego League next year, please contact Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org We are hoping to have fourth and fifth grade teams next year if we get parent volunteers to coach. Special thanks to parents Nicole Theis-Mahon, Jason Furtney and grandparent Susan Furtney for helping with the team this year!

CogAT Portfolio Review – Deadline is January 23
Kindergarten, second grade students and any student new to SPPS this year were eligible to take the CogAT assessment in the Fall. Parents should have received a letter in the mail in late December with test results. If the letter stated that your student was eligible for a portfolio review in order to qualify for Talent Development and Acceleration Services (TDAS) or to be able to apply for Capitol Hill you have until January 23 to let us know that you would like to submit the paperwork for your student to have a portfolio review.

Campaign for Kindness
Groveland students and staff are kicking of a campaign of kindness beginning this week. The theme is “Be the ‘I’ in Kind.” The campaign is part of the school’s Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS). Student Leaders are planning spirit days including “dress up Fridays.” Students are asked to wear their grade level colored t-shirts for the kick-off student assembly this Wednesday, January 22. Here are the assembly grade level colors for the t-shirts:

PreK – orange
Kindergarten – red
First – yellow
Second – green
Third – blue
Fourth – hot pink
Fifth – purple
If your student has a t-shirt in their grade level color, please have them wear it on Wednesday.

Here are the upcoming spirit days:

February 7 – “Sports Team Day” - Wear your favorite sports team attire
February 14 – “Dream of Kindness” – Students dress in their pajamas
February 21 – “Powered by Kindness” – Superhero Day
February 28 – “We’re All Tied Together” – Tie and silly sock day. A sock drive will be held the week of February 24-28 with the socks being given to a local charity.

Also, in February, door decorating will take place in grades PreK-2 while other grade levels will be making posters with kindness quotes. Students will be making Valentines for area long-term health care facilities. Other spirit days will take place in the spring.

Prospective Family Open House/Science and Math Night – January 23
It’s already time to look ahead to the 2020-21 school year! Let families you know who have children who will be 4 or 5 by September 1, 2020, that we are looking forward to having them at Groveland next year in our PreK or kindergarten. Our Open House will showcase the school while Science and Math Night is sure to provide a fun and educational night for new and “old” students and families. Join us on Thursday, January 23, from 6:00-7:30 p.m. for new adventures during our “Science and Math Night.”

Professional Development Day – January 24
Just a reminder that January 24 is a professional development for staff and there is no school on that date.

School Choice Fair – New Location – January 25
The Union Depot is the new location for the Saint Paul Public Schools’ School Choice Fair on Saturday, January 25, from 9:30-2:00 p.m. Groveland fifth grade students may visit all of the middle schools at the School Choice Fair. Groveland fifth graders are automatically assigned a “home school” but the fair will provide information on all schools. Having all the schools and their representatives in one (warm!) place in January will make the middle school choices easier to find out about.

National African American Parent Involvement Day – February 10
All families are invited to attend National African American Parent involvement Day on Monday, February 10. This annual day of inviting parents to join their students at school has become a popular day for students and their parents. An assembly is planned for 2:30 in the gym with Duniya Drum and Dance, West African Rhythm and Dance group will be performing. A schedule of the day is attached. Please join us!

APEX Returns – February 18-28
The APEX Fundraiser will begin on February 18 and go through February 28, the day of the fun run. The APEX Fundraiser has been a learning event for students with APEX representatives going into each classroom, each day to teach values and leadership skills to students. Each
student will receive a t-shirt on February 28 to participate in the Fun Run. Students do not need to participate in the fundraising to run in the Fun Run.

SPCO at Ted Mann Concert Hall – February 20
All students in grades 1-5 will go to the Ted Mann Concert Hall on Thursday, February 20. Students look forward to this concert, especially geared to elementary students, each year.

Lunches
Thank you for keeping payments to your student’s lunch account current. Groveland owes over $3000 at this time for unpaid lunches. Families are responsible to paying for any lunches their students have charged. If a family has applied for free and reduced lunch, lunch balances due before the free/reduced lunch went through also need to be paid. Again, thank you for being current as Groveland Park Elementary has to pay for any unpaid balances.

School Counselor at Groveland
Ms. Carrie Asmus is the half time school counselor at Groveland. She has been teaching guidance lessons in classrooms. The lessons have been generally focused on social/emotional skills and bully prevention. Listening skills, empathy, managing emotions, managing conflict, and recognizing and reporting bullying are the themes of the lessons.

Starting the second half of the year, the focus will be on personal safety and career exploration. If you have any questions about the lessons or if the counselor could help your student, feel free to contact her. Ms. Asmus is at Groveland on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and every other Monday. Her contact information is below:
carrie.asmus@spps.org
651-744-4645

School Choice Workshops
The Student Placement Center will be hosting School Choice Workshops at our office - 2102 University Ave W. to provide application assistance, answer questions and provide access to on-line self-service stations. Each session will include a short school choice workshop to explain more thoroughly the SPPS enrollment process.
Thursday, January 30 – 4:30-6:00pm**
Thursday, February 6 – 4:30-6:00pm**
Thursday, February 13 – 4:30-6:00pm**
Saturday, February 22 – 9:30am-12:00pm*
Thursday, February 27 – 4:30-6:00pm**
**Presentations at 5pm
*Presentations at 10am and 11am

Fifth Grade Transition to Middle School
At this time of the year, families will begin to look for middle schools for their fifth graders. Student in fifth grade at Groveland Park will automatically have a home school of either Highland Middle School or Ramsey Middle School depending on where they live. Students may also apply for other Saint Paul Public Schools. Middle schools are offering open houses and shadowing experiences. Below is information about opportunities to visit Ramsey Middle School.
4th/5th Grade Families Looking at Middle School Options:
Visit Ramsey Middle School! Here are some opportunities for you and your student to learn more about Ramsey IBMYP - International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP):

Ramsey Open House/Showcase - Thursday, January 23, 2020 - 5:30-7:00 p.m.

Ramsey PTO Meeting - MYP Focus - Thursday, January 30, 2020 - 6-7:40 p.m. in the Ramsey Middle School Library

Building tours at Ramsey are on Tuesday mornings, 9:30 -10:30 (Nov. - April).

Shadowing Opportunities are Tuesdays/Thursday mornings 8:30-10:30 (Jan. - April). Families can sign up on the Ramsey Website - ramsey.spps.org>>Families>>Tours and Shadowing

Sign-out Procedure for Students Leaving During the School Day
If a student needs to leave during the school day the following procedure is in place:

1. The adult picking the student up needs to sign the student out through the office.
2. The adult must be listed on the student’s emergency form (iUpdate) in order to take a student out of the building. (If the adult is someone other than the parent, the parent needs to let the school know prior to the student being released.)
3. A driver’s license/state issued photo ID must be shown to identify the adult.

School Continuous Improvement Plan and Minnesota Report Card (MDE)
Each school has an individualized School Continuous Improvement Plan (SCIP) which is updated each year. The SCIP is the basic strategic instructional plan for the school. The link will take you to the Family Friendly version on Groveland’s website as well as the entire SCIP for Groveland on the SPPS website. Family Friendly SCIP [https://www.spps.org/Page/32874](https://www.spps.org/Page/32874)

Another place to find information on Groveland Park’s academic progress and demographics is the Minnesota Department of Education website. For information specific to Groveland go to [https://rc.education.mn.gov/#mySchool/orgId--10625476000__p--3](https://rc.education.mn.gov/#mySchool/orgId--10625476000__p--3)

Guide to Questions on Bus Transportation
Get the app My SPPS Bus to check on your student’s daily bus status. Antoinette.lavalla@spps.org for questions on routes, bus stops or changes. Gilbert.Hale@spps.org or Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org for bus safety or behavioral concerns. Call the main office at 651-293-8760. For after-hours emergency transportation questions call – Transportation at 651-696-9600.

Panda Paws
The Panda Paws is our school newsletter which comes out bi-weekly to your email. Classroom news will be sent home by the classroom teacher. The schedule for the next Panda Paws is at the bottom of this newsletter.
**Groveland Calendar**

(Class specific field trips are in class newsletters sent out by the classroom teacher.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 20</td>
<td>No School; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan. 23</td>
<td>Prospective Family Open House and Science/Math Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 24</td>
<td>No School; Professional Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan. 25</td>
<td>9:30-2:00 School Choice Fair PreK-12 at Union Depot in St. Paul</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>9:30-4:00 NAAPID-National African American Parent Involvement Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 10</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 PTO – Library; Childcare in Cafeteria</td>
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<td>Feb. 11</td>
<td>3:30-5:00 Title I Family Math Event</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>No School – Presidents' Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb. 18-28</td>
<td>APEX Fun Run/Run is on Feb. 28</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 6</td>
<td>No School – Report Card/Conference Preparation Day for Staff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 17 and 19</td>
<td>PreK only does not have school due to conferences for PreK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>8:30-1:30- Parent Teacher Conferences PreK-5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 23</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 PTO – Library; Childcare – Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mar. 20</td>
<td>No School Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 10</td>
<td>No School – Professional Development Day for Staff</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 16</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 PTO – Library; Childcare – Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Apr. 30</td>
<td>3:00-4:00 Annual Title I Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 7</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 – PreK/Kindergarten Orientation</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15</td>
<td>5:30-8:30 Groveland Carnival “Pandamonium”</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 18</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 PTO – Library; Childcare- Cafeteria</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 25</td>
<td>No School – Memorial Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 4</td>
<td>6:00-7:30 Groveland Family Picnic – Groveland</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 5</td>
<td>9:45-3:45 Fun &amp; Fitness Day (Rain day is June 8)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 9</td>
<td>Last Day of School 2019-20 for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Panda Paws – Groveland’s Newsletter**

Panda Paws will be sent out to families two times a month via email (or hard copy if requested). Articles are due Mon. Jan. 27. The next Panda Paws will be out on Fri., Jan. 31. Send articles to Rebecca.pedersen@spps.org

2020-21 Board of Education

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Dr. Joe Gothard

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PTO News is generated by the PTO and is included below:
Connect - Contribute – Advocate

**Boxtops for Education**
There are exciting changes with Box Tops for Education! Stop clipping and save time while still earning money for Groveland with the Box Tops for Education App.

1) Download the Box Tops for Education mobile app
2) Choose your school (Groveland Park Elementary)
3) Scan your grocery receipts (from inside the app) within 14 days of purchase
4) The app will find the Box Tops products on the receipt, and send the earnings directly to Groveland! It’s as simple as that.

If you have any unexpired Box Tops that you have already clipped, don’t throw them away! You can bring them to the school office before February and they will still get submitted.

**Classroom Villages**
Interested in helping plan fun community building events at Groveland? Want to support your student’s teacher? Consider being a Classroom Villages coordinator! Use this form to get more information!

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1o8O4BL4TlmyWlENDA8_IlVyQwFDBn8b1n8ikQ_wt-pk/edit

**Support Groveland as you shop!**
Did you know Groveland is on Amazon Smile? Just click https://groveland.me/amazon and select “Friends of Groveland PTO” to have a portion of your purchase go to our school!

**Groveland Gear** is an awesome gift idea. The Groveland Gear online store has been refreshed with a whole batch of new products this year, like winter hats, trucker hats, aprons, and mugs along with all the classic t-shirts and sweatshirts. The best part is you can now place your order and have it all delivered right to your front door. Visit the store today: www.grovelandgear.com

**PTO Directory**
Did you know that you might be missing out on news and events for Groveland families? Even if you are receiving the Panda Paws newsletter, make sure you’ve signed up for the Family Directory to know everything else that’s happening in our school community. Just send your name, email address, and your child’s name and classroom teacher to groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com to be included.

**2019-20 – PTO Executive Committee**
Karl Talcott, President groveland.pto.pres@gmail.com
Heather Allison, Vice President groveland.pto.vicepres@gmail.com
Talia Sheldon-Desjardins & Doug Czaplicki, Treasurers groveland.pto.treasurer@gmail.com
Charlotte Hanley-Jacobson, and Jen Schlueter, Fundraising Chairs groveland.pto.fundraising@gmail.com

Connect with Groveland PTO!
Sign up for the Groveland Family Directory www.groveland.me
Instagram @GrovelandPark
Facebook https://www.facebook.com/GrovelandParkPTO/
Buy cool Groveland Gear anytime www.grovelandgear.com