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## Dates to Remember

- Dec 15 Staff Appreciation  
Dec 23-Jan 2 No School

## Looking Ahead

- Jan 3 Classes Resume  
Jan 10 Kindergarten Parent Info Night 6:30PM  
**Jan 16 No School - Martin Luther King Day**  
Jan 17 PTA Meeting, 9AM  
**Jan 23 No School**  
Jan 26 Imagination Fair, 6:30 -7:30, East Gym

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## PTA Corner

It was with great pleasure that the PTA presented Groveland teachers their Enrichment Fund dollars, which is raised by the PTA through fundraising. The teachers are able to use these dollars to purchase items for use in the classroom and offer additional teaching modalities for our kids! This year with the additional dollars earned from the Groveland Calendar, which was offered to Groveland families at no charge, we were able to give teachers an increased amount from previous years. Teachers will be presenting what they purchased and how it was used at the April 2012 PTA meeting.

Please join us for the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, January 17th at 9:00 AM. Shirley Snyder with Tonka Cares will be presenting information applicable for parents with elementary-aged children. We hope you can join us!

You can also check us out online at [www.gogroveland.com](http://www.gogroveland.com).

## Principal's Message

### El Mensaje del Director

December begins with Pre-School Story Hour this week as we hosted next year's incoming Kindergarten children and families and is overflowing with unique learning programs, activities and concerts. An immigration simulation, theater field trips, The Sound of Music mini-tour, student performances for senior citizens, After School Spanish Club, Orchestra concerts and Winter Break party fun are just a few highlights of this festive month. Please consider joining us on Tuesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the DSC Community Room if you are interested in learning more about being a "Host Family" for Groveland's Chilean Student Teacher Angela Gonzalez who arrives in latter January.

Enjoy the season and, as always, thank you for being part of this very special Groveland School community.

[Dave Parker](#)  
Principal

## Tonka Green News!

Additional Mixed Recycling items at school now include:

1. All plastics marked with #1-7, including ALL plastic food containers
2. All plastic bottles and caps
3. Juice boxes and other paper cartons
4. Plastic bags from retailers

We are still in need of parent volunteers for both the Penguin Publishing program (binds stories for Groveland students) and Full Bowls, an event where art is displayed and food is collected for the local foodshelf. Please contact us if you have interest in helping!

Alyssa Tornes and Kadee Watkins  
Groveland PTA Co-Presidents  
[LyssMT74@yahoo.com](mailto:LyssMT74@yahoo.com)     [kadee.watkins@gmail.com](mailto:kadee.watkins@gmail.com)

## Groveland School Directory

This year our student directory will be available online. Here are some things you need to know:

### Why did Groveland decide to have the directory online?

1. Save a tree or two
2. Capability to print at home - even just print out those grades that apply to your family.
3. If you have a change of address, phone or email throughout the year, we can make those changes and the file will be updated. Please call the school office, 952-401-5597.

### How do I access this file?

1. Go to the Groveland webpage. <http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/Schools/Groveland>
2. Choose "PTA" from the left navigation
3. Click on the icon, "Student Directory"
4. Enter your MyMinnetonka user name and password to view the document

## Staff Appreciation Cookie Exchange Thursday, December 15th

The holiday season has begun and one of the long-standing traditions at Groveland (20+ years) is the Annual Holiday Cookie Exchange for our teachers and staff. On Thursday, December 15th, Staff Appreciation will be coordinating the collection of cookies and other holiday treats from our Groveland families and then assemble them into bakery boxes. Donations can be either homemade or store-bought items and are always appreciated and enjoyed by everyone!

A separate e-mail communication from the classroom head room parents has been sent to all families providing details about the donation suggestions. This year we will be assembling approximately 111 boxes total!

### VOLUNTEER ELVES ARE NEEDED FOR COLLECTION OF HOLIDAY COOKIES AND TREATS!

Again this year, we need volunteers to help collect the amazing assortment of these treats during curbside drop-off at both the front and back doors AND then to help with assembling the cookie boxes. Caribou Coffee will be provided for all of our volunteers! We need volunteers on Thursday, December 15th:

Help with curbside drop-off from 8AM - 8:45AM

Help with assembling the cookie boxes from 8:45AM - 10:30AM

Families are welcome to drop off their donations earlier -- on Wednesday, December 14th right after school or during Explorers Club pick-up **OR** Friday morning during Explorers Club drop off. **PLEASE NOTE: ALL ITEMS MUST BE LEFT IN THE TEACHER'S LOUNGE ON THE BACK COUNTER AND MUST BE LABELED "PTA COOKIES"**

During this event, make it more fun by wearing your most festive blinking lights necklaces, holiday hats, sweaters or coats! All the merrier!

Parents -- please e-mail Joanie Paul directly at [jj\\_paul2@msn.com](mailto:jj_paul2@msn.com) or call me at 952.933.5884 if you are interested in helping out or you have questions. We appreciate all of you!

Joanie Paul - Co-Chair Staff Appreciation     Jessica Gambiana - Co-Chair Staff Appreciation

## Imagination Fair

Mark your calendars and tell your kids the Imagination Fair is coming! The big day is Thursday, January 26th, 2012!  
*Note: This is a date change from what was published in the calendar.* This year's theme will be announced before Winter Break so your kids have some time to let their imaginations open up! Look for a flyer in your child's backpack this month, the actual registration will go home mid-January.

Angie Thomas  
Anne Groton  
Cathy Lund

## Yearbook

**Last Day to Submit Yearbook Photos is Wednesday, March 23**

Submit your yearbook photos today and be a part of creating a wonderful year-end keepsake for our children.

**You can submit your pictures in the following ways:**

- Load them to a CD or Flash Drive and leave it in the Yearbook bin in the office.  
Note: Please label all items that you want returned with your full name and a teacher's name.
- If you have a few pictures, you may email them directly to Kristin Liker at [krliker@yahoo.com](mailto:krliker@yahoo.com).
- **NEW!** Upload them to the [Groveland Yearbook Shutterfly site](#). Once on the site, select "Add Album." Name the album the subject of the pictures and then select "Upload."  
Note: the first time you access Shutterfly, you will need to request access to the site.
- Add them to the "Yearbook" folder found on the Student (S:) network drive.  
Note: Please create a folder for your pictures and email Kristin Liker at [krliker@yahoo.com](mailto:krliker@yahoo.com) when you have loaded the pictures.

**Please remember:**

- Photos need to include 3-4 kids or more.
- Shoot with a minimum of 150 resolution, in color (no cell phone pics).
- Label submitted photos with a teacher/class name and/or an event name.

### Questions

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Liker at 612-859-3708 or at [krliker@yahoo.com](mailto:krliker@yahoo.com)

## Groveland Gala

**The Groveland PTA presents:**



Just sit right back and you'll hear a tale,

A tale of a fun-filled night!

It started with so much to do,

But now we're halfway through

Click [here](#) to see what's new!



## The Groveland Groove

### Mark Your Calendars

It's your child's night to shine! The most star studded night of the year for Groveland students will be Tuesday, March 27th! The 4th Annual Groveland Groove will be held at Hopkins High School - which seats 900! We have packed the MME stage and the Hopkins Center for the Arts stage in past years, so we've gone to a bigger venue. Also back due to popular demand: the 5th Grade Finale!! The entire show will be hosted by crowd favorites Mrs. Lovelace and Mr. Boyd.

We need help planning this great event. If you can help organize flowers, treats or tshirts please contact [kgreene91467@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreene91467@yahoo.com).

Kristin Greene

## Tonka CARES

ICA and Tonka CARES working together to support family meals for everyone!

Please make a tax-deductible donation of \$5 or more to the ICA Food Shelf and Tonka CARES and receive the Eat.Talk.Connect! Connection Builders booklet with 50 conversation starters to use during mealtime ... or anytime. Your donation helps support family meals for everyone!

Donations will be taken through December 23 and booklets will be delivered to your child at school (elementary families) or shipped (middle and high school families) the week of January 9. Go to online payments on the district homepage and then to the Tonka CARES web store .

A free download of the content is available.

## Cyber Safety

### Concerned about Cyber Safety?

Common Sense Media is a great guide for parents navigating media use with their children. Follow this link to a checklist families can use to guide a conversation about media and technology use. Dig deeper into the site to find information about cyber bullying, gaming, social networking, cellphone use and more!

[Family Media Agreement for Elementary](#)

[Family Media Agreement for Middle School](#)

[Family Media Agreement for High School](#)

### Cyber Safety Speaker

Join us January 30<sup>th</sup> on **Cyber Safety- Catching Up With High Tech Kids in a High Tech World of Camera Phones-Virtual Worlds-Facebook-Texting-Online Gaming-YouTube--And More!**

"I was just informed by my 5<sup>th</sup> grader in her power point presentation on why she should get a cell phone, that 98% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders have a cell phone" - Groveland Parent

Keeping on top of what kids do with technology is tough and ever changing, but critical to their safety and future. Find out about potential risks associated with the wide-ranging technologies kids use, from cell phones in locker rooms, to cyber bullying and harassment to the dangers of pornography. Learn why kids should be cautious about what information they share online and be made aware of the permanency of their digital record. Get tips for maintaining open dialog with kids about technology and understand the significant role you play in helping kids be responsible and safe in today's high-tech world. Numerous ideas and free resources for use with students and/or your own children will be sharing.

## Emergency School Closings

With Winter fast approaching, please take a few moments to review Minnetonka's emergency school closing [procedures](#).

## Scholastic Book Fair

The Scholastic Book Fair had over \$14,700 in sales -- a new record! -- resulting in our earning almost \$5,000 worth of books for Groveland and income for the PTA, not to mention the many books graciously donated by shoppers to Groveland's classrooms. Thank you to everyone who made the Scholastic Book Fair a big success, especially all of our hard-working volunteers!

Sandy Sester  
Book Fair Chair

## Groveland Gatherings

Groveland Gatherings: A PTA Committee which offers grade-level events for Groveland children and their families and community to connect throughout the school year.

Please bring your entire family and join us for these winter events in January 2012:

### Third Graders and Families

#### Gro-Tonka Snow Day Fun

Sunday, January 15th

1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

Gro-Tonka

Event details to follow in upcoming flyers

Event Contacts:

Ann Helsdingen at [ahelsdingen@northwriteinc.com](mailto:ahelsdingen@northwriteinc.com)

Gail Lommen at [4lommens@comcast.net](mailto:4lommens@comcast.net)

Heather McCollor at [mccollor@macalester.edu](mailto:mccollor@macalester.edu)

### Kindergartners and Families

#### Williston Fitness Center Fun

Saturday, January 28th

4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Williston Fitness Center

Event details to follow in upcoming flyers

Event Contacts:

Laurie Bremer at [lauriefbremer@hotmail.com](mailto:lauriefbremer@hotmail.com)

Sara Drury at [sara.drury@nuveen.com](mailto:sara.drury@nuveen.com)

## Minnetonka Holiday Baseball Camp

The Minnetonka Diamond Club and MHS Head Baseball Coach Paul Twenge are hosting the annual Holiday Baseball Camp at the Tonka Dome over the holiday break. Camps, for ages 8-14, will be held at the Tonka Dome on December 27-29. Space is limited, so please [register](#) early. Questions regarding the camps can be directed to:

Paul Mattiacci

[Paul.mattiacci@yahoo.com](mailto:Paul.mattiacci@yahoo.com)

612-386-8042

## **No Name<sup>®</sup> Original Kid of the Year Contest**

Do you know a child who is making a difference in their community and school? Then brag to No Name<sup>®</sup> about your favorite "petite cut" for a chance to win a \$3,000 scholarship along with a \$1,000 donation to Groveland! Just submit an essay, 100 words or less, describing why your child is an "original". Essays will be judged on 1) School performance, 2) Extra-curricular activities & 3) Involvement in the community.

The contest starts this week & runs through the end of March, 2012. Essays can be submitted online at <http://nonameoriginalkid.com/>.

## **Minnetonka Community Education Classes and Activities**

New Community Ed art, science and recreation classes start every week! [Click here](#) to learn more about classes starting soon.