

SAVE THE DATE

EARLY RELEASE DAY!

Oct. 4

PTA meeting: Oct. 14, 6:15, Grissom library

School conferences: Oct. 10 and Oct. 15

Fall Break: Oct. 17-18, 21

Buddy Walk: Oct. 20, Union's Central Park (62nd and Mingo)

Fun Night: Oct. 25, 6 p.m.

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER

- 7th Patty Slater
- 9th Chasity Parnell
- 15th Kathy Davis
- 21st Jodie Rogers
- 25th Gerardo Rodriguez
- 26th Karen Green

NOVEMBER

- 10th Erin Wilson
- 20th Jennifer Laney

Welcome!

Welcome to another fabulous school year! PTA has started the year off strong with a great Run with the Stars in September! Next up will be our annual Fun Night on Friday, October 25. If you haven't joined the PTA yet now is a good time to do so. We are having a membership contest! Each class with 100% PTA membership will win a pizza party! Membership is only \$6 and helps support our children. PTA meetings will be the second Monday of each month and will be held in the library at 6:15. We welcome you to join us! I am looking forward to another wonderful year at Grissom!

Tracy Hargrove, PTA President

This Month's Events

Fun Night

Please join us for Fun Night on 10/25 from 6-8:30pm. There will be lots of games, including Laser Tag, as well as yummy food and cotton candy. Please check with your homeroom moms to volunteer to run the game in your child's classroom. Also, please consider donating candy or small prizes for the games (the Dollar Tree is a great place for this). We will be doing the raffle again this year and have some great prizes already secured, some of which include: American Girl doll, boy's bike and girl's bike. The tickets for the raffle will be sent home in your children's folders in mid-October so please look for them to sell.

If you have any questions, please email aliciaabele@hotmail.com.



Thanks! We look forward to seeing you!



Buddy Walk

Every year the Grissom community has a great showing at the Tulsa Buddy Walk, which funds programs for the Down Syndrome Association of Tulsa (DSAT). This year's Buddy Walk will be on Sunday, Oct. 20 from 1:30-4:00 p.m. at Union's Central Park (62nd and Mingo). The Buddy Walk will include entertainment, prize giveaways, food, and fun activities for the whole family. You don't have to register to attend, but registration is only \$10 and includes a 2013 Tulsa Buddy Walk t-shirt. You can register online here: <http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/alana-kennon/tulsabuddywalk>.

Come have a great time and support our own Grissom 2nd graders Zeke McCarley and Lucy Kennon in this year's Buddy Walk!

Mr. Rowland's Update

How did we get to October already?

May. District principals meet to discover new curriculum for pre-kindergarten classes, new basic reading skills curriculum for kindergarten through second grade, and new reading interventions for third through sixth grade.

June. Teachers and I meet to plan for new reading initiatives. We are down one teacher (we miss you, Mrs. Locke!) but with all teachers in grades 4-6 taking a section of reading, and with one multi-age section of 4th and 5th graders, we can incorporate new programs to meet reading students where they are. I'm proud of our teachers for taking on this challenge. Nine team members attend AVID training in Dallas to clear paths for students' college and career readiness that begin in the elementary grades. The team is together constantly for four days, and plans for student organization systems and learning through inquiry that will better prepare students for success.

July. We say hello to Evelyn Kwanza, music teacher, and wish principal's secretary Marcia Kennedy all the best in her new job at the Education Service Center. A team attends training for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports to examine how we can improve student climate.

August. Jane Berryman welcomes her first grandchild! We are grateful to have Kimberly Collins serve as registrar in her absence. Sandy Geurin agrees to come out of retirement as principal's secretary until Jane returns in October, and we all appreciate her knowledge, experience, and way with kids! Linda Hale steps in to sub for Linda Brown in 5th grade, building relationships with students and staff to make sure students are well-cared-for and well-prepared when she passes the baton back to Mrs. Brown in October. Students dip their toe back into school at the pool party. Students are back in school, 101 Mile Club, band, and strings. Grissom staff ratify Core Values (see them on page 5 of this newsletter), a synthesis of our beliefs, purpose, and aspirations. The Grissom Song is back at Monday Rise and Shine assemblies, and we have a free dress day for meeting May attendance goals!

September. Mrs. (and Mr.) Whittenburg welcome baby Hadley to the Grissom family, and Mrs. Rodehaver makes sure learning is business as usual in her second-grade class. Mr. Samuelson's string quartet from the Tulsa Symphony performs for students, who learn that "Sponge-Bob Square Pants" is more of a classic than they knew. Grissom is highlighted in the Tulsa *World* for its jump in state test scores. Cub scouts commemorate 9/11 at Grissom and are noticed on Fox News. Over 200 participants Run with the Stars and finish one-mile or 5K races to benefit the PTA (Thank you, Mrs. Case and team!) Fifth and sixth grade take control at Biztown, and end up on Channel 6 for their excellent work, while kindergarten has bushels of fun picking apples at Livesay Orchards. Way to go, Stars!

October will bring more learning for staff and students (professional development day on October 17, first quarter ends!), more fun (Fun Night is October 25!), more opportunities for collaboration (parent conferences are October 10 and 15), and more celebrations (we made our attendance goal for September, just the second time since November 2012!).

As the days of 2013 and this school year fly by, take time to say a heartfelt "Thank you," to teachers and staff who love, teach, and influence your children every day, to recognize what's good and extraordinary about your child, to find a way to share a little of your time and talent, and to bring us closer to the goal of growing together and giving our best so that, in our school community, each child finds her way to shine!

Mr. Brent Rowland, Principal



101 Mile Club and PE

From Mr. Mills

The Grissom 101 Mile Club is off to a flying start this year. We are regularly seeing 100 Grissom students on the track before school every day. We had a high of 120 students (not including adults and younger siblings) last Thursday 9/26. So far we have traveled 1,900 miles as a club since the school year began. That is fantastic. Our stated goals at the start of each school year are to travel at least 10,000 miles as a club, and have 50 or more students run 100 miles or more. We are well on the way to achieving that goal. Last school year we had 62 students reach 100

miles or more and as a club we traveled 12,000 miles. A student's mileage is announced over the intercom on Friday mornings for every 10 miles they achieve. Also, each student can pick up a mileage token for every 10 miles that they put on an 8" metal bracelet chain. Our PTA generously pays for all of the incentives and rewards for the 101 Mile Club. Membership to the club is free and students can still join at any time. Parents – thank you for your commitment to health by having your children here so early. Also, a huge thank you to Nick Eschenheimer, who is with me

every day punching mileage cards and encouraging our students. Thanks also to Mrs. Hankins, Mrs. Jacewitz, and Mrs. Morris for their assistance as well. We are definitely on pace to break last year's marks.

In Physical Education we are starting FitnessGram testing and have played numerous aerobic games mixed in with a soccer unit. Our goal is to get our students moving and enjoy the experience.



Counselor's Corner



Grissom students are settling into the routine of the new school year. Teachers have been establishing and reinforcing procedures and our students are practicing that positive behavior wherever they are: classrooms, hallways, library, cafeteria, etc. Our school is such a pleasant place when our Grissom STAR₂ Guidelines are followed: **Safety, Teamwork, Attitude, Respectful and Responsible.**

We hear parents reporting students are repeating some of these guidelines as they go about their activities at home, too!

This month I have started guidance with 2nd graders as we look at the "Different and Same" video series. These lessons help

students relate to puppet characters that experience some of the same struggles in dealing with peers: name-calling, differences, stereotyping, being excluded and others. We help students identify their feelings those of others and how to respond in a way that is respectful of everyone involved.

At the end of the month, we recognize "Red Ribbon Week". Students will receive ribbons to wear promoting a drug, alcohol and tobacco free lifestyle. We will have special dress days, too. Look for more details in a flyer coming home soon. I will be in the classrooms presenting age-appropriate lessons on healthy choices. This would be a great time to talk to your children about those same issues and reinforce those good choices at home.

Ms. Diana Day, Counselor

Asbestos Notice

To all employees, parents, visitors and any interested person: Regarding asbestos containing materials in ALL buildings owned, leased/rented, or used by Tulsa Public Schools. Date of Notice: August 2012. ALL TULSA PUBLIC SCHOOLS BUILDINGS have been inspected for asbestos-containing materials in accordance with EPA mandates on or before October 12, 1989, by licensed and accredited inspectors. Results of inspections, samples and subsequent analysis are available for your review in the ASBESTOS MANAGEMENT PLAN on file in this building and Tulsa Public Schools' Maintenance Center, 1555 N. 77th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK. Contact person: Connie Pounds, Maintenance Center, 1555 N. 77th E. Ave., Tulsa, OK, 74115, 833-8019

Gifted and Talented Services

Students who show evidence of high performance in intellectual ability, specific academic areas, creative thinking, artistic ability, or leadership capacity and who require extended learning opportunities in order to fully develop such capabilities, are eligible to be referred for participation in the Gifted and Talented program at Grissom Elementary. This notice is an attempt to locate students for assessment and qualifying procedures for Gifted and Talented services. If you are aware of a gifted or talented child in need of differentiated instruction, please contact the student's teacher, the school principal, the school counselor, or the Gifted and Talented teacher to initiate the identification process.

Gifted Gazette

From Ms. Shouse

Parents,

Our concept this year will be on Relationships. We experience relationships in all aspects of our lives. We have family relationships, our relationship to our community, both in and out of school, and our relationship with nature and the environment. Any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call or email me.

Lynnette Shouse

shously@tulsaschools.org or 918-833-9460



Kinder will be beginning with a mini-unit on owls. We'll learn about their relationships to other animals, the parts of an owl and the many types of owls in the species. Whoo, Whoo!

First Grade is reading *June 29, 1999* by David Wiesner. We'll be talking about how the character works on her experiment. We'll also be learning about plant growth and plants relationships to the environment.

Second grade will be doing a unit on horses. We are reading *Little Icicle* by Lois Szymanski. We'll learn horse vocabulary, how many breeds there are and about ponies on Chincoteague Island.

Third Grade Animal Migrations will

be our focus for the next few weeks. The reasons they migrate, where they go and how many animals do migrate. Math will focus on dissecting word problems to understand each step in the process. Most problems will have at least 3-4 steps.

Fourth Grade

Currently reading *The BFG* by Roald Dahl. They will be doing many projects in class and creating their own presentations. Writing is focused on adding in appropriate details to a short narrative. (If I Could Sneak Out...) Math: continuing work on complex story problems. Multiple steps with added information, what stays, what can go? Can you explain your thinking?

Fifth Grade *Tuck Everlasting* by Natalie Babbit is our novel study. We'll be learning about literature discussion groups and

the focus will be on text to self connections this quarter. Lots of writing also. ☺ Math: We will be experimenting with creating some flipped classroom videos. Teaching the content in video format up front, before any lesson and then using class time to practice those problems.

Sixth Grade will be choosing their novel study and signing a contract. Math focus will be on ratios.



Grissom's Core Values

We value...

Learning. Our greatest challenges and our greatest successes are found in igniting students' curiosity and fueling their passion for creativity. Learning is the priority of our school, and students' learning and well-being are the primary focus for all decisions implemented by the school.

Being the Change. We are the difference-makers in the lives of children and families, and the change agents of their world and ours. We are the dream-builders that bridge children's dreams and their present and future realities. We are role models who teach children, parents, and community members more by our choices and actions than by any other means.

Relationships. We all need to feel respected, appreciated, loved, and cared-for. Our connections with one another in no small part make us who we are. We will foster and nurture them.

A Positive Environment. Children thrive in environments that are active and engaging, safe and fair, with clear and consistent expectations. We all do.



High Expectations with Abundant Support. Individual potential is best developed when expectations for high levels of achievement are combined with targeted, scaffolded support. We set the mark high for each individual, we help each reach it, and we celebrate his or her success.

The Potential and Possibility of Each Child. It is our duty and joy to find and enhance how each one can shine. We cannot give up on any child.

Individual Diversity. Each of us can learn and does learn, though not in the same way or at the same pace. The unique physical, emotional, intellectual, and social qualities of each individual are valuable assets to our school.

Strength of Character. The quality of our relationships, our relationships to each other and even our relationship to self, depends on the quality of our character. Trust and respect are diminished in its absence. Knowledge and achievement are hollow without it.

Accountability. Because we are equal in our importance and our value, we are each accountable to one another, no matter who we are, how big or small. We all make mistakes; we will be honest about them, will learn what we can from them, and will move past them together.

The Collaboration of Team and of Community. We support one another in helping each individual reach her or his full potential. When we have exhausted our educational or emotional resources, our team is here to assist and encourage us. We find in our team and in the community what we need to take the next step.

"We are the difference-makers in the lives of children and families, and the change agents of their world and ours. We are the dream-builders that bridge children's dreams and their present and future realities. We are role models who teach children, parents, and community members more by our choices and actions than by any other means."

Grissom Elementary
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Tulsa, OK 74133

Phone
918-833-9460

Fax
918-833-9476

To report a student
absence: 918-833-9460
To contact Grissom Child
Care: 918-833-9466

Individuals with Disabilities Act

Every child with special needs has a right, by law (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act), to a free and appropriate education. This includes children and adults (ages 0-21) with physical, mental emotional, or leaning handicaps. This is an attempt to locate these children in order to assist in providing the services to which they are entitled. If you know of a child with a disability living in our district and in need of services, please contact Tulsa Public Schools, Department of Special Services, Education Service Center, 3027 S. New Haven Ave., Tulsa, OK 74147-0208; 746-6376



We're on the Web!

See us at:
grissom.tulsaschools.org

Fall Break – Oct. 17-18, 21

Don't forget: Fall Break is Thursday and Friday, October 17 and 18, and Monday, October 21.

Have a great break!



Grissom in the News

Grissom students have been in the spotlight a lot in September! From our soaring test scores to our Cub Scouts, Tulsa is taking notice. In case you missed our recent media appearances:

Oklahoma Students Learn Important Lessons At BizTown – KOTV
(<http://www.newson6.com/story/23508448/biztown-teaches-kids>)

Green Country Remembers 9/11 - Grissom's Cub Scouts – Fox 23
(<http://www.fox23.com/news/local/story/Green-Country-remembers-9-11/>)

TPS Sees Rise in Reading Proficiency – Tulsa World
(<http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/education/tps-sees-rise-in-reading-proficiency>)

Find Us On Facebook



Did you know that the Grissom PTA has a group on Facebook? You can find it at
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/562079737188826/>

If you're reading this on paper (instead of the electronic edition) and don't want to type all those numbers, you can search for "Grissom PTA Parents" in "groups" using Facebook's search bar.

Have a great fall break! See you in November!