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Attachments:
2010-2011 Board Bios - community members & parents

News from Christina Beck, Head of School

"The world's favorite season is the spring. All things seem possible in May." - Edwin Way Teale

Here are four good reasons to attend this year's Annual meeting:

1. Celebrate our accomplishments.
2. Stay for a light supper and hear nationally acclaimed speaker Mary Sheedy Kurcinka speak about parenting adolescents (PLEASE let Lydia know if you plant to stay so we have enough pizza).
3. Cast your vote in person for the 2011-2012 school board members
4. The more meetings you go to, the longer you live (it's true).

Prom was a smashing success. Held at the Dancer's Studio on Snelling, students were treated to music from the Kredentials and from DJ Kate, food from Key's Café and the fine company of each other. Thank you to Jean Collyard and Jake Armor, parents who chaperoned and generously supported the event. Thank you to senior Grant Armor and the prom committee and its supporting adults for all of the work that enabled it to go off without a hitch.

Future Events

- ◆ 5/20 – "Tapped" at the Riverview Theater
- ◆ 5/21 – Choir Concert
- ◆ 5/22 – Garden Work Day
- ◆ 5/25-26 – A2 to Lake Country Land School
- ◆ 5/25 – Community Voices, 6:30 pm
- ◆ 5/27 – Instrumental Concert and Shakespeare on the Stage
- ◆ 5/31 No School – Memorial Day
- ◆ 6/1 – panel for traveling Spring Intensives
- ◆ 6/7 – 11 – A1 Bike Trip
- ◆ 6/7 – 16 – A2 & A3 Spring Intensives
- ◆ 6/16 – Graduation 7 pm
- ◆ 7/26 – 8/6 – GRS Summer Classes

We are using the results of the GRS parent and guardian survey to guide us in our planning for next year and beyond. Your input on key experiences, class offerings and the lunch program will directly affect what we endeavor to implement. Look for more art electives overall and Spanish in A1 next year. Tami Limberg and I have also been talking with potential partners for a lunch program that espouses the local, organic food values we understand to be important. We're hoping to create ways for students to have direct experiences growing and/or preparing some of the food they eat. Regarding start time, many were prepared to go longer in the afternoon, but due to scheduling magic, we will not have to do that next year. Grading was a topic that we feel needs more time and conversation. We're working to frame a comprehensive discussion that will span over a longer period of time so that we're clear on how and why we evaluate and assess at different levels.

A printed summary of the survey results will be available at the annual meeting. In two weeks: information on registration for next year's classes!

Crock pots in the kitchen ...lost and found in the hall

We have 2 crock pots still in the kitchen. One is a large Rival white inside and out with *ST(then missing letters)* written on one handle.. The other is a Rival – outside silver/inside black. If they are yours, please come pick them up. Also left here are many t-shirts, coats, hoodies etc. We will be taking them to Goodwill on Friday if they are not claimed.

GRS Prom Pictures

Photos from last Saturday's prom were taken by Armour Photography. They are available at the following website: <http://grsprom2010.shutterfly.com/>.

MN Premiere: TAPPED film at the Riverview Theater May 20th

The California Spring Intensive group is please to host the Minnesota premiere of the award-winning documentary film "Tapped" on May 20th at 5:30 pm at the Riverview Theater. (www.tappedthefilm.com) Fresh from the film festival circuit and a national media tour (CBS Early Show on Earth Day!), this inspiring film s reveals the truth about the bottled water industry and its effects on our bodies and our planet. Tickets will be \$5 with a portion of sales going to a local environmentally-focused non-profit organization. Save the date and help us spread the word throughout the Twin Cities. We want this to be a sell-out event! To support this event, please contact GRS parent Jan Selby at janselby@mac.com or 612.889.3640. Tickets are on sale at the GRS website (click on On Line Payments, at school or at the Riverview Theater the day of the show).

About the film:

Eye-opening, informative and incredibly important for you to see...Tapped is another example of realizing film's potential to inspire. This is a passionate documentary, well executed from engaging and intelligent voices who will inform and entertain you with their movie. See it! Ben Lyons, E! Entertainment & At the Movies

Spring Concert – Friday, 5/21

The spring choir concert, free and open to the public, takes place this Friday at 7:30 pm. The concert will be held at St. Matthew's Church in West Saint Paul, just up the hill from the Wabasha Street Caves. The address is 490 Hall Street, St. Paul, MN, 55107. Join us for an evening of music provided by the Treble Choir and Concert Choir, as well as a special performance of Haydn's Little Organ Mass by the after school Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra. The concert should last between an hour and hour and a half.

Work Day at the Garden – 5/22

GRS will be having a community work day on May 22nd to prepare our site for a food garden, rain garden, and outdoor learning site. Feel free to bring your shovel, work gloves and strong arms. All interested people should meet at 10am at GRS. Questions to Tami at tlimberg@greatriverschool.org.

Math lab last day was May 17

Many thanks to the volunteers and Kira Donnelly who made this year's Math Lab possible. Thanks to GRS parents Paul Jones, Rachel Fang, Dawn Spinale, Lynne Nelson (the last two helped with the writing lab in the beginning of the year) and GRS students Grace Sonnabend and Tim Nelson, and University of MN students, Mark Zondag and Shelby Clarke.

Garden Work Day

GRS will be having a community work day on May 22nd to prepare our site for a food garden, rain garden, and outdoor learning site. Feel free to bring your shovel, work gloves and strong arms. All interested people should meet at 10am at GRS. Questions to Tami at tlimberg@greatriverschool.org.

GRS Annual Meeting – 5 pm on May 25

Next Tuesday, May 25, will be the Great River School's Annual Meeting. This celebration will be an opportunity to review the year and celebrate our accomplishments. We will also vote for new school board members. All members of the Great River School community (GRS parents/guardians) are invited to attend. This year's meeting will be at 5 pm, before the May Community Voices meeting. The agenda will include student presentations, a celebration of the 2009-2010 school year and a look ahead to 2010-2011, reports from different board committees. Elections will be held for the open teacher and parent/community positions. For questions or more information, please contact Deborah Schlick, Board President and GRS Parent at We hope you will plan to attend. Following the board meeting and before the Voices meeting, we will offer pizza to those who wish to stay for the program beginning at 7 pm. Please contact Lydia if you plan to stay so we know how much to provide.

Board Elections open on May 25

Beginning on May 25 through On May 25, GRS community members will have the opportunity to vote for three community members and three teachers for open board positions. Each family gets one vote. This year, we

have an amazing pool of candidates : Robyn Aiken (8th & 11th grade students) , Elizabeth Childs (10th grade student), John Haine (7th grade student), Leigh Hanson (teacher at Crossroads), Lynn Shultz (teacher at JJ Hill) , and Greg Bernstein (8th grade student) have all graciously stepped forward to apply. Elections will begin at this month's Annual Community Meeting taking place before the Community Voices meeting on May 25th. Anyone not able to attend this meeting will receive a ballot in the mail.

May Community Voices – May 25 – 7 pm

Please plan to attend the May Community Voices next Thursday at 7 pm to hear our special guest, best selling author, speaker, and licensed parent educator, Mary Sheedy Kurchinka who will address the topic – Changing Behavior - Changing Lives, You Make a Difference. A close connection with a caring adult has been found to be the best antidote for preventing youth problems, but how do you build that relationship with the child whose behavior challenges you the most? How do you take the “fight” out of typical daily hassles? How do you manage the intensity of one child, when you are responsible for several?

Mary is a best selling author and internationally recognized lecturer and parent educator. Her books Raising Your Spirited Child, Raising Your Spirited Child Workbook, Parents and Power Struggles and Sleepless in America: Is Your Child Misbehaving or Missing Sleep have been translated into 9 languages. She is as comfortable as a keynote speaker for major professional conferences as she is working one on one with families in their homes or teachers in their classrooms. There will be a presentation and plenty of time for questions.

Please let us know if you plan to arrive early (6:30) to join us for pizza so we know how much to provide.

SAVE THE DATE – May 27

Watch for more information next week about the Shakespeare on the Stage and instrumental music concert. Student performances will be featured from 6:30 to 8 pm.

Summer Fun at GRS – registration form on the website and available at the front desk

This summer, from July 26 through August 6, GRS will offer several opportunities to try out some different activities. There will be three offerings. The cost varies with each offering ranging from \$150 for the Summer Jazz Ensemble and Steps to Broadway to \$250 for the Latin class. The registration form must be returned by June 16. Hope there will be something interesting for your student.

Spring Intensives – 2011

Next fall, students in grades 9 – 12 should have a pretty good idea where they will be in the spring of 2011. This spring, we are gearing up for students to begin offering ideas for spring intensives. By May 28, any student who wants to propose a traveling or school based Spring Intensive must have developed a proposal. Students who want to do a traveling intensive must work with an advisor (GRS Faculty or not) who can help them develop their proposal to include fund raising, travel and programmatic plans. Proposals for traveling intensives will be presented to a panel on June 1 from 3 to 5 pm. Proposal forms will be available on Wednesday, May 19 from Enrique and on the GRS Website. For more information, please contact Enrique Garita at Enrique@greatriverschool.org.

Sports Update

Ultimate Frisbee: Practice on Mondays (4:30 – 6:30) for both boys and girls and Tuesdays for boys only and Thursdays for girls only. NOTE: Home games and the practice location is at Maxfield Elementary School, 380 Victoria St. just north of 94. Games all begin at 6 pm.

Girls: 5/18 at home against Armstrong; 5/25, 6 pm away game at South High School (1300 58th Ave. S, Mpls)

Boys: 5/20 , at home against White Bear Lake

Tournaments: 5/22 & 23 – Hopkins Hustle Tournament in Maple Plain, MN

6/5 & 6 – State Tournament at the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN

The game schedule has been posted on the school website (under Athletics).