

Paw-sitively Connected

Great Path Academy at MCC



Snow and Ice and Days Off, Oh my!

With the weather keeping us home, we asked students and staff what they have been doing with their snow days:

"Baking, cleaning and shoveling." Ms. Corcoran

"Shoveling and studying." Angelique M.

"Working at a snow removal company." Paul G.

"Reading and sleeping." Alyssa D.

"I made my room into a fantasy beach and binged on Netflix." Troi J.

"Eating and listening to music." Micaela L.

"Caught up on homework." Gabi R.

"Digging out the snow and going on a date with Mr. P." Mr. Basile

"Studying for a difficult Anatomy test." Mikeala R.

"Reading, relaxing and doing homework." Corey B.

"Shoveling, doing homework and catching up on sleep." John K.

"Watching TV." Joey F.

"Doing homework and sleeping in." Karina E.

"Hanging with my dad." Meghan B.

"Taking care of my grandson and cleaning my house." Ms. Spence

"Did my homework and studied for quizzes." Kristine S.

"Practice my baking and make-up skills." Magan S.

"Graded schoolwork and actually cleaned my house." Ms. Gillies

"Went sledding, made forts and had snowball fights." Rufino M.

"Chillin' watching tv." Jocelyn R.

"Catching up on grading and planning and drinking hot chocolate." Ms. Ruoff

"Shoveled snow and watched movies with kids." Ms. Diez

"Cleaning and helping my neighbors and family." Javier F.

"Catching up on sleep, shoveling." Kyron D.

"Stayed home and did nothing." Shemar S.

"Watching Netflix and sledding." Jayleah F-H.

"Visiting friends." Jacinda P.

"Sleeping, eating, sledding and catching up on my work." Odaluz C.



Students happy to see each other again in the halls of GPA after quite a few days off, hustling to class.

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"Chillin' in my home." Kylie D.

"Playing videogames." Hanna S.

Spring Clubs Begin at GPA

With clubs that range from SAT Prep for the ambitious to Crafting and Martial Arts, there is something for everyone during clubs here at GPA. After all of our snow days, we held our first club meetings for the Spring semester on Wednesday, February 11th. Every student at GPA is a member of a club that they choose through a ranking process. Clubs are created through teacher and student interest, as well as necessity. A very popular club is Homework Club, where students can complete homework, as well as receive guidance on the assignments to help them along.

One of the students' favorites is Martial Arts, with Mr. Hoffman.



Kristine Segovia, a ninth grader, loves Martial Arts. She says, "It's awesome. We learn different moves, defensive and blocking, self-defense. I feel good about what I'm learning because I think that it's going to help me and Scott (Hoffman) is fun." The group works out in the MCC weight room

to increase their strength as part of their training, as well.

To the left, students in the Martial Arts Club with Scott Hoffman, club advisor.

Full club list:

Art, Chess/
Gaming, Crochet and Crafting, Distance

Running, Drumline, Gardening and Sustainability, Homework, Improv Comedy, Lifetime Sports, Martial Arts, Nerd Club, Newspaper, SAT Prep, Spanish Culture, Student Council and Literacy Club.

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Special points of interest:

- GPA's "A Second Cup of Coffee" for parents to gather and discuss our school community is here! The next meeting is February 24th, from 3-4 pm with the topic of Anxiety.
- The GPA website is updated multiple times a week in order to get you the most accurate information about our school community available.



Masks by Samantha Little to the right top and Micaela Logan to the right bottom.



Students in GPA's language lab. From left to right: Jared M., Michael R., and Makalei O.

GALAPAGOS!!

We are still taking sign-ups for the March break 2016 trip to the Galapagos in South America. This is a truly ONCE IN A LIFETIME opportunity to see the location where Charles Darwin made observations about life that changed the entirety of scientific thought on species and evolution. See the lava lizards, seals, giant tortoises, and multitudes of life on this chain of volcanic islands. Do research with scientists at the Darwin Institute, and immerse in the local culture. Visit <http://www.explorica.com/Thurrott-8568> for information and to sign up! Remember, you can travel with your student and there will be ample time and opportunities for fund raising so don't miss out on this incredible adventure.



Artwork by Juan Carlos.

Unified Arts News

In Graphic Design, we have begun creating 3D animated movies via a program called Alice. Students are creating their own mini films.

Culinary 2 - We have started the stocks and sauces section. The first items we are making are chicken stock and béchamel sauce which is one of the mother sauces. The students are then learning what they can transform these items into like chicken noodle soup, alfredo and chicken veloute. Learning the operations and daily routines of the kitchen are also part of the unit.

Baking 1- In Baking 1 we are learning all about the different ingredients that go into baked goods. We will be experimenting with our knowledge of common items and

trying to identify them by sight. The students are also learning the differences between the three scales (digital, portion and bakers) and which is the most efficient.

Small Business Management - In this entrepreneurial based class we have been discussing lessons from the workbook, the 7 habits of highly effective people which show us what it takes to be a great leader. The big project for this class is a business plan so they are learning the main components of a plan and deciding what their businesses will be so that they can write one.

En clase de español 1, los estudiantes están trabajando el proyecto

oral sobre capítulo 2A "mi horario". Students are working on an oral project about their school schedules.

En la clase de español V, los estudiantes están continuando leyendo el libro "Las cajas de cartón". Students are continuing to read the book "Las cajas de cartón".



Social Studies News

In U.S. History, we are currently examining the social, economic and political impacts of the Great Depression. We are also analyzing the reforms that were implemented in order to both relieve the affects of the Depression and prevent it from happening in the future. Finally, we have been comparing President Roosevelt's policies to those of President Obama's, in terms of relief and reform during an economic crisis. Next month, U.S. History students will begin investigating our countries role in WWII.

Currently in World History, students are looking at contemporary issues in the United States. Students are discussing individual privacy over the internet, discussing immigration reform, and looking at current events that are shaping our world.

Students have just started their Geography course, which started this marking period. Students have been arguing if the world still needs paper maps or if digital maps are enough. We have looked at the positive and negative impact of digital maps, including global

positioning systems (GPS) and the grounding of the USS Guardian.

The Civics semester course ended with a comprehensive look at the our country's need for an engaged and informed citizenry. Students also commemorated the international National Day of Remembrance with a mini unit designed to remember the victims of the Holocaust as well as reassert a commitment to human rights. The anti-hate posters students created will be displayed in the Civics classroom.

English News

Students in English I are learning about characterization in The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros. Their culminating project will be a character analysis in which they explore how the main character has changed throughout the story. English I Honors students are reading Night by Elie Wiesel. They are tracking motif in the memoir and will write an evidence-based claim.

English II Honors is examining cultural differences and the theme of Identity in Joy Luck Club. Stu-

dents are in the midst of drafting an analysis that covers supplemental sources including research on Chinese culture and Sandra Cisneros' House on Mango Street.

English II College Prep is examining diction and dialect to reveal characterization in A Lesson Before Dying. Students are in the midst of examining poetry that correlates to the thematic elements of the novel.

American Literature: Students are reading The Great Gatsby and examining how the American

Dream has changed over the course of the 20th century. They will eventually compare the themes of Gatsby to those of the film The Social Network.

College Writing/Communications: Students are finishing their presentations for their Independent Reading Assignment. They will be moving into a unit on persuasive presentations in which they will need to analyze important speeches from the American Civil Rights Movement.

Science News

Anatomy & Physiology: In Anatomy and Physiology, we are completing our investigation on the muscular system and moving on through the body systems. Our next stop is the nervous system, with an emphasis on how and why we react to stimuli. Depending on our time, I hope to expose the students to a dissection of the brain.

Biology: Biology students are starting the Cell Biology: World Health unit which looks at health issues and connects them to concepts of cells. Apropos at the moment with social discussions of vaccinations, viruses, etc. on every news station and in every news report. Students first diagnosed patients based on symptoms and an analysis of mock blood samples. Now, we are beginning to learn about different types of cells and their parts.

Chemistry: Students in chemistry are learning about electrons and how those

electrons give elements various properties, including their light emission spectra. They are also using their knowledge to diagram atoms and determine how they might interact based on their electrons and atomic structures. 10th grade students are engaging in CAPT preparation. They are expected to utilize studyisland.com daily and break-down examples of CAPT release items in class to learn how to create good responses to open ended questions.

Forensics: Students have just entered into a new course offering at GPA, forensics. This course will connect science concepts to crime scene investigations. Since many of these students just completed Genetics, we have begun this course by looking at DNA fingerprinting and its use in criminal investigations.

Physical Science: Students in physical science are learning about different types of atomic bonds. They have just gone over the basics of ionic versus covalent bonding and are using atomic models to visualize how those bonds occur. Students are also working hard on CAPT preparation, using studyisland.com and going over examples of CAPT release items in class.

CAPT Update: 10th grade students will be taking the Science CAPT this year at

the beginning of March. Throughout the year, they have been given several practice assessments as well as unlimited access to the CAPT preparation aid, studyisland.com which is accessible both at home and school. Additionally, teachers in all subject areas are beginning to use CAPT strategies at the start of their classes to help students learn how to tackle CAPT questions. GPA science teachers are also hosting after school CAPT preparation sessions for students from 2:30-3:15pm. These sessions are typically on Tuesday and either Wednesday or Thursday but are subject to change due to weather and teacher schedules. Announcements will be made to students and posted to the school calendar with dates and changes.

The CAPT covers all science topics and concepts that CT students have been exposed to since Kindergarten. A level 3 (proficient) is required for graduation, however, level 4 is the statewide goal, and 5 (advanced) is the best attainable score. Student levels have been sent home. If you have any questions about your student's performance or how you can help them improve over the next month, please contact Ms. Thurrott via email: thurw001@hartfordschools.org or call and leave a message for her at the school.

students are finishing up applications of quadratic functions and are exploring cubic and quartic functions and their transformations. In stats students are working on designing a survey for the student population of GPA. They are gathering data that they will individually analyze, we'll let you know what we find out!

Hey Mathematicians! Mr. Hoffman's math class has moved from the world of solving equations and inequalities to studying lines in depth. That doesn't sound to excit-

ing to most, but there is so much to learn about graphing lines, writing equations of lines, and solving real life problems using lines that we will be here for a while. We are also laying the groundwork for students to study more complex functions in Algebra 2. College Prep math has been working hard to complete their pie chart in the Aleks program. Most people have finished the easy topics and are now onto the harder topics that may take more time and a little bit of assistance, but I know they can do it!

Math News

In Geometry and Pre-Calculus, students chose and solved an advanced problem that required them to use objectives they had learned throughout the year. They each wrote an essay describing their method for solving as well as possible misconceptions one can run into while solving this problem. Finally, each student delivered a 4-minute presentation to the class summarizing the paper and fielded questions from their classmates and Mr. Houchens.

In Ms. Kondratuk's Algebra II, stu-

Student Spotlight— New GPA Allies

On February 13th, the GPA Allies joined each other, along with trainers from the ADL (Anti-defamation League) to train themselves and also welcome new GPA Allies to the group. This was an all-day event and donors to the program joined, as well.



Deb Javit, an ADL Donor, Gretchen Fountain and Wanda Correa, staff at the Hartford Foundation were welcome visitors to this important day that included ice-breakers, role-playing, defining roles and building an ally. Part of the day was dedicated to action-planning for the group, to establish their goals and plans for the school community.

The GPA Allies consist of the following students:

Karen Avila, Joe Fultz, Josh Silvester, Bennet Sullivan, Destiny Chiverton,

Destiny Arroyo, Mikaela Rivera, Myia Tedeschi, Magan Santana, Natalia Warburton, Talia Clarke, Owusu Darko, Gabi Robertson, Obdulio Santiago, Sommer Hitchcock, Ammah Sweeting, Mattea Whitford and Adelina Pardo. A special mention of our new GPA Allies is necessary, please join us in congratulating: Samad Amad, Gifty Asante, Deneja Gallimore, John Kaminski, Angelique Melakian, Jonathan Rosa and Michael Cotton.

A big thank you to the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving's "Kipman Share of the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund" - the funding for the GPA Ally training session this year came from them.



GPA students in Ms. Kliman's class.



Join the Great Path Academy Team!!!

What is Grit 'N Wit - Grit 'N Wit tests participants with physical and mental challenges over 3+ miles. **What do I get for participating** - T-shirt, swag bag, and the satisfaction of knowing you're supporting a great cause. A portion of proceeds benefits the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation, committed to improving the quality of life for children and families battling pediatric brain tumors. Finishers receive a pair of Grit 'N Wit sunglasses. **When is Grit 'N Wit** - April 25, 2015 from 9:00AM - 12:00PM. **Where is Grit 'N Wit held** - Keney Park in Hartford (on the same side of the park as the Pond House). Enter 3 Coventry Street, Hartford, CT 06112 into your GPS. Parking for Grit 'N Wit is located at the lot at 3 Coventry Street, Hartford, CT 06112, which is directly across the street from the park and registration area. **How much** - \$36.50 with promo code, "Great Path Academy"

Team Name: "Great Path Academy" when you sign up!

For more details visit www.gritnwitrun.com or email Ms. Thurrott thurw001@hartfordschools.org



GPA Allies mixing it up during an icebreaker in training.



GREAT PATH ACADEMY AT MCC

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www.greatpathacademy.org



Photos from
the winter
holiday
events here at GPA!

Naviance— A Tool for College Application Success

Naviance is a web-based technology program that is used by the guidance department to help manage the college admissions process. Family Connection is the website that students and families will use to access and share information with their counselors as they develop their post-secondary plans. Using Family Connection, students can research careers & colleges, take assessments & surveys, create goals & to-do's and eventually, submit requests for transcripts & recommendations directly to their counselor.

Some basics:

Careers Tab : Is your child unsure of what to major in or what career path to pursue? By clicking on the "Careers" tab, students can explore different types of careers and discover majors that may be of interest to them. The Personality Type and Cluster Finder are helpful to also find out more about careers of interest. Using the "explore careers & clusters" link, students can access in-depth information about hundreds of careers, including job descriptions, task & activities performed in that

career, and even explore expected wages that can be earned in different areas of the country. Encourage your child to add possible careers to their "list" by clicking on "add to my list." Don't worry if your child can't decide what to major in; over 90% of students change their major at least once during their college career! If students do know what they would like to major in, using the "Careers" tab can be another way to narrow down the college list.

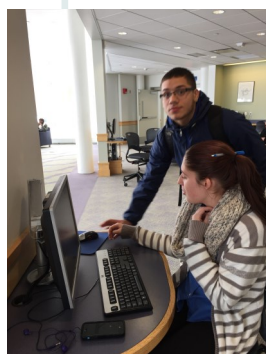
College Tab : One of the most useful features of Naviance is that it allows students to find schools that match their college preferences in terms of size, location, major, etc. Click on the "Colleges" tab and select "SuperMatch College Search." The program starts with over 4000 schools. By making decisions of what qualities your child may want in a college, Naviance will generate a list specific to these wants and needs. Input as many or as few criteria as you want. If you put in too few factors, your list will be very large. However, if you are too specific, the list will yield very few results.

Colleges on your list will show the percent-age of how closely they fit your wants and needs. You and your child should play around with this

tool to discover schools your child may want to consider. When you find a school you are interested in, click on the school name to get more information. Naviance provides information on college admissions, tuition, school size, and student retention rate (the percentage of student who re-turn for their sophomore year). There are links to get more information pertaining to admissions data, to request information directly from the school, and even take a web tour of the college.

Is your child having trouble deciding between a few specific colleges? If you want to see different schools listed side-by-side, select "Pin It" on several schools and select "I want to... compare pinned schools." Using this function, you can compare the facts of many schools in an easy-to-see format. It's important that students add the schools they are interested in to their "Colleges I'm Thinking About" list. Your child's counselor can also access their students' Naviance accounts & can use the information to help them in their college search & throughout the process.

(source— "Introduction to Naviance for Parents— Alexander Hamilton High School")



Regulars in the guidance area, Madison and Marvin work together in the internet café.

Thank you to the following donors to the PBIS Gotcha Cart this month:

Mr. Buder, Ms. Robinson, Mrs. Niles-Outler, Mrs. Chaki, Mr. Houchens, Mr. de Oliveira, Mrs. Canty

We appreciate the support for helping to recognize GPA Student Cougars for being Responsible, Respectful and Safe!

If interested, donations can be made to Ms. Canty— please email cants001@hartfordschools.org or call (860) 512-3723.