



# Griswold Public Schools

## Monthly Newsletter

DECEMBER

2017

The community of the Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by empowering students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society.

### From the Office of the Superintendent...

Dear Family & Friends:

We hope that this newsletter finds you all well and in the holiday spirit. During this season, we all know that there are families and individuals in need. I ask that you continue to keep such folks in mind and consider contributing, in one way or another, to an effort that supports those who are less fortunate than we are.

Please be sure to stay informed on the state of CT budget news for this school year. As some of you know, the Governor has made severe cuts to the education funding that the state provides to towns and cities. On our web site, we have a letter from Mr. Scott Davis, Town of Griswold Board of Finance Chair, which provides an overview. We have been working collaboratively with the town to navigate these cuts and we will keep you informed as best as we can.

Do have a wonderful holiday season with your family, friends and loved ones and here's to an exciting new year in 2018.

Sincerely,

Sean P. McKenna  
Superintendent

### IMPORTANT DATES

12/11/17

BOE Meeting, 6pm, GMS Media Center

12/22/17

Early Dismissal—1/2 day, Winter Holiday Break

12/22/17 – 1/01/18

Winter Holiday Vacation



**Griswold Public Schools would not be successful without the continued support of all parents and community members.**

We appreciate your continued support. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to communicate with your child's school or with the Superintendent's office directly. The Superintendent can be reached by calling 860-376-7600 or email: [smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org](mailto:smckenna@griswoldpublicschools.org)



**Research has shown that parental involvement is the most important factor in a student's success in school.**

The community of Griswold Public Schools educates for excellence by empowering students to become compassionate, confident, creative, and resourceful members of society.

### DISTRICT VISION

The community of Griswold Public Schools excels at education for excellence for all students to be college and/or career ready.



## GES DECEMBER NEWS

Dear Families:

The Food Drive was a huge success! Griswold Elementary School collected 20 boxes for the Saint Mary's Food Pantry. In addition, GES is participating in "Fill a Bus with Toys" for the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Our bus company, Student Transportation of America, will reward the grade level who collects the most toys with a free bus for an upcoming field trip. To date, 3rd grade is in the lead with over 100 donations. As a school, GES has tallied over 300 toys! We really appreciate all of your generous donations.

As a reminder, please remain in your vehicle during our morning drop-off time and have your child exit the passenger side of the vehicle (on the sidewalk). This will help to keep the line moving. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated!

There may be delayed school openings, early school dismissals, and possibly school cancellations during the winter months. It can be quite challenging to make alternative arrangements for your child during these days. We ask that a plan be developed for your child in case there is a delayed opening, early dismissal, or school cancellation. Discuss the plan with your child and if it differs from the regular daily plan, please forward it to your child's teacher and notify the GES office. All delays/early dismissals/cancellations will be posted on the GES website, radio, and television. In addition, you will be notified through our School Messenger system.

One last note, we have a "lost and found" located in the GES cafeteria. If your child is missing a sweatshirt, jacket, hat, or gloves, the item may be there. Please stop by the school office to ask about looking through the items.

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season!

Mr. Bordeau and Ms. Love

### Important Dates

- Thursday, December 7 - Grade 3 Concert (in-school and evening: 6pm & 7:15pm)
- Tuesday, December 12 - PTO Meeting (6:00 pm, GES Library)
- Wednesday, December 13 - Grade 4 Concert (in-school and evening: 6pm & 7:15pm)

## GMS DECEMBER NEWS

Dear Families:

We've had a couple of great events over the last month that have really brought the GMS community together. Our "walk your can a mile" food drive for Saint Mary's food pantry was a great success. GMS collected well over 1,000 cans. Thank you to everyone who supported this great event.

On November 9<sup>th</sup>, GMS held our annual Veterans Day Assembly. We were fortunate to have close to 80 veterans participate. It is a special event that allows our GMS community to say thank you to those special individuals who serve and protect our great country.

As we approach the holiday season, we have a busy and exciting schedule to look forward to. On December 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, GMS students attended the movie *Wonder*. It was an excellent opportunity for our students to see our "Pillars of Character" in action. Students were buzzing after the movie and understood the importance of being kind to one another.

GMS also has our winter concerts coming up. Grade 7 will be on 12/12 at 7:00 pm and Grade 8 will be on 12/14 at 7:00 pm. We're excited to see our band, orchestra, and chorus put on amazing productions.

Lastly, we will hold our monthly Town Meeting on December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Students will be greeted by our caroling teachers as they enter the gym. Several students and groups will be recognized prior to leaving for break. We want to wish a very safe and happy holiday to all of our families. Please take the time to relax and reflect. We'll see you all in the new year!

### Important Dates:

- 12/12 - Grade 7 concert at 7:00
- 12/14 - PTO Meeting at 3:30
- 12/14 - Grade 8 concert at 7:00
- 12/22 - Town Meeting, 7:30 am
- 12/22 - Half day for students

Mr. Glenn LaBossiere  
Principal



## GHS DECEMBER NEWS

Dear GHS Families and Friends:

Welcome December! We close out November on a high note with our Bake Shop students donating 44 pies to local veterans, and a large donation to the St. Mary's Food Pantry. In addition, congratulations to Nick Sundstrom, crowned Mr. GHS, and our GHS Football Team, for taking back the Thanksgiving title! The students here continue to impress us with their kindness and compassion for others.

Science News! All biology classes will be culminating their chapter on cells with a laboratory activity to "Determine Osmotic Environments." Students will function as medical research teams who have been provided with 4 different unknown concentrations of sugar solutions. Using their knowledge of osmosis, teams of students will need to design their own laboratory procedures, perform the lab, and collect and analyze their data. It is each team's job to determine the concentration of each unknown sugar solution and calculate percent change in mass of each of the 4 samples.

**NEASC and GHS!** We need your help!! Your input and feedback in our Parent NEASC survey is a mandatory part of the reflection process. Please take the time to complete this survey for us by simply clicking the link below:

<https://surveys.neasc.org/s3/NEASC-CPS-Family-Survey-Griswold-High-School>

There are paper copies in the GHS main office if needed. Thank you so much!

### Upcoming events this month:

12/6: PAC Meeting at 6:30 pm in the GHS LMC  
12/7: GHS Task Force Meeting at 5 pm in the Cafeteria  
12/19: Winter Choral Concert at 7 pm  
12/21: Winter Instrumental Concert at 7 pm  
12/22: Early Dismissal at 12 pm  
12/25 through 1/1: NO SCHOOL - Winter Break

On behalf of everyone here at GHS, we wish you and yours the Happiest of Holidays!

Erin Palonen  
Principal



## SPECIAL EDUCATION NEWS

### Medicaid Reimbursement for Griswold Public Schools! Every Penny Counts!

Griswold Public Schools participates in the Connecticut Medicaid School Based Child Health Program. This program allows school districts to receive funding for services that are provided to eligible students who receive special education related services listed in their IEP and qualify for Medicaid (HUSKY) benefits.

Examples of these services are Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Speech-Language Therapy, Hearing services, Psychological services, Social Work, and Nursing.

At your child's PPT, this will be explained to you. If your child qualifies, you will be asked to sign a release of information to access school-based Medicaid reimbursement for the district. Any reimbursement received DOES NOT affect or impact you or the benefits you may receive. There is NO cost to the family now or in the future. This program allows schools to be reimbursed for the services they provide.

## News from the Technology Department

### Community Members:

**If you are purchasing a new piece of technology as a gift for someone this holiday season, we will gladly take your gently-used equipment.** All the equipment collected will go to students who may not have technology at home to complete homework or school assignments. A reminder that all equipment will be refreshed and hard drives will be wiped clean for privacy purposes. We encourage community members to drop off their gently-used technology equipment at the High School. We will be checking in with each school's Social Worker to inquire about students who may have the greatest needs in the community. The types of equipment that we are looking for are computers, laptops and tablets.

**Community Senior Citizens..... Stay tuned** for more information to come after the holidays when we start our program, **“Seniors Helping Seniors in Technology.”** This was a great program where our students helped Griswold senior citizens with their technology and software programs.

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## MONTHLY COFFEE AND CHAT WITH THE SUPERINTENDENT

NOTE: To cast a wide net on different stakeholders, we will be holding these sessions in the morning or in the evening. **All sessions will be held in the Superintendent’s Office**, located in Griswold Middle School. The evening meetings are scheduled on the same evening of the District Partnership Advisory Council which meets from 7pm – 8pm in the GMS media center.

DATE	TIME
<i>No session in December</i>	<i>No session in December</i>
Thursday, January 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Wednesday, February 21 <sup>st</sup> , 2018	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday, March 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am
Wednesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Thursday, May 17 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	9:00 am – 10:00 am

**GRISWOLD SENIOR CENTER  
22 SOULE ST. JEWETT CITY**

**7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
EMERGENCY FUEL  
FUND BREAKFAST**

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2017**

**7:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.**

**ADULTS \$8.00 CHILDREN 3-10 YRS \$5.00**

**UNDER 3 FREE**

**BREAKFAST, RAFFLE BASKETS &  
GRANDMA'S ATTIC SALE**

WE ARE PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT SINCE  
THE BEGINNING OF THIS INITIATIVE, WE  
HAVE PROVIDED RELIEF TO OVER 60 FAMILIES WHO  
WERE AT RISK OF FREEZING. PLEASE HELP US TO HELP  
OTHERS!



**ADVANCED TICKETS AVAILABLE**

FEATURING A PERFORMANCE BY OUR GROUP!

GRISWOLD MIDDLE SCHOOL SELECT CHOIR

# GROUP OUTING

WITH THE PROVIDENCE BRUINS



**FRI. JAN 12**  
**7:05 VS BRI**  
**COMIC BOOK GIVEAWAY**



**FREE**

**P-BRUINS HAT,  
POPCORN & DRINK  
FOR ALL KIDS IN  
THE GROUP**

**FOR ONLY \$22 PER PERSON**

**FAMILY AND FRIENDS ARE WELCOME!**

**PURCHASE  
INSTRUCTIONS**

*\*If purchasing tickets after Dec.20 please call Caroline Mattos  
for discounted ticket price  
Dunkin' Donuts Center 401-680-4720*

\_\_\_\_\_ # of tickets x \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FRI. JAN 12 Checks made payable to GMS  
by December 20, 2017**

Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (D): \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_



## **GRISWOLD PUBLIC SCHOOLS DISTRICT PARTNER ADVISORY COUNCIL**

To strengthen our commitment to the Griswold community, we are launching our District Partnership Advisory Council this school year. All interested parties are more than welcomed to attend. This new forum offers all Griswold Community members opportunities to learn about our students, their achievements, and our collaborative work as a school district and community.

This District Partnership Advisory Council will meet in the Griswold Middle School media center from 7pm – 8pm on the following dates:

- Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>
- Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>
- Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> (this meeting will start at 6 pm and end before 7pm)

Please join us at any of our meetings, as we look forward to your contributions and partnership with Griswold Public Schools.



Visit us at: [griswoldpublicschools.org](http://griswoldpublicschools.org)

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