



# Great River News

June 1, 2010

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## Future Events

- ◆ 6/1 – panel for traveling Spring Intensives
- ◆ 6/3 & 4 – A2 exams
- ◆ 6/3 – Robotics Meeting
- ◆ 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
- ◆ 9/1 – Fall Trip Orientations
- ◆ 9/7 – First Day of school for 2010-2011

## News from Christina Beck, Head of School

The final days of classes are upon us. Currently, we are busy refining our course offerings for next year – finding ways to increase engagement, encourage follow through and bring the subject matter alive.

Registration for 2010-2011 classes is just around the corner. We have just a couple more wrinkles in the schedule to work out and then we'll let students rank elective class offerings. Parents/guardians will be able to view the choices ahead of time and also review the rankings when you come to fill out registration paperwork in July. The dates for this process will be announced after a new registrar is hired sometime this month.

I am pleased to note that Andria Sibert will be moving into the office manager position. Andria will begin taking on some of the duties of this position next week and beginning July 1, she'll be the full time office manager. Many of you know Andria as the front desk coordinator. She has also ably carried the attendance coordinator role this year. It is a relief to have someone on staff who will be able to fulfill the role of office manager. I suspect the transition will be seamless. Thank you to Deb Keefe who has agreed to help out in the front office during this transition.

I will be engaged with Spring Intensives next week so please be patient in your expectation for a timely response if you call or email.

## Locker Clean Out

*Please* send a bag in with your student so that s/he can clean out the contents of his or her locker this week.

## Graduation Practice

Seniors will be practicing for the graduation ceremony at Macalester tomorrow at noon. If you find your senior has come home early, that's because we will dismiss them from the site when we are complete. The seniors' last day of CAS was last Wednesday.

## Congratulations to New Board Members

At the May 25 Annual Meeting, seven new board members were seated for 2010-2011. Because this was not a contested election, no election was needed. The new teachers on the board are Nelson Inz, A3 Social Studies, Aaron Shackle, Fitness and Health and Brad Wildman, A2 & A3 Special Education. New parents/community members are Greg Bernstein, parent of an 8<sup>th</sup> grader, Elizabeth Childs, parent of a 9<sup>th</sup> grader, John Haine, parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader and Leigh Hansen, teacher at Crossroads Montessori Elementary School. Their first board meeting will be in July.

## **Robotics for 2010-2011**

On Thursday, June 3 from 3:15 to 3:45 in the A3 Field Studies room, members of the current GRS Robotics Team will offer a glimpse into the challenges and rewards of being on the team. With several members of the team graduating, new energy and teammates are needed to carry on the tradition. The Robotics Team provides an opportunity for students to explore design, building, programming, and much more. For someone interested in engineering, graphic design/website design, competition and teamwork, this is a great program. The team will begin meeting in the fall with a six-week build season in January. The competition is usually in the early spring. For more information, please contact Michael Flood at [mflood@greatriverschool.org](mailto:mflood@greatriverschool.org).

## **Boys to Men Mentoring Network**

Suppose your son had the chance to experience a modern-day rite of passage adventure to mark his journey to Manhood. Imagine a group of friends that meet regularly to lots of the fun & challenging things that he's always wanted to do. Imagine being with a group of men & other "Journeymen" who enthusiastically offer their gifts of strength, wisdom, experience, compassion, and playfulness with a focus on listening, accepting and empowering *you*. That is the promise of the Boys to Men Mentoring Network. For more information, both boys **and** parents/guardians are invited to join representatives from the Network on Thursday, June 3 at 3:15 pm. Please see the attached flyer about the program.

## **Bike Walk Week June 1-4<sup>th</sup>**

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](http://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.

## **A2 Finals this week**

A2 FINALS:

Students have final exams scheduled for each day on Thursday, June 3rd and Friday, June 4th. Please note that neither of these days will be early release days. Below is the schedule for finals.

Thursday, 6/3: 8:30 – 8:45 Advisory

8:50 – 10:30 Math Final

10:30 – 10:55 BREAK – Students should bring a snack to refuel.

**\*Earth science study session during this time\***

11:00 – 12:30 Earth Science final

12:00 – 3:00 Normal lunch/electives

Friday, 6/4 : 8:30 – 8:45 Advisory

8:50 – 10:30 Geography final

10:30 – 12:30 Cleaning/Wrap up etc.

12:30 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 3:00 Spring Intensive Preparations

\*note: Communications will be doing presentations for finals and will do them in class.

### **Car wash on Thursday**

The Seattle Spring Intensive will be holding their last fund raising event this Thursday from 4 – 7 at Gabe's Roadhouse at the corner of Lexington and Energy Park Drive. Donations are welcome to help support this group of young people who have worked hard to raise money for their intensive. They leave for Seattle on Monday, June 7 and return on June 14.

### **Work Day at the Garden – 6/5**

This coming Saturday, the GRS community is invited to a work day 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](mailto:tlimberg@greatriverschool.org).

### **Graduation**

This year's graduation ceremony will take place on Wednesday, June 16 beginning at 7 pm at the Weyerhaeuser Memorial Chapel at Macalester College. Macalester College is located at 1600 Grand Ave. in St. Paul. The chapel is located a short walk from Grand Avenue. There is plenty of parking along Grand and Snelling. The reception planned and hosted by a Junior family will be held in the Orlin-Rice Science Center, a short walk from the chapel. Pictures will be taken directly after the ceremony. For more information, please contact Colleen Straiton at [cstraiton@greatriverschool.org](mailto:cstraiton@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/](http://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 (found online or at the front desk) must be returned by June 16. Hope there will be something interesting for your student.

### **Summer Reminder**

Over the summer, if you purchase items with Box Tops on them (General Mills products), please clip them. This past year, we made nearly \$300 from Boxtops. Also, Kemps Select Milk Caps are a bonus for us – save them and turn them in. If you already buy these products, it is easy to save the marked caps or coupons and bring them in next fall. They are gold to us.

### **Fall Dates to Remember**

As you mark your calendar for the next school year, be sure to put a circle around Wednesday, September 1. This will be the orientation for fall trips for ALL students. Watch for a packing list and more information to come out in the August mailing. The first day of school is Tuesday, September 7. Over the summer, we will be sending out an electronic copy of the 2010-2011 GRS Directory. New families are especially looking forward to seeing this as they want to know who lives near them to start setting up or joining a carpool.

### **Sports Update**

Ultimate Frisbee practice will be held on Tuesday and Thursday for all students in preparation for the state tournament this coming weekend. The tournament will be held at the National Sports Center in Blaine, MN on June 5 & 6.

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.