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Dates to Remember

- Jan 10 Kindergarten Parent Info Night 6:30PM
- Jan 16 No School, Martin Luther King Day**
- Jan 17 PTA Meeting, 9AM
- Jan 19 Staff Appreciation, Para Luncheon, 11AM
- Jan 23 No School, Teacher Grading Day**
- Jan 26 Imagination Fair, 6:30 - 7:30PM
- Jan 28 Preschool Open House, 9-11AM, MCEC
- Jan 28 Kindergarten Gathering, 4-7PM, Williston Fitness Center
- Jan 30 Cyber Speaker, MME Media Center, 12PM

Principal's Message

El Mensaje del Director

The children at school are dashing to recess with smiles and enthusiasm in these first days of 2012 at school with the mild winter weather. Rested and relaxed our gears are turning toward the best teaching and learning months of the school year.

We welcome Chilean Student Teacher Angela Gonzalez to Groveland this month for a second semester assignment with Senorita Jen Scholz and our third grade Spanish immersion students. Thank you to our host families as Senorita Gonzalez will bring unique and authentic cultural learning experiences to our school community.

Congratulations to English Literacy Teacher (ELT) Tarah Cummings for earning National Board Certification this month. This credential recognizes highly accomplished teachers in America and sets high standards for excellence among experienced teachers. Mrs. Cummings is one of 6 National Board Certified Teachers at Groveland and 21 in Minnetonka Public Schools K-12.

An innovative team of school, district and PTA leaders have designed a "21st Century Media Center" concept which began last year. After listening to our students "Hopes and Dreams" for an extreme makeover of our widely used and aging Media Center we developed themes from these digital learners and started the design process with ATS&R architecture. Media Center Specialist Colleen Small enriched this design phase by attending the International Technology conference in Philadelphia over the summer gleaned ideas from schools far and wide. With our School Board and Superintendent Dr. Peterson's approval, we will build a state of the art "Learning Commons" this spring and summer which will include enhancing the High Potential, Gazebo, Art Room and north facing bus doors foyer area. This project will include two additional classrooms connected to last year's addition as well creating an outdoor courtyard space.

January assessments are underway as a progress monitoring technique with both the NWEA and DORA assessments for English and Spanish Immersion students.

Looking Ahead

Feb 6th-9th World Culture Week

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

Feb 17 2 Hour Early Release

**Feb 20 No School,
Presidents Day**

Feb 23 ArtFULL Bowls, 5-7PM

Second Quarter Report Cards are available for parent viewing in Skyward as the quarter ends on January 20th and teachers work to enter report card data on Monday, January 23rd.

World Culture Week at Groveland is coming to Groveland on February 6th-9th.
Jambo! Hello from Kenya!

[Dave Parker](#)
Principal

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Facebook!



PTA Corner

Happy New Year! We hope everyone enjoyed the winter break with their families. A big thank you to Carol Steiger for putting together our online Groveland Directory. We greatly appreciate it. You may access the Groveland Directory at this link <http://www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/Schools/Groveland>. We are looking forward to the Imagination Fair on Thursday, January 26th as well as the artFULL Bowls event in February. As always, if you are interested in getting involved at Groveland, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Alyssa Tornes and Kadee Watkins
Groveland PTA Co-Presidents
LyssMT74@yahoo.com kadee.watkins@gmail.com

Lost and Found

It's hard to believe but we are already half way through the school year and Groveland has been busy collecting many things in Lost and Found. We will have all Lost and Found items in the Gazebo starting Wednesday, January 11th through Friday, January 13th. Please take a minute and come in and check for any items your child is missing. Thank you!



ArtFULL Bowls

The idea of not having enough food for a meal is foreign to most of us. In our community however, the number of people struggling to feed their families is on the rise. Visits to suburban food shelves have jumped 89 percent since 2008 and food stamp use is up 68 percent as the loss of jobs and homes in this economic downturn has left more people in trouble, including middle class families that never thought it would happen to them. 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** - Each week in February will have a specific theme for the type of food to be donated that week. Kids will be able to dress up or participate in fun activities that support the weekly theme.
- **Soup Dinner** - On **February 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.**, Groveland Elementary will host a Soup Dinner. Families can come for a symbolic meal of soup and bread. Entertainment will be provided; free will donations will be collected for ICA.
- **Student Art Show and Silent Auction** - In addition to the Soup Dinner, the Student Art Show and Silent Auction will also take place on **February 23rd from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** The Student Art Show will exhibit art created by K-5th grade Groveland kids. The Auction will include art created by Groveland staff. ArtFull Bowls jewelry will be sold to raise additional money. All proceeds from the Auction will be donated to ICA.

Volunteers Wanted!

It's that time of the year again when we remember that not everyone's bowl is full!
We need YOUR help in the following areas:

- Art room and pottery help (those who can work with Ms. Meyer during school hours);
- Event volunteers for the auction;

- Set up
- 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. 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

Staff Appreciation

December Annual Cookie Exchange

THANK YOU Groveland families for your generous and giving support towards our staff and teachers this past holiday season! Your holiday cookies, candies and treats were again an amazing outpouring of your support for all they do. The teachers, staff and bus drivers were so very happy and touched when they received their holiday bakery boxes filled with your goodies. THANK YOU to all of the "holiday elves" who helped us collect the cookies and assemble them into the bakery boxes! And to the 5th graders who made the special deliveries to each staff member! What a fun and busy morning!

And THANK YOU headroom parents for being our helpful and resourceful communication link to the families! We appreciate you spreading the news during our monthly events! You make it fun for us to make these events happen to show our staff how much we appreciate them and all that they do to make our children's experiences at Groveland the best!

Wishing all of you new and exciting adventures in this New Year - 2012!

January Staff Appreciation Event

Paraprofessional Soup/Chili Luncheon -- Thursday, January 19th @ 11AM

This event is to honor our Paraprofessional Staff at Groveland Elementary. All staff members and teachers are invited to enjoy a warm luncheon being coordinated by the Staff Appreciation Committee. Just like last year, we would like to borrow 6-8 slow cookers/crock-pots from our families for serving the soups and chili on this day. All soups and chili will be provided through the Staff Appreciation budget. We welcome any and all families who would like to provide homemade bread, biscuits, breadsticks, cornbread or a simple dessert item to be added to this luncheon.

Please look for more details to come through your headroom parent via e-mail communications soon.

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

Imagination Fair

This year's **Imagination Fair - What's Inside?** - will be Thursday, January 26th. We want you to **open up** your imagination and let your mind be *unbarred, unblocked, unburdened, uncluttered, unfurled, unimpeded, unlocked, unobstructed, unplugged, unsealed unshut and unstoppable!!*

Think of all the things you've ever looked at and wondered **What's Inside?** Books, art, containers, the body, electronics, games, cars, balls, animals, clouds, liquids, foods...the list is endless. You can create, demonstrate or explain using any kind of project you want: a display, an art project, a book, a model, a poster, a video, a contraption, a concoction, whatever gives us a peek into **What's Inside?** Bring your project in on the 26th before school and it will be on display all day for class visits. Families can come and see projects that evening from 6:30 until 7:30 and then can take them home.

The Imagination Fair is not a competition, all participants will receive a comment sheet and a ribbon. Remember: Keep it simple - the project should be done by the kids and be fun, not frustrating. The registration forms will come home January 11th. Please return them to teachers by Thursday, January 19th.

Have fun with figuring out **What's Inside?** and we will see you on January 26th!

Please e-mail questions about the Imagination Fair to:

Angie Thomas angie.l.thomas@gmail.com

Cathy Lund clund4@gmail.com

Anne Groton jgroton@comcast.net

Yearbook

Submit Your Yearbook Photos Today

The Yearbook committee needs your photos for the yearbook. If you have pictures of class parties, Band, Orchestra or other events, please submit your yearbook photos now and help us create 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.
- **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 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

Groveland Gala

The Groveland PTA presents:



April 21st, 2012 – Sheraton Ridgedale

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



Groveland Gala - April 21st

As we suffer through less sunlight, cold days, wool coats and hearing about how everyone else is getting a tan - think about the fun we will have as parents at the Groveland Gala coming up this spring.

Please let us know if you have something you would like to donate towards the online auction we will kick off later this winter or during the live auction during the event. If you own a business, we can make this an event to really get you name out there amongst the over 460

families plus 100s of staff/teachers that make up the Groveland community. Please contact Tom Rieger at tomrieger@us.ibm.com or via phone at 952-221-6514.

This is the 7th year for the Gala - and it has been getting more and more fun each year. It has also been raising more and more for our kids. Make sure you pencil in the date, get that sitter scheduled and plan on having some fun.

We will keep www.gogroveland.com up to date with the latest and greatest so you can have a place to visit at your leisure.

The Groveland Groove

Talent Show 2012!!

Groveland's most star studded night of the year is creeping closer! It's time to start talking about acts and getting organized. This event is a fun event for all students, shy or not so shy. You'll see everything from classical ballet to karate to dancing in the dark, and everything in between. We encourage group acts, so more kids can get in the show. And don't forget the memorable 5th Grade Finale! Some important dates:

1. The show is Tuesday, March 27th at 6:30pm. There is no intermission, and the show should only last an hour to an hour and a half.
2. Practice nights are Monday, March 12th and Tuesday, March 13th. These are not tryouts, but each act must be seen by a committee volunteer to make sure it is appropriate and that students are ready for the big show. (or getting close)
3. The forms will be sent home on Tuesday, February 7th and will be available on line as well.

The show fills up, so we take acts on a first come, first serve basis. Get your forms in early!

We need help! Please consider volunteering to help us get ready for the big show. Contact Kristin Greene at kgreene91467@yahoo.com if you can help at the event or prior to the show.

Kristin Greene

Tonka CARES

ICA and Tonka CARES are working together to support family meals for everyone with the new Eat.Talk.Connect! Connection Builder

Join us during the months of December and January as we encourage all Minnetonka families to deepen their connections by taking part in this year's "Eat.Talk.Connect" challenge. With so many families now struggling to make ends meet, we're offering a unique opportunity to create more meaningful mealtimes for your own family, and at the same time, support families in need.

With your donation of \$5 or more to the ICA Food Shelf and Tonka CARES you'll receive the nifty "Eat.Talk.Connect! Connection Builders" conversation starter as a thank-you gift. This handy novelty item fans out to reveal 50 conversation prompts on a variety of topics from serious to whimsical. Guaranteed to cause creative outbursts, honest reflection and amazing insights on topics you might not otherwise broach! As one mom put it, "The prompts were so much fun - I learned so much more about what my kids were thinking." And food-resistant paper makes it perfect to use during mealtime ... or anytime.

Try these tonight and see what happens at your table!

- Name someone younger than you who looks up to you. How do you know that he or she looks up to you?
- If you were granted one wish, what would it be?
- Tell each person at the table something that is good or admirable about them.

Go to online payments on the district homepage and then to the [Tonka CARES web store](#) to make your [tax-deductible donation](#) of \$5 or more to the ICA Food Shelf and Tonka CARES. Your "**ETC Connection Builders**" will be delivered to your child at school to bring home (ECFE, preschool and elementary families), or shipped (middle and high school families) the week of January 9. Donations will be taken through December 23.

All of us at Tonka CARES wish you a wonderful holiday season and a happy new year. Thank you for your support of family meals for everyone!

A [free download](#) of the content is also available.

Shirley Snyder
Parent Education and Involvement Coordinator
Tonka CARES
952-401-5056
5621 County Road 101
Minnetonka, MN 55345
www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us/ParentEd
www.tonkacares.org

Cyber Safety

Cyber Safety Speaker

Join us January 30th at MME Media Center 12:00pm 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 5th grader in her power point presentation on why she should get a cell phone, that 98% of 5th 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.

ISE

Intercultural Student Experiences (ISE), a nonprofit organization, is offering metro area Spanish Immersion students and their families an opportunity to celebrate the milestone of graduating from an elementary Spanish immersion program. ISE invites you to celebrate this accomplishment with a parent-child trip to Costa Rica. Watch your child exercise what he or she has learned in an authentic cultural setting. Find more information about this opportunity in the attachment included in this week's Winds. This offering is administered by ISE and is not tied to any particular school district.

Find out more [here](#)

Minnetonka Preschool

Discover All that Minnetonka Preschool Has to Offer!

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the Minnetonka Preschool Open House on Saturday, January 28th from 9 - 11 a.m. at the Minnetonka Community Education Center in Deephaven! Parents and children are invited to explore, play, and participate in activities in the Preschool classrooms and gym. In addition, childcare will be available while parents are given the opportunity to attend the presentation "What to Look for in a Preschool". Please contact 952-401-6812 for details.

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 your student's interactive gazebo tour, lunch or classroom project. Contact Belinda O'Connell at 715-222-7736 or belinda.oconnell@gmail.com to see what you can do. Our tentative schedule is:

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

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

Harambee, the motto of Kenya, means unity, strength and peace. Kenyans believe that if we all "pull together" we can do great things . 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!

Labels for Education

100 Point Bonus in Your January Paper!

Let's start the New Year off with gusto!

Labels for Education® will offer a special collection sheet and coupons for participating products in your newspaper on January 8th, 2012.

This is a fun activity for the whole family!

Fill out the collection sheet and turn it into your school coordinator for them to submit by 3/31/12.

Thank you for all of your help!

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. Thank you!

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 this winter event:

Kindergartners and Families

Climb and Play, Run and Swim

Saturday, January 28th

4:00 - 7:00 P.M.

Williston Fitness Center

14509 Minnetonka Drive, Minnetonka

\$4.00 per child and \$4.00 for each adult using facilities

Use of the gym, play treehouse and swimming pool

Feel free to pack a meal! We will have an area to sit down and eat!

Event Contacts:

Laurie Bremer at lauriefbremer@hotmail.com

Sara Stormoen at sara.stormoen@nuveen.com

Third Graders and Families Gro-Tonka Snow Day Fun is rescheduled for February 2012

Event details will follow in upcoming flyers

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.