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Dates to Remember

- Sept 6 School Begins
- Sept 6-7 Kindergarten Assessment
- Sept 8 School Begins, Kindergarten
- Sept 13 Curriculum Night, K-6:30 pm, 2nd Grade
7:15 pm, 4th Grade
8:00 pm
- Sept 15 Curriculum Night, 1st Grade 6:30 pm, 3rd Grade 7:15 pm, 5th Grade 8:00 pm
- Sept 19 PTA 7:00 pm, Media Center

El Mensaje del Director

A School of Choice

Welcome to the 2011-2012 school year at Groveland!

We open this week with expanded classrooms, music areas and parking lot design.

Nine existing classrooms received remodel improvements this summer including special education spaces, band/orchestra and front entrance exterior. A high quality class of incoming teachers and paraprofessionals join us at Groveland this fall from a variety of Minnetonka Schools bringing experience and passion to an already high performing cadre of staff.

We care and are committed to our students' academic, social and emotional growth.

Our student academic results last year were significant in the areas of NWEA Math results with an 8% gain of our students meeting their individual growth targets; this is the largest single year gain since we introduced this assessment over five years ago. Overall, approximately 84% of Groveland Fifth Graders were proficient in MCA Science assessments which ranked highest amongst our District's elementary school profiles. These are examples of our academic excellence and continuous efforts to improve and stretch our limits. 21st century skills emerge this year with investments in a new fifth grade music model, improved music spaces and theater opportunities. Innovation and creativity are now part of our organizational structure which I hope to share more about as the school year unfolds. Finally, our global awareness lessons are intentional exposing students to language and cultural perspectives through exchanges, multi-cultural activities and the power of digital tools.

A warm welcome to the many new families beginning at our school this fall!

Thank you for choosing Groveland.

Please join us at the PTA's "New Family Welcome" on Monday, September 19th at 6:00 pm followed by our PTA Meeting at 7:00 pm in the Media Center.

Looking Ahead

Oct 13 P/T Conferences 4-8 pm

Oct 14 No School, P/T Conferences 8-4 pm
No School,

Oct 20-21 Statewide Teacher Meetings

Oct 24 Two Hour Late Start,
No AM Kindergarten

Oct 25 PTA 12:00 pm,
New Music Room

Greeting the children as they returned to the halls of Groveland this week was so exciting. It's been a renewing summer and we're eager to launch into learning with you. Let's have a memorable year!

[Dave Parker](#)
Principal

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PTA Corner

We are excited for the start of the 2011-2012 school year! The PTA will again support many great Groveland School programs such as Art Adventure, Run Club, Imagination Fair and the school yearbook. We are trying something new this year, and we will have PTA meetings at different times of the day and in different locations throughout Groveland. Our goal is to showcase new areas of the school and the opportunities our kids have at Groveland. Please join us for our first PTA meeting on Monday, September 19th at 7:00 pm in the Groveland Media Center.

In an effort to further our attempts at Groveland to "Go Green" we are going to offer the school directory online via the Groveland web page. It will be locked and require your MyMinnetonka log-in to access it. We would like to include parent's email addresses this year to make communication between families easier. You will be given a form on Curriculum night to fill out as to whether or not you would like your email address included in the directory.

If you are interested in volunteer opportunities please look for the sign up on curriculum night or feel free to contact either of us.

We are looking forward to a fantastic 2011-2012 school year!

Alyssa Tornes and Kadee Watkins
Groveland PTA Co-Presidents

LyssMT74@yahoo.com

kadee.watkins@gmail.com

Groveland Class Room News

Help your teacher, help your classroom, get involved! Think about signing up to be a Head Room Parent in your child's classroom this year. You'll be an integral link to your child's teacher, help plan and budget for classroom parties and activities, help find chaperons for field trips, and make new friends with staff and other parents. If you don't have as much time, team up with a friend and be Co-Head Room Parents. Look for a sign-up sheet in your child's classroom on Curriculum Night. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Landt at sarahlandt@earthlink.net.

The activity fee for students at Groveland will be \$10 per child this year. This donation will pay for 4 classroom parties throughout the year. Please bring \$10 in cash with you on Curriculum night and turn it in to your classroom teacher who will give it to the Head Room Parent to cover party expenses throughout the year. If this donation puts a hardship on your family, please speak with your teacher to work out other ways to help. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Landt at sarahlandt@earthlink.net.

Back-to-School Packs, Thank You!

A big thank you to the volunteers that helped sort and deliver the Back-to-School Packs on Monday, August 29th. The following families came out to get the job done...Pralle, Ciubotaru, Zabilla and Callahan. Thanks again for the help and here is to another great school year! If you have any questions about the Back-to-School Packs, please contact Dana Callahan at 952-476-0598 or dscallahan02@gmail.com

Scholastic Book Fair

Mark your calendars! The Scholastic Book Fair is coming to Groveland's Media Center on Thursday, November 3rd, from 8:00am-4:00pm, and Friday, November 4th, from 8:00am-8:00pm. Want to help with this fun event and fundraiser? Sign up to volunteer on Groveland's Volunteer System at <http://groveland.ptomanager.com>.

Multicultural Week

This year Groveland students will be exploring the country of Kenya during Multicultural Week, Feb. 6-9th. Our committee is looking for volunteers of all kinds. Help plan and prepare for the event, or just help the week of with at-school games and activities. Participate as much or as little as you'd like--we have something for everyone!

If you would like to help Groveland kids explore the world and learn about other cultures contact Belinda O'Connell at belinda.oconnell@gmail.com or 1-715-222-7736 to be added to the committee email list. We will hold our first meeting the end of September. Please also visit our the Multicultural Week Committee's webpage at: <https://sites.google.com/site/grovelandmcw2012/>

Groveland Gatherings

The PTA Committee Groveland Gathering's offers events for Groveland children, their families and the community. This committee is currently looking for interested people to join "grade level planning teams" for this year in K, 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th Grade to help with one or more events this school year. If you are interested in joining a team of people to help plan Groveland Gathering events for your child's grade level or have questions, please contact co-chairs: Shelly A. Smith at kellyMN5@comcast.net , Kristin Bruhn at Kbormesbruhn@msn.com or Mary Hauff at mhauff@gmail.com.

Please, mark your calendar for our first event to be held on Saturday, October 1st for all grade levels at the Groveland playground. More details will be sent out by email.

Tonka CARES

Tonka CARES is a community coalition working together to prevent underage substance use. While elementary school may seem early to be thinking about this, research shows that what you do now makes a huge difference later on. Find out more at www.tonkacares.org

Two Important Dates:

Medicine Collection Events

http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/TonkaCares/KNOW/Newsletters/MedEvent_Poster_Fall2011.pdf

Saturday, September 24, 10am-2pm, St. Louis Park
Saturday, October 8, 10am-2pm, Orono
Prevent abuse or poisoning. Protect the environment.

Family Day - A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Child™
Monday, September 26

Whether you're cooking a gourmet meal, ordering food from your favorite take-out place or eating on the go, rest assured that what your kids really want during dinnertime is YOU! Family meals are the perfect time to talk with your kids and listen to what's on their minds. The more often kids eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to smoke, drink or use drugs. For more information, please visit: <http://casafamilyday.org/familyday>

Groveland Gala 2012 - Save the Date

The Groveland Gala is the best time you can have without your kids, meet other parents and help raise money — all at the same time. The event last spring held at the Sheraton Minneapolis West (across the street from Ridgedale) was a smashing success and we look forward to having as many families as possible participate in this year's event.

When: April 21st, 2012

Where: Back at the Sheraton Minneapolis West

There is a lot to do in preparing for the Groveland Gala, and we are looking for parents to volunteer to help with the event. Volunteer opportunities include gathering donations for the auction, event logistics and planning, advertising, social media marketing and just having a reason to get together as a committee.

If you are interested in any capacity, please contact the event chair, Tom Rieger, at tomrieger@us.ibm.com or via phone at 952-221-6514.

Minnetonka Boys Basketball Association (MBBA)

Please mark your calendars with the dates for this season's travel basketball team tryouts:

Saturday September 24 (4-10 pm depending on grade)

Wednesday September 28 (6-10 pm)

Saturday October 1 (4-10 pm)

Online registration will open on Monday August 15th. Details and grade-specific timing provided online with registration on our website at www.tonkabasketball.org

Minnetonka Girls Travel Basketball

Interested in playing girls travel basketball? Learn more [here](#) or visit the Minnetonka Girls Basketball Association (MGBA) website at www.tonkabuckets.org.

Girl Scout New Member Night

Interested in joining girl scouts? The Tonka Waters East Service Unit invites all Groveland girls (Kindergarten through 5th grade) and their parents to attend the Girl Scout New Member Night. The meeting is on Monday, September 12th from 6:30-7:30pm in the Groveland Gym/Cafeteria. You will have the opportunity to learn about girl scouts, ask questions, volunteer and sign up your daughter. Prior to the meeting, you may contact Mary Hauff at mhauff@gmail.com or (952)933-9070 for additional information.

