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## Dates to Remember

- Feb 2 Kindergarten Registration, 5:30-7:30PM
- Feb 6 - 9 World Culture Week
- Feb 10 Staff Appreciation
- Feb 11 Dream Makers Dinner
- Feb 12 Groveland Gatherings, 3rd Grade, 1-3PM, Gro-Tonka
- Feb 13 PTA Meeting, 6:30PM Media Center
- Feb 13 ICA Food Drive Begins
- Feb 17 2 Hour Early Release**
- Feb 20 No School, Presidents Day**
- Feb 28 Davanni's Family Night Fundraiser, 4-8PM
- Feb 28 Tonka CARES, 7-8:30, MHS

## Looking Ahead

- March 1 Parent/Teacher Conferences

## Principal's Message

### El Mensaje del Director

The journey continues with a single step...join us at Dream Makers on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> proudly hosted by The Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation. This year's event returns to The Depot in Minneapolis. Tickets available at [www.minnetonkafoundation.com](http://www.minnetonkafoundation.com).

Excitement is building as we prepare to welcome the class of 2025 into Kindergarten! Don't hesitate to contact us at school if you have any Kindergarten registration questions for your child. Kindergarten Registration Night is Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> at Groveland from 5:30-7:30 pm. Parents are asked to make their session choice for their child and may drop off registration materials at school anytime before Thursday evening.

Chilean Student Teacher Senorita Angela Gonzalez joins our school community as part of a unique Minnetonka:Chile Exchange Program. Senorita Gonzalez is working directly with Grade 3 Spanish Immersion Teacher Senorita Jen Scholz and will bring authentic language and cultural experiences to our community throughout this second semester. Special thanks to Groveland's Host Families this year!

Nine years ago at Groveland we kicked off ArtFull Bowls as a service opportunity for students, a simple bread/soup dinner gathering for families and a donation to our local ICA Food Shelf. Since that inaugural year ArtFull Bowls has become an annual tradition however participation has steadily declined. This year thanks to a renewed enthusiasm of parent volunteers and Art Specialist Jane Meyer we approach the event with spirit activities throughout February and an overall goal to collect 4000 pounds of food for ICA to match our 2003 levels. The staff and I express our sincere appreciation to you for helping us in any small way

**March 2 No School, Parent/Teacher Conferences**

March 13 PTA Meeting, 6:30PM, Media Center

March 19 Groveland Gala Tickets On Sale

March 27 Groveland Groove, 6:30PM

March 29-30 **No School, Spring Break**

meet our donation goals to support our own.

"For learning to stick, it has to be relevant...not to the teacher, but the learner!" Ian Jukes, the Committed Sardine and educational evangelist visits Minnetonka and Groveland this month. His recent book "Literacy is Not Enough: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fluencies for the Digital Age," is a current book study amongst Groveland staff. Author, educator and internationally acclaimed speaker [Ian Jukes](#) will be in Minnetonka working with teachers the first week of February about how learning needs to change. Jukes states "We need to rethink our assumptions about what constitutes learning, and even what it means to be intelligent," he asserts. Minnetonka parents are invited to join Ian Jukes in an engaging discussion about our children, their futures and the future of our schools. Join us at one of the parent sessions on **Monday, February 6, 7 PM at MMW Cafetorium or Wednesday, February 8, 7 PM at MME Media Center.**

Follow Minnetonka Schools on Facebook!



Preliminary summer construction designs are underway at this time to rebuild the Groveland Media Center into the "Learning Commons," remodel the gazebo area, add two additional classrooms and improve our food preparation/serving line area. These designs will be shared at the February PTA Meeting by ATS&R Architects on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the Media Center. Please join us!

[Dave Parker](#)  
Principal

## PTA Corner

Please join us for the next PTA meeting on Monday, February 13th at 6:30 PM in the Media Center. We will have Tammy Magney and Diana Swensson, architects from ATS&R, share the plans for the Groveland Media Center addition and remodel. We will also have Neil Huotari, safety and security expert, author, and Groveland parent share tips on ways to keep our kids safe.

Thank you to Anne Groton, Cathy Lund, and Angie Thomas, the chairs of the Imagination Fair, for all of their hard work on another successful event! It is a wonderful opportunity for Groveland students to use their creativity and for their parents and families to see them shine!

We look forward to upcoming PTA sponsored events: World Culture Week, February 6th-9th and the ArtFull Bowls event, February 23rd.

Thank you to Tom Rieger, Chair of the Groveland Gala, for his work in revising the GoGroveland web page! If you haven't seen it lately, check it out at [www.gogroveland.com](http://www.gogroveland.com)

As always, if you would like to find ways to be involved and volunteer, please contact either one of us. Thank you to all the parents who help make Groveland the great school it is!

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)

## World Culture Week

### World Culture Week at Groveland (February 6th-9th)

**Jambo!!! Hello from Kenya!** Groveland will be studying Kenya during World Culture Week, February 6th-9th. Make plans to volunteer and attend the events with your student.

**We still need lots of volunteers for short 2 hour shifts, to assist with activities during educational gazebo tours, lunch taste testing and classroom projects.** Volunteers need NO special expertise---just a willingness to have fun and pitch in!

Sign up online to help at this link [www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C054CA9A62AAB9-kenya](http://www.SignUpGenius.com/go/10C054CA9A62AAB9-kenya) or Contact Belinda O'Connell at 715-222-7736 or [belinda.oconnell@gmail.com](mailto:belinda.oconnell@gmail.com) to see what you can do.

Schedule for the week:

**All day Monday, Tuesday afternoon and all day Wednesday:** Gazebo educational tours -- visit a traditional Kenyan Hut and learn about folktales, see how Kenyan kids "Use What They Have" to make fun toys, use your senses to experience Kenya, and then learn about water scarcity in Kenya and go on a walk for water. Class times individually scheduled.

**Tuesday am:** Come watch Titambe, an African dance and drumming group, K-2 is scheduled for 9:30-9:55 and grades 3-5 from 10:15-10:40

**Thursday:** Individual classroom projects (contact your teacher to see if the class still needs help)

**Thursday lunch:** Share an authentic Kenyan meal with your student. The menu includes a Kenyan chicken stew, and side dishes, Basmati rice, sweet potato, naan, mango, oranges and banana and fresh coconut

The motto of Kenya, **Harambee**, means "we all pull together". During World Culture Week, Groveland students will have the opportunity to participate in a Harambee Service Project, collecting coins to sponsor a child at the Rabondo Community Project School. If everyone can bring in just .50 cents, we can keep a child in school and housing for a year!! Let's rally and see just what the Groveland School Community can do when we all pull together!

## ArtFULL Bowls

artFull

BOWLS

Minnetonka



Clear Springs - Groveland - MME  
Minnewasha - Scenic Heights

ArtFull Bowls is an Art Education project meant to highlight the needs of families in our community that don't have enough to eat. During the month of February, we'd like to invite every Groveland family to help ICA (Intercongregation Communities Association) meet the needs of families with hardships by participating in the ArtFull Bowls Project, because every kid deserves to have a full bowl.

**There are several ways for your family to participate:**

- **ICA Food Drive - February 13<sup>th</sup> - March 9<sup>th</sup>** - An all-school energetic and fun month-long food drive kicks off the ArtFull Bowls event. Kids will receive stickers for donating food. A Tonka spirit day will finish each week as we celebrate what has been donated.

**Soup Dinner - February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** Families can come for a symbolic meal of soup and bread. Entertainment will be provided; free-will donations will be collected for ICA. Lakewinds is donating the soup and Great Harvest is providing the bread.

**Student Art Show and Silent Auction - February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** View art created by K-5th grade Groveland kids; some student art works will also be available for purchase. Bid on art created by Groveland staff. ArtFull Bowls jewelry will be sold to raise additional money. All proceeds will be donated to ICA Food shelf.

**We have a number of volunteer needs throughout February that include:**

- Art room and pottery help (those who can work with Ms. Meyer during school hours)
- Food Drive Cheerleaders (cheer kids on as they drop off donations before school from 8:15 - 8:45)
- Event volunteers for the auction
- Set up
- Soup Dinner Servers
- Clean up (we are looking for a crew of 3-4 volunteers to help clean-up between 6:45pm - 7:30pm).

If you can help, please use the sign-up sheet [here](#) or contact Stephanie Scott-Sims at [ssims8@gmail.com](mailto:ssims8@gmail.com).

This is an opportunity to show our children how they can make a difference and have an impact in their own community.

Liz Thompson  
Jane Meyer  
Patti Sinykin  
Stephanie Scott-Sims  
Travis Swendseid

## **Groveland Groove**

Talent Show applications are about to come out!

The applications for this year's Groveland Groove will be available on Tuesday, February 7th. We take applications on a first come basis, and the show will fill up. To guarantee your child's spot, please get your form in early.

All group acts will be given 1 minute and :30 seconds, and solo acts will be limited to 1:00. We encourage group acts, as it allows more students to get involved.

This is not a competition, but just a chance for our kids to build their self esteem by showing their peers and parents their wonderful talents. We welcome all grades - so don't be shy! It's an incredible night with lots of surprises. The show is Tuesday, March 27th at 6:30pm.

Contact Kristin Greene at [kgreene91467@yahoo.com](mailto:kgreene91467@yahoo.com) if you have any questions, or if can help at, or prior to, the show.

## **Groveland Gala**

**The Groveland PTA presents:**



**COME JOIN US FOR A 3 HOUR TOUR**



**April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – Sheraton Ridgedale**

**\*\* Music – food – umbrella drinks - fun - games – auction**



Groveland Gala - April 21<sup>st</sup> - Sheraton Ridgedale

The Gala is coming and we look forward to you being able to attend. The cost to attend is \$30/person and that includes all food and entertainment. There will also be a cash bar available for beverages. Tickets will go on sale on March 19<sup>th</sup> with the pre-event online auction opening right after spring break on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

We are still looking for items for the auction. Whether you own a business, or work in one that would care to donate a service, items or gift certificates/cards - we are open to all options.

Make sure you check out the Groveland PTA's newly redone website at [www.gogroveland.com](http://www.gogroveland.com) for more information about the Gala.

## **Staff Appreciation**

STAFF APPRECIATION -- FEBRUARY CHOCOLATES

Friday, February 10th - Death by Chocolate - Teacher's Lounge 10AM until end of school day

This annual event has been enjoyed every year by our staff! Groveland families are invited to bring their favorite chocolate decadent confections to be shared and enjoyed by the entire staff. Please do not label any items for a specific teacher or staff member as all items will be placed in the teacher's lounge for the entire staff to sample and enjoy throughout the day!

Curbside pick-up will be coordinated to collect your items during school drop-off on Friday

morning (February 10th) between 8AM - 8:45AM at both the front and back entrances. You may also drop-off your chocolates on Thursday or early Friday morning and leave them on the far back counter in the teacher's lounge. NOTE: Please label your items -- *PTA CHOCOLATES*.

Food item suggestions: chocolates of any kind, truffles, baked goodies (homemade or purchased), hot chocolate mix, etc. Another fun treat for the staff -- have your child write a poem, make a card or a special drawing to be displayed in the teacher's lounge for all to see and enjoy on this day's event!

- **Volunteer Curbside Cupids are needed! Please come wearing your "heart" or "anything red" on Friday morning between 8AM - 8:45.**

Please contact Joanie Paul at 612.219.4311 or [jj\\_paul2@msn.com](mailto:jj_paul2@msn.com) or Jessica Gambiana at [jmgambiana@gmail.com](mailto:jmgambiana@gmail.com) with any questions.

## Yearbook

### **The Deadline to Submit Your Yearbook Photos is Quickly Approaching - Pictures and Volunteers Needed**

The deadline to submit your yearbook photos is quickly approaching (March 2). If you have pictures of class parties, Band, Orchestra or other events, your photos are needed to help us create a wonderful year-end keepsake for our children.

Also, we need volunteers for this year's yearbook creation. If you would like to assist with creating the yearbook, please contact Lavonne Kipp at [lkipp@mchsi.com](mailto:lkipp@mchsi.com).

### **Please submit your pictures in one of 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](#). The first time you access Shutterfly, you will need to request access to the site. Once on the site, select "Add Album" or add pictures to an album that is already created, and then select "Upload." If you create your own album, name the album the subject of the pictures.

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)

Thank you.

Lavonne Kipp and Kristin Liker

## Groveland Gatherings

Upcoming Winter Events:

### Third Graders and Families Gro-Tonka Snow Day Fun

Date: Sunday, February 12th

Time: 1:00- 3:00 P.M.

Where: Gro-Tonka

17003 Prospect Place

Bring your sleds and warm clothing.

Warming house and bathrooms provided.

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)

### 2nd Annual Groveland Gatherings Davanni's Family Night and Fundraiser

Everyone Welcome!

Davanni's in Minnetonka on Hwy 7 (between 494 and 101)

Tuesday, February 28th

4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Flyers will be handed out soon

Bring flyer in with your order to get 20% of your order to go directly to Groveland

Event Contacts:

Shelly Smith at [KellyMN5@comcast.net](mailto:KellyMN5@comcast.net)

Kristin Bruhn at [kbormesbruhn@msn.com](mailto:kbormesbruhn@msn.com)

\*\*See upcoming newsletters for information on a 1st Grade and a 2nd Grade winter event.

Groveland Gatherings provide grade-level opportunities for both kids and their families to come together and connect. We are one school; one community.

## Imagination Fair

**Imagination Fair "What's Inside?" was a huge success!** We had over 140 projects by kids from all grades showing tons of creativity. There was a great turnout of parents and grandparents at the evening event, too. We want to say a special thanks to the many parents

who volunteered to write comment sheets for the projects. We repeatedly hear from parents and teachers that these thoughtful comments mean so much to the kids. We also want to thank the PhyEd teachers who generously give up their gym in the dead of winter so we can display the projects and we appreciate it. And most of all, we want to thank Anne Groton for her many years of creativity and dedication as Chair of the Imagination Fair. Her contagious passion for the importance of imagination and what it does for the human spirit will continue to brighten and inspire us as she moves on to new adventures.

**Groveland inspires imaginations half way around the world!** Groveland parent, Susan Geller, posted pictures of last year's Imagination Fair on Facebook. Her friend in Israel asked questions and then brought the concept of an Imagination Fair to her childrens' school in Israel. Several fifth-graders in Mr. Engebretson's class exchanged emails with the students in Israel to find out about them and their Imagination Fair. They then created a poster and PowerPoint presentation to share at the Imagination Fair. This experience was an amazing introduction to the concept of creating global partnerships with students from around the world!

A big thank you, toda (Hebrew,) to Susan Geller, Jeremy Engebretson, Emily Carlson, Joey Groton, Nick Littler, Andrea Lund, MacKenzie Miller, Sam Queenan, Jack Rapini and Emme Sajady for bringing the wonderful news of Groveland's creative influence on Ma'ale Shaharut elementary school in Israel.

Angie Thomas  
Cathy Lund  
Anne Groton

## **Tonka CARES**

### **OUR COMMUNITY READS 2012**

Tonka CARES invites you to join the Minnetonka community as we welcome authors Chris and Toren Volkmann  
Tuesday, February 28, 7-8:30 p.m., MHS Arts Center.

### **A Mother and Son Share their Story about Teen Drinking**

The Volkmanns like many of us, enjoyed wine with dinner, drinks with friends, and beer with BBQs. Their son Toren started early - "drinking for fun" in high school, escalated to binge drinking in college, then spun out-of-control. Gain real-world insights into the sometimes complicated and sly role of alcohol in our lives and the impact it may have on our children.

### [FLYER](#)

Buy the book in the [Tonka CARES web store](#).

Learn about the [community discussion groups](#) at Caribou "north".

For more information please visit [www.tonkacares.org](http://www.tonkacares.org) or call Shirley Snyder at 401-5056.

## **Dream Makers Dinner**



The 9<sup>th</sup> annual Dream Makers Dinner, sponsored by the Minnetonka Public Schools Foundation, is just around the corner and all Groveland parents, teachers and staff are warmly invited to attend!

Scheduled for February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Depot hotel in downtown Minneapolis, Dream Makers is a fun and uplifting way to spend a Saturday evening! Featuring a Silent and Live Auction, "Taste of the Town" dinner, a casual dress code and several special surprises, Dream Makers is a community-wide celebration that you won't want to miss. All event proceeds support innovation in Minnetonka Public Schools, including many Teachers Grants at our school.

Tickets are \$75, so visit [www.minnetonkafoundation.com](http://www.minnetonkafoundation.com) to order your tickets today!

## **Minnetonka Girls Softball Association**

Come join your friends this summer and play softball with MGSA. There are leagues for ages pre-Kindergarten through High School. For more information, visit our website at [www.tonkasoftball.org](http://www.tonkasoftball.org) or join us at registration.

Registration dates and a coupon for \$10.00 off can be obtained by clicking [here](#).

## **Penguin Publishing**

Penguin Publishing is currently looking for someone to be the office manager. This position will work with the Committee Chair and a good portion of the work can be done from home. If you are interested or would like more information please contact Alyssa Tornes at [LyssMT74@hotmail.com](mailto:LyssMT74@hotmail.com). Thank you!

## **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.

