

F.A.C.E. TO FACE

NOVEMBER 2025 NEWSLETTER

SHOUT OUT TO OUR NEW PALS (PARENT ACTION LEADERS)

Welcome Our New Parent Action Leaders! We're excited to introduce our newest Parent Action Leaders (PALs) for the 2025–2026 school year! Each of these dedicated parents is stepping up to strengthen the connection between families, schools, and the community.

Laura Vander Vennen: Blandford School
Byron Nicholson: Coit Creative Arts Academy

LaKeitha Walker: Gerald R. Ford Academic Center

Somi Shin: Center for Economicology

Lisa Lint-Vander Zouwen: CA Frost MH

Missy Summers: CA Frost Elementary

We're grateful for their commitment to family engagement and look forward to the energy, ideas, and leadership they'll bring to their school communities this year.

- Dickinson Academy
- GR Museum Middle
- North Park Montessori
- Riverside Middle
- Southwest Elementary
- Westwood Middle
- Zoo School

GRPS PALs are working together to support leadership, school families, and community partners for the good of all scholars. To learn more about the PAL role, [check out this video](#).

POINT TO PONDER...

"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."

- Benjamin Franklin

PARENT UNIVERSITY: PARENT UNIVERSITY

Stay connected with our online resource for support in areas of parenting, school support, community connections, social-emotional learning, and more.

Power Parent – Parent University (parents.grps.org)

This month in Power Parent Magazine the focus is on:

- Gratitude and Thankfulness
- Family Traditions from different cultures
- Seasonal Affective Disorder Awareness Month
- Winter Activity Ideas for Families

SPOTLIGHT EVENTS:



Parent Cafe - Host location Brookside
Thursday, November 6th at 5:00 pm



Taste Buddies Live Zoom
Thursday, November 13th at 5:30 pm



Math Workshop - Count Me In!
Tuesday, November 18th at 9:30 am



GR Civic Theater - Family Night Musical
Thursday, November 19th at 6:00 pm



Special Education Parent Workshop:
Understanding the Differences (IEP vs. 504 Plan)
Wednesday, December 17 | 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
Location: GRPS University



GR-DADvocates
Cafe Schedule: November Shawmut
DADvocate schedule: Q2 January Week of Jan 13–17
Mid-Year Check-In & Advocacy Plan



An Affiliate of the
CANCER SUPPORT COMMUNITY

Community Partner: Gilda's Club
Support for the Whole Family (FREE FOR ALL)

Gilda's Club is here to support youth of all ages on a cancer or grief journey. Our Youth Program has a wide range of opportunities specifically designed for kids and teens impacted by grief or cancer, whether they are living with cancer themselves, know someone living with cancer or know someone who died due to any cause. We utilize age-appropriate support and educational activities to meet youth where they are. Our Support Groups are facilitated by masters level professionals.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

SAVE THE DATE

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC SCHOOLS
EXPO & INFORMATION FAIR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

GRPS EXPO

FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Jennifer Williams, Director
(616) 819-7226 | williamsje@grps.org
1331 Martin Luther King Jr St. SE | Grand Rapids, MI 49506

[PARENTS.GRPS.ORG](https://parents.grps.org)

