

PTO/FOG Committee Reports 9.21.16

PTO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PTO President and Vice President -

Hope you are all enjoying the new school year. We will be sending out PTO/FOG Information Packet the last week of September. The information provided in this packet is meant to make it easier for families to understand, utilize, and contribute to the efforts of PTO/FOG. *Please hold on to these packet as a resource since we are currently unable to update our information on the Groveland website due to a district-wide web redesign last spring.

Our first school-wide PTO Meeting will held on Monday Oct. 17th from 6-7:30pm in the library. During the meetings child care and a light snack for children three and over are provided in the cafeteria. Transportation to meetings is available if needed. Families must contact the main office on the day of the meeting to arrange transportation. This will be the only PTO Meeting in 2016. Our next meeting is in January 2017.

PTO VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE

Classroom Villages (CV) -

CVC Need:The PTO'S community engagement initiative Classroom Villages (CV) begins with volunteers in each classroom. These volunteers, called Classroom Village Coordinators (CVCs), focus on supporting the teacher by facilitating communication between parents and families. CVCs also build community by planning a few simple CV activities for their child's classroom, for all classrooms at their child's grade level, and/or the whole school. Math Game Night, School Grounds Clean-Up, and Ice Skating Parties are some examples of CV events.

**A parent volunteer is needed in each classroom to act as a CV Coordinator to help organize these fun events.

Consider taking on this rewarding role and help our community get to know each other. Volunteer with a friend or two. A classroom may have more than one CVC. A strong community fosters a happier, healthier learning environment at Groveland Park Elementary.

Want more information? Interested in volunteering? Email groveland.pto.cv@gmail.com

GROVELAND AFTER DARK is returning for its second year Thursday Oct 27th. This is a wonderful outdoor theater experience the whole family will enjoy. We will be holding auditions on Thursdays, Sept 29 from 5-8 in the Groveland Library to cast this year's show. (cast members must be Groveland ALUM and PARENTS, not current students). There are both speaking and non-speaking parts, as well as some singing, opportunities for musical instruments, dance, acrobatics, and off-stage supporting roles.

Please email grovelandafterdark@gmail.com for more information, to sign up to audition, get a copy of the script, or find out how you can help/be involved. Also, please help us pass this info on former Groveland Students that you may be in contact with as we don't have a way to reach out to former students directly. Thank you! And please stay tuned for more ways you can help, from volunteering the night of to loaning or donating items that we need to make the night magical.

Facebook -

If you haven't started following us on Facebook yet, do it now! You won't miss a thing. We post updates, invites, photos, volunteer opportunities and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/Groveland-Park-School-Community-149487845110765/?fref=ts>

Garden Committee -

Groveland Gardens Committee would like to thank all the families who signed up and took the time this summer to head back to school for watering and weeding four of our five gardens this summer! Thanks to these volunteers made up of *seven families!* the annuals planted by last year's second graders are still looking happy! Look for a sign up this spring if you're interested in helping in 2017. Thank you also to FOG for \$150 worth of native perennials now planted around our school sign.

Library Coverage -

Library Coverage is on hold until a new assistant librarian is hired.

Lunch Buddies -

NEW THIS YEAR join your kiddo for lunch. We invite and encourage parents to join their child for lunch each semester this year. Bring your lunch or buy a hot lunch for \$3.90

Sign up online and get a reminder at <http://signup.com/go/BgSWNP>

Parent Reading Coordinator (K-5) - We are hoping to expand our reading volunteer group this year. If you are interested in volunteering or if you have knowledge of a group that may be interested in joining the Groveland volunteers (church group, book club, etc.) please contact Justi Leroe @ justileroe@gmail.com. Volunteer opportunities will be on Tuesday and/or Thursday morning from 9:30-10:15. We are hoping to see you there.

PTO Family Directory - Each year, the PTO creates a school-wide directory for families. We have to collect the data independently from the school district, as they are not allowed to share information with families. If you have not entered your information, or have not confirmed your data, please follow this link: www.join.myschooldirectory.org and enter keyword "Groveland". We hope to include all Groveland families!

Website -

Currently, we do not have access to the Groveland website due to a district-wide web redesign last spring. The information online regarding PTO/FOG may be incorrect. We will let you know when current information available online. We appreciate your patience.

FRIENDS OF GROVELAND (FOG)

Friends of Groveland (FOG) Chair -We have an exciting year of fundraising opportunities planned. Friends of Groveland needs to raise \$50,000 this year to meet the current funding requests to support and enrich the learning environment of all students at Groveland. In late September, look for the direct drive letter and consider a straight dollar donation (no selling wrapping paper, frozen food, or coupon books required).. Come to the book fair in October. Celebrate with other parents at Celebrate Groveland on November 12th. Dine out with family for Davanni's pizza night on December 6th. And, keep collecting those box tops! Thanks for your support! Funding requests are increasing as St. Paul Public Schools are faced with budget deficits and program cuts.

Direct Drive Committee - Look for the annual direct drive appeal letter that will come home in your child's take home folders in late September. The direct drive is an opportunity to give needed funds for our school to be the vibrant learning community we all love. 100% of your donation goes directly to activities and projects that enhance your child's education and supports our teachers in the classroom. It costs approximately \$90/student at Groveland to fund needed programs and activities. Remember to share the letters with your family and friends.

Book Fair Committee-

Groveland's Fall Book Fair is almost near! Join us in the library to browse and buy books for your friends, family and child's classroom. Last year we earned over \$2300 in books for our school library! *Interested in volunteering? We are looking for a volunteer to train in this year to lead the book fair efforts next year.* Contact Emily at emily.ml.daniel@gmail.com or Sabrina at stpaulskigrl@gmail.com

- **Parent Pre-Sale: Wednesday, Oct. 5th from 9:30-11 a.m.** (after drop-off in the Library)
- **Book Fair: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. and THURSDAY, OCTOBER 6th, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m.**
(Find us in the Library during conferences)
- **Online anytime:** Oct. 1st-15th at <http://www.scholastic.com/bf/grovelandparkelemschool1>

Celebrate Groveland - GROVELAND'S ADULT NIGHT OUT

This year's Celebrate Groveland Fundraiser and adult night out is being held **November 12th** at the Lowe Dayton Art Commons Building at Macalester College! Mark your calendar now! This event is a fun opportunity to get to know your Groveland Parent community while fundraising in support of Groveland Park Elementary. If you would like to participate in planning for the event or if you have a donation or "Groveland Gathering" you would like to host please contact Justi Leroe @ justileroe@gmail.com or 651-955-1472

Box Tops -

Groveland will be collecting box tops to raise money for awesome things at school! Please look for a baggie coming home soon with your student, which you can use to save box tops until the fun contest and collection in January. Thank you for clipping those box tops!

Apex Fun Run Committee -

An update from Molly Hartnett, former librarian : " Thanks to the generous \$10,000 donation from Friends of Groveland and the Apex Fun Run donations, I was able to order about 700 new books for the library. The non-fiction piece of the collection hadn't been updated for years and I felt it needed some TLC. I filled in holes in the biography and history sections

and updated with some geography titles, and then sprinkled in a few books about computer science, technology, math and the arts. It was important to me to order current publications for a wide range of reading levels. In the fiction area I ordered many easy readers, since they are so important to our budding new readers, and some picture books because who doesn't love a fun, new picture book? And there will be new chapter books in a wide range of interest levels. In all areas I looked to add a culturally diverse range of books, and there is pretty much something for everyone. The library will be better for it. It was challenging and fun! Thank you all for your support!" The books have been ordered and we await delivery sometime this fall/winter.

Spirit Wear -

Orders are now open for Groveland Park spirit wear! Forms will be going out with students soon, but parents can place orders online at: <http://bit.do/GPEspirit2016>. Orders are due by October 12 and are expected about a week afterward.