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Find Board Candidate bio

News from Christina Beck, Head of School

It's been a busy week. I look forward to seeing you tonight at the Annual meeting or the Community Voices meeting with Mary Sheedy Kurchinka.

Land School Trip

All students and faculty from A2 are on the way to the Lake Country Land School for what will be an exciting and event filled trip! Thank you to all families for pitching in to make the trip possible. Students should be back at GRS by 3 pm on Wednesday, May 26.

Tuesday, May 25 - Annual Meeting, Elections, Mary Sheedy Kurchinka Annual Meeting – 5 pm

Tonight, May 25th, is the Great River School's Annual Meeting. We will celebrate the accomplishments of 2009-2010 and 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.

Board Elections

At the Annual Meeting, May 25 through June 7, 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:

Teachers: Brad Wildman (A2 & A3 Special Education), Aaron Shackle (Health & PE) and Nelson Inz (A3 Social Studies)

Parent/Community Members: 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)

Anyone not able to attend this meeting will receive a ballot in the mail to be returned by June 7.

Community Voices - 7 pm

Please plan to attend the May Community Voices tonight 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 experience parent educator and trainer who will give some insights into working and living with adolescents. This meeting is open to non-GRS parents/guardians.

Future Events

- ◆ 5/25-26 – A2 to Lake Country Land School
- ◆ 5/25 – Annual Meeting/Board Elections/Community Voices, 6:30 pm
- ◆ 5/27 – Instrumental Concert and Shakespeare on the Stage
- ◆ 5/28 Spring Intensive Proposals due
- ◆ 5/31 No School – Memorial Day
- ◆ 6/1 – panel for traveling Spring Intensives
- ◆ 6/5 – Garden Work Day
- ◆ 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

Instrumental Music Concert & Shakespeare Scenes

The spring concert presented by members of the Musicianship classes and Shakespearean actors & actresses will take place on Thursday from 6:30 to 8 pm. The instrumental performances will be complimented by scenes from Shakespeare performed by high school students. Come hear and see the talents of our students. The presentation will take place at GRS. Hope to see you here!

Bike Walk Week June 1-4th

Great River School is celebrating Bike or Walk to School Week a week early to accommodate the A-1 Bike Trip and Spring Intensives. Ride your bike to school **June 1-4** and earn the chance to win cycling prizes.

For those who are not going on a Spring Intensive or the Bike Trip, *Get tuned up!* Whether it's biking to work, taking a leisurely weekend ride, or walking to the grocery store, residents are making the Twin Cities region one of the top places in the country for bicycling and walking. Bike Walk Week 2010 kicks off this summer, June 5-11, with a week of activities across the Twin Cities, all designed to have you peddling your wheels and moving your feet. The many folks who've joined together to bring you Bike Walk Week share one goal: to make biking and walking an easy and fun choice. There are special events throughout the week and all kinds of incentives to "be your own engine." Sign up to receive prizes. **Join the Great River Team online at www.bikewalkweek.org.** Walk or take your bike to worship. On Bike Walk to Work Day, Thursday, June 10, lead or join a convoy along one of the great bike routes around the Twin Cities. Also visit celebration locations on Bike Walk to Work Day and grab a free breakfast or afternoon special. In the weeks leading up to Bike Walk Week, check out the free information and courses offered to help you get tuned up.

GRS community work day has been rescheduled to June 5th at 10am. Thanks to all who braved the rain, wind, and lightening last Saturday.

Work Day at the Garden – 6/5

Thanks to all who braved the rain, wind and lightning last Saturday. We have reschedule the community work day to June 5 to do more work on the 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.

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.

Great River School Foundation

What do you know about the GRS Foundation? Do you wonder why we now have a school foundation? Those who were at this year's Great Extravaganza might have heard about Great River School Foundation from Greg Simpson, Foundation Board President. With this year winding down, it is time to tell the story in preparation for next year. Simply put, the focus of our school foundation is to be the main fund raising arm of the school. Money raised will come back to the school to support essential activities. Money raised by the school belongs to the state and must be spend in specific ways. Money raised by the Foundation will also be used to support the school, but can be done with more flexibility.

Some background: In the past, Great River School has asked the GRS community for money through support for the Key Experiences (spring-fall) and the Annual Fund (winter). Each year the amount of money we have raised from both has increased as has the participation level by families. In the

parent/guardian survey completed earlier this year, responses indicated that those who have given to both would continue their support as in the past. Thus, we hope combining the two solicitations through the Foundation will make it easier for families to support the school.

New Foundation: In 2009, the Foundation was formed to make a clear distinction between education (the purpose of the school) and raising money (the purpose of the Foundation). The mission of the Foundation is to support valuable education and innovative projects at Great River School through fund-raising and in-kind support. Funds will be raised through direct appeal to the GRS community and to corporate and non-profit organizations through grant applications. In the spring for the last few years, Great River School has asked families to consider a donation to the school to support the Key Experiences, the fall trips, J-term, May Term/Spring Intensives and the spring bike trip. Most families have given the suggested amount, some less and some more. In the winter, a direct appeal went out to families and community supporters for the Annual Fund. To keep the roles separate, the school will continue to need the extra funds but it will come from the Foundation rather than efforts by the school

Fund raising in 2010-2011: beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the direct appeals to support the Key Experiences and the Annual Fund will be one, implemented by the GRS Foundation. All donations will still be tax deductible and will still go to support the school. This year's Fund A Need from the Great Extravaganza will initiate an opportunity for teachers to ask for small amounts of money that would support projects not covered by the school budget. Some families who want to budget for the year ahead and begin donating right away to support the key experiences can do so by making donations for the 2010-2011 year to the GRS Foundation.

Board Recruitment: Today, the voting begins for new members on the Great River School Board. Beginning this summer, the Foundation will also be recruiting new members for its board. Currently, there are 5 founding board members. We need to expand this working board to begin developing contacts and opportunities to raise more money for the school. New board members will help give guidance to that process and get out to tell the GRS story. It is an exciting time. Do consider being a part of it!

For More Information: Contact Board President Greg Simpson at gsimpson@meagher.com or Lydia McAnerney at lmcanerney@greatriverschool.org.

Outstanding Items – return the books or pay your bill

Each spring, we post a list of items that have not been returned – books – or bills that have not been paid. Seniors will not receive their diploma until their list is clear; students in grades 7 – 11 who do not take care of their outstanding items will have that list carried over to the next year. So, take care of it now! Ask your student to check the list at the front desk and clean out their backpack – the missing item might be there!

Summer School for Credit Recovery

It is that time of year that many families start planning for summer school classes for credit recovery. Any student who failed a core class should consider summer school unless other credit make up options have been scheduled. Students may take these classes in their home district and should call or visit the district website for information regarding students who are enrolled in charter schools. St. Paul Public School reserves spaces for its enrolled students first. If a student is not an SPPS student, the family will need to wait until the first day of summer school to see if there is space available for other students. Students can also contact the Minneapolis Public Schools if they are in the Mpls School District.

The SPPS process for enrolling a charter school student in summer school is call or show up on the first day of summer session, June 28 at up at the summer site closest to your home address to see if there are spaces open or to be put on a waiting list. (See the directory on the website: www.summerschool.spps.org/) If the school has space available, they will make a schedule for the student and he/she may be able to start class the next day. Eligible students with confirmed registration and enrollment in summer school will be provided with transportation bus routes and stops. The other option for credit recovery is through Alternative Learning Centers (ALC's). The ALC's most commonly used by GRS students are:

Gordon Parks High School in St. Paul Public Schools
Roseville Adult Learning Center in Roseville Area Schools
Capitol View ALC in Northeast Metro 916 Intermediate School District

Mounds View Public Schools ALC

Please visit the websites for the ALC in the school district closest to your home for school specific enrollment processes.

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.

Summer Opportunity

Looking for something fun to do this summer? Check out the GRS summer offerings, Latin, Steps to Broadway and Jazz Ensemble offered between July 26 and August 6. Also, for those students who are interested in the environment, Northland College in Ashland, WI is offering a one week outdoor class for 11th and 12th grade students where you'll explore real careers in the sciences, work closely with a small team of other 11th and 12th grade students from different schools, and build leadership skills during this intensive seven-day program. For more information, go to <http://www.northland.edu/wildcareers>.

Found

Last Friday, we found a hearing aid in the second floor women's bathroom in a brown case. If it belongs to you or you know someone who might have lost it, please contact Andria Sibert at the front desk.

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: game against South High School has been rescheduled

Boys: 5/27 game TBA

Tournaments: 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).

Athletic Information for next fall has been posted on the GRS website. Soccer and Volleyball for students in A2 and A3 begin in August 16. Soccer for students in A1 will begin following the fall trip, the third week of September. For more information, please go to the GRS Website and click on Athletics. The fall varsity soccer and volleyball schedules have been posted. The A1 soccer schedule is not yet available.