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News from Christina Beck, Head of School

Look for an update next week.

Poetry Out Loud – MN Winner

Great River School is pleased to announce the Charlie C., a GRS junior, placed first in the MN State Poetry Out Loud competition this past Monday morning. Charlie had to recite 3 poems from memory, competing against students from other high schools in the state. He will go to Washington, DC for the national competition in April. Congratulations Charlie!

PI Day, A Great River School tradition (Early Release)

As in previous years, GRS will be celebrating pi day (usually 3/14, but this year celebrated on 3/10). Each level will celebrate the pie portion (i.e. pies for those who can recite the most digits of pi) of PI day on their own, but will come together at 12:15 for the first ALL School pi reciting contest. Six students from each level will compete to see who has memorized the most digits of pi. This is usually a very exciting event and we look forward to celebrating all together on March 10th. Don't forget! At 1pm students will be dismissed early for conferences. May the pi be with you!

Future Events

- ◆ 3/9 - Driver's Educ. 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/10 – PI Day Celebration
- ◆ 3/10 – 12 Conferences (1/2 day on 10th, full days on 3/11 & 12)
- ◆ 3/11 – Driver's Educ. 1-4
- ◆ 3/15 – Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/16 - Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/17 – Board Meeting
- ◆ 3/18 - Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/19 – Coffee House
- ◆ 3/22 - Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/23 - Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 3/25 – Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15; Community Voices - 6:30
- ◆ 3/26 – Spring Fling dance
- ◆ 3/29 – 4/2 – Spring Break
- ◆ 4/6 – Early release 1 pm; Driver's Educ 1 – 4 pm
- ◆ 4/8 - Driver's Educ 3:15 – 6:15
- ◆ 4/13 & 14 – MCA Testing
- ◆ 5/8 – Great Extravaganza 4-7 pm

Ongoing: Coffee orders due by Monday at noon

Conferences – March 10, 11 & 12

Tomorrow, Wednesday, is the first day of conferences, so it will be a half day (students released at 1 pm). Thursday and Friday will be no school days with conferences all day and evening. If you have not yet scheduled a 20-minute conferences, please contact Andria Sibert at 651-305-2780, ext 100. Please make time to take the survey that will be available on computers set up in several places as you wait for your conference. This will take 10-15 minutes.

Food For Faculty during Conferences – March 10, 11 & 12

We have received generous donations for food to feed the hard working faculty during conferences, but are still looking for a few more items to fill in lunch on Thursday and Friday and dinner on Thursday. Need an idea? soup is easy and much appreciated or an easy hot dish. Can your student get together with a few friends and make something to donate? Thanks in advance for your support. If you are able to help out, please let Andria Sibert know when you call to set up your conference at 651-305-2780, ext 100.

Driver's Education starts today

The spring Driver's Education class begins today. Fifteen students have signed up to take the class, but there is room for any other students who wish to take the class. Students must be 14 ½ by the middle of the class. To sign up, please just come to the class and register on Thursday at 1 pm.

Coffee House – Friday, 3/19

We will be holding our spring Coffee House on Friday, March 19, 2010. We welcome all musicians, singers, songwriters, poets, dancers, actors, and storytellers to take the stage and share their talents with the GRS community. Students can sign up to perform on the posted sheet outside of the Instrumental Music classroom. Performers who do not sign up prior to the event can not be guaranteed a space in the program. Students are welcome invite family members though we ask that you are sensitive to our space limitations. This event is free and open to the current GRS community only. Doors open at 6:15 and entertainment runs from 6:30 to 8:30. Please make sure students have arranged for rides at 8:30. Refreshments will be for sale by students from the spring intensive traveling to Costa Rica. We hope to see you all there!

Students Preparing for College

Today, Karen Cedars met with the 9th Grade students to give them their results from the EXPLORE test they took earlier this year. Parents and guardians please ask your son or daughter to share their EXPLORE results with you that were given to them.. The 8th grade students who took the same test will be receiving their reports on March 17th. The **EXPLORE®** program is designed to help 8th and 9th graders explore a broad range of options for their future. EXPLORE prepares students not only for their high school coursework, but for their post-high school choices as well. It marks an important beginning for a student's future academic and career success by including an interest inventory and academic portion.

NEW – Counseling link on the website

A new link on the GRS website is devoted to Counseling. One of the options is *Career and College Needs*. Check out the many links for students just starting to consider college or those who are in the midst of their search. There is information about the college search, applications, financial aid, scholarships, test preparation and registration.

Note from a substitute

So many times, we wonder if what we are trying to do at GRS is really happening. This note was written to Caroline after a substitute teacher's day in her classes. *"If I had to sum up your students in one word, that word would be impressive. They showed respect for each other and for me in each class period. I've played in a band for a few years, but your students opened my eyes to a much wider range of music than just punk rock. I had no idea that a person could have fun with music in an ore formal setting. These students really love what they do. They handled themselves like adults and balance work and play quite nicely. If only every school on the planet looked like this? Thank you."* GRS students are amazing, even to an outsider.

CAS (Community Action Service) Announcements

Molly is planning to lead a CAS f or A2 students in beading. Some of you may have some supplies just begging to be donated, and she could use them. Donations can be sent in with your student and given to Molly or you can contact her at mkeenan@greatriverschool.org. Here is a short list:

beads	needlenose pliers and mini wire cutters
head pins	small chain
eye pins	any other things appropriate to the task that people
hooks	might be able to donate.

Caroline is hoping to do a basket making CAS but wonders if anyone has wicker to donate? These baskets will be used for the Great Extravaganza as each advisory will be putting one together again this year. Last year's baskets were such a success – wouldn't it be fun to get a handmade basket along with goodies? IF you have wicker appropriate for basket making OR know of a good source, please contact Caroline at cmeisle@greatriverschool.org.

Spring Fling – March 26

A semi-formal dance for the high school will be held on Friday, March 26 beginning at 7 pm. Students may bring a guest as long as a guest permission has been completed and turned in before the 26th. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the basketball team's great season, so players from the other schools will be in attendance. Questions about the dance can be addressed to Enrique Garita at Enrique@greatriverschool.org.

Sports Update

Ultimate Frisbee: Practice starts on March 22 or 29 (depending on when the snow is gone). Practices will be on Mondays (4:30 – 6:30) for both boys and girls and Tuesdays (4:15 – 5:30) for girls only and Thursdays (4:15 – 5:30) for boys only. Beginning the week of April 6 and 8, weekly through the end of May, league games will be held on Tuesdays (6 – 7:30 pm) for girls and Thursdays (6 – 7:30 pm) for boys. The game schedule will be posted on the school website (under Athletics) as soon as it is available.

Summer Employment - Golf Caddies

The Minnesota Minority Junior Golf Association's 2010 golf season is getting underway. They are hosting two informational sessions about joining our work and golf program as a golf caddie.

When: Saturday, March 6th at 10 AM OR Saturday, March 13th at 10 AM

Where: Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave N Minneapolis, MN 55411

You only need to attend one of the two meetings which should last about an hour. Participants AND parents are highly encouraged to attend. And please help us spread the word! If you have friends or neighbors interested in joining the program, please let them know about the meetings as we most likely will be shutting down registration in mid-March. All participants must be at least 13 years of age.