

Parsippany GRO/PGT Gazette

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Sponsored By The Parsippany Parents For The Gifted And Talented

5th Grade Convocation



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Upcoming Events

- ◆ PGT Meetings in 2012 - Jan 30, Feb 27, Mar 26, Apr 30, May 21 - 7pm Parsippany Main Library

Fifth-grade gifted students took part in an all day Native American Convocation on Friday, December 2, 2011 at the PAL Building in Parsippany.

This convocation was a gathering of our gifted and talented students taking part in several archaeological workshops that focused on the Native American culture. Throughout the morning, each student experienced the following: A story teller and singer, a Native American historian, and participated in making a Native American craft. Students worked in clans to write and perform a Native American legend. A good time was had by all!



Museum Day

Museum Day was presented by the 5th Grade GRO Class at Little Elementary School. Students become Museum Curators for a day. They chose topics such as Ancient China, Ancient Mongolia, Ancient Greece, Pompeii, Ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Ice Age, the Inca Empire, Africa, Ancient Sweden and the Vikings (to name a few). Each student created a poster advertising the museum day event. They researched their ancient culture and created an exhibit that consisted of hand made artifacts. As a museum curator, they taught parents, staff and peers about their particular ancient civilization. Once again, our students amazed us and made us proud. The



Did you know?

At just \$15.00, a PGT family membership for an entire year costs less than a nickel a day. Now is that a deal or what!

knowledge they passed on to students, teachers and parents was a big hit.



Alison Shweh of Littleton Elementary School presents Ancient China

Upcoming Events

- ◆ Gifted Fair - Mar 5, 2012 - 7pm
Parsippany PAL Building
- ◆ Book Club (4th & 5th Grade) - Apr 18, 2012 - 7pm
Parsippany Main Library
- ◆ Moving Up (Middle School) - May 15, 2012 - 7pm
Brooklawn Middle School
- ◆ GRO Picnic - Jun 9, 2012 - 12pm
Smith Field

The PGT awards one \$500 scholarship every year to a graduating senior from each high school.

Happy New Year! Message from the GRO Teachers

Hello! Happy New Year! We would like to welcome all of our new students and their families to GRO.

This Winter, our first, second and third graders will travel back in time to the middle ages. They will experience life through the eyes of a resident of medieval times. We will discover the art and architecture of the era, and discuss how this affected life today. Students will compare and contrast life back then to present day.

In the Spring, we will become puppeteers. Students will use their creativity and problem solving skills to develop scripts and the puppets to go along with them. Throughout this unit, we will discuss the history of puppetry and make a wide variety of original puppets.

Fourth graders will be attending a performance of A Midsummer Night's Dream to complete their Shakespeare/Dramatics unit. This will give us a great experience prior to our own Shakespearean performances. We have discussed the life and times of William Shakespeare, as well as the

language he used, and are looking forward to seeing it all in action.

Following this, fourth grade students will be introduced to a variety of art styles and artists in our Visual Arts unit. We will work to discover their influences, and attempt to create our own versions of famous works.

Fifth graders will be completing their unit on Archaeology with an original Museum Day. Students have researched a chosen ancient culture and will create a museum display introducing this culture to their peers.

The Brain Unit will be our fifth graders final GRO unit. This curriculum encourages students to discover the way they learn. They will study the multiple intelligence theory and realize their own learning style. We will study the way the brain reacts to different phenomenon, including optical illusions.

We are looking forward to the rest of the school year. We thank you for your continued support of your children as they progress through the GRO curriculum.

Medieval Festival

On March 21, 2011, the Parsippany PGT will be hosting a "Medieval Festival" for approximately 200 GRO students from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades. The event is the culmination of their studies of what it was like to live in the Medieval Era. On that morning, the Parsippany PAL building will be transformed into a magnificent castle dining hall, filled with entertainers, storytellers, crafts and fare of the day. We are even hoping to have a falcon demonstration following our dinner (medieval lunch).

Our GRO teachers are also working hard at helping to organize this event. Ms. Armstrong and Ms. Elzer have volunteered to chair the decorations committee and bring the event to life.

This year, we needed to plan a bit differently due to newly enforced town

regulations. We are required to have the main course catered instead of cooking ourselves. As a result, we will be gearing up our donations committee shortly in search of product and monetary donations. If you or someone you know has the ability to donate drinks, food, craft supplies or is an accomplished medieval entertainer (juggler, fencer, jester, minstrel, etc.), please let us know!

We will acknowledge the contributions in our program and the next newsletter. Here are the monetary donation levels:

Royalty - \$500 and above

Noblemen - \$250 - \$499

Knights - \$100 - \$249

Artisans - under \$100 (acknowledgement in the newsletter only)

Medieval Festival (contd.)

Thank you for all of the many responses that we have received for parent volunteers. There is still much work to be done and plenty of spots left to chaperone the event, please e-mail co-chairs Lani Duffy (laniduffy@gmail.com) or Vicky Huynh (vhuynh@gprco.com) if

you can help.

Invitations will be sent out this month and will include a vegetarian option. Please make sure to respond as soon as possible!

Book Club

In an effort to continue to offer new and exciting programs for GRO students and their families, the PGT is proud to announce the creation of a Book Club! The first meeting is slated to occur in April. This event is open to GRO students in the 4th and 5th grades and their parents. The book we will be reading is *A Wrinkle in Time*, by Madeleine L'Engle, which celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2012. This novel is credited with establishing young adult books as a genre of literature worthy of recognition, and of course its opening

sentence--"It was a dark and stormy night"--has now achieved legendary status. Students and parents are asked to read the book before the discussion occurs on April 18 at 7pm in the Parsippany Main Library and then join in an hour-long discussion moderated by Corey Abate, who is serving as Secretary to the PGT this year. Please come with your comments and questions, and be prepared to answer a few as well. For those who want to plan ahead, the Book Club will be reading *The Graveyard Book* by Neil Gaiman in October 2012.

Information Session: NJAGC

The PGT held their first Information Session on Monday, November 14, 2011 at the Lake Hiawatha Library. Loretta Kumpf from the New Jersey Association for Gifted Children (NJAGC) covered topics on signs of gifted children, an explanation of the New Jersey Administrative Code requiring gifted education for all students in Grades K-12 and the benefits to becoming a member of the NJAGC.

The NJAGC is an advocate for gifted children and supports families of gifted

and talented children. They provide a newsletter, teacher training, grants and scholarships and contests. They hold an annual conference over a two day period for gifted and talented families. This year the conference will be held on March 9-10 and will focus on incorporating science, technology, engineering and math into gifted education. If you are interested in learning more about their organization, please visit their website. The NJAGC: <http://njagc.org/>.

Information Session: Shen Yun Performing Arts Group

The PGT presented an introduction to Shen Yun Performing Arts on January 5, 2012 at the Brooklawn Middle School. The presentation focused on ancient Chinese history, its classic stories, rich cultural values, and art forms. We would like to thank Henry Wang and Jan Ren for bringing this lecture to our

group. If you would like more information regarding this performance, please visit the website at: www.shenyunperformingarts.org. Their January performance at Lincoln Center was sold out, but they are returning in April - so get your tickets early.



GRO Back to School Night (Oct 12, 2011) - Mrs Murphy captivates parents with the intricacies of the GRO program.



Shen Yun Performing Arts presentation (Jan 5, 2012)

Upcoming Events

- ◆ 1st - 3rd Grade Medieval Festival - March 21, 2012 - 9am-1pm Parsippany PAL Building
- ◆ Quiz Kids - May 31, 2012 - 9am - 12pm Eastlake School

We're on the Web!

<http://www.pthsd.k12.nj.us/PGT/index.htm>



GRO Back to School Night (Oct 12, 2011) - Children's books from the Parsippany Public Library on display.

PGT News

PGT Website

The PGT Website has been redesigned this year to give it a more user friendly look and feel and make it easier for you find information about the PGT and the GRO program. Check it out!

<http://www.pthsd.k12.nj.us/PGT/index.htm>.

PGT Executive Board Changes

As of December 6, Lani Duffy took on a new role as Vice President for the current school year and Corey Abate joined the Board as Secretary. Please welcome both into their new positions.

Fundraiser

Thank you to everyone who participated in our "Make a Difference Monday" Fundraiser. Gourmet Café on Baldwin

Rd in Parsippany, generously donated 10% of their daily proceeds on Monday, January 23rd to the PGT. We raised over \$170.00. This money will go towards funding our Medieval Festival.

Game Night

The Information Session Committee is working on putting together a Game Night for our children. Details will be announced shortly.

Gifted Fair

The PGT will be sponsoring a Gifted Fair on March 5th. Vendors from the area will present information on their summer programs, after school programs and services for gifted students. More information will be provided in early February.

PGT Scholarship

Once again the PGT is proud to offer two scholarships, one for each high school, to a graduating senior who had been in the GRO program for at least one year during their elementary school years. Each scholarship is in the amount of \$500. The application form is available in the Guidance Departments at both high schools.

An overview of the application requirements is also available on the

PGT website. Deadline for submission is Monday, February 6, 2012. Winners will be selected by a committee and announced in June. Students' personal information is removed from the committee meeting so the selection process is based entirely on the merits of the application. If there are any questions, please contact Corey Abate, Chair of the Scholarship Committee at the.csabate@gmail.com.

Stay Tuned!

If you would like to stay informed about GRO and PGT news and events, we'd love to keep on telling you about them!

You can request to be placed on our email list by sending an email to: pgtparsippany@gmail.com. We value your privacy and will not use your address for any reason other than to send you information relating to the GRO program and the PGT.

In the next edition of The Parsippany

GRO/PGT Gazette, we will have reports on the Medieval Festival, Spring class projects and class trips.

A special thanks to all the GRO teachers, Corey Abate, Lani Duffy and Kim Catapano for contributing to this edition of the Parsippany GRO/PGT Gazette!

See you next time!

Rafi Reza

Editor