



# The Gopher Communicator

April 10, 2014

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John Koch, Principal



*A Century of Excellence*

*An International Baccalaureate  
World School*

## Congratulations to the GHS Rythmettes Dance Team!

Over the past several years a huge amount of work and effort has led to a 2014 OSAA Class 5a/6d Oregon State Dance and Drill Championship for the GHS Team! We are all very excited and proud of these students. If you know one of our dancers please congratulate them on their success.

### Dancers

Roya Bannister	Keisha Macias
<b>Sophia Busse-Captain</b>	<b>Alyssa Maslen-Captain</b>
Destiny Cha	Andrea Monteblando
Rachel Cortese	Makenna Moore
Samantha Cuevas	Cassidy Morse
Denisse Delgado Munoz	Lesli Morales
Hailey Faulkner	Kyza Moss
<b>Tara Fery-Captain</b>	Lilyanna Ortiz
Kennedy Fleming	Kaitlin Pettit
Kellie Gorman	Brianna Pond
Sharna Greene	<b>Jordyn Scholer-Captain</b>
Ashley Grissom	Brooke Smith
Katie Havrilla	Emilie Steinblums
Erica Keathley	<b>Keely Stevens-Captain</b>
Brianna Kjenslee	Amy Swain
Maya Walbridge	Jacob Tavera
Angelina Macca	

### Coaches/Choreographers

<b>Jenn Wilson</b>	<b>Head Coach</b>
Meredith Holman	Coach Choreographer
Mary Ellen Cook	Coach Choreographer
Megan Robertson	Coach Choreographer

## Congratulations to Colby Winnett!

Colby is the OSAA Class 6a Oregon State Champion in wrestling at 160 pounds. Colby is an outstanding, hard-working young man with a competitive drive and desire to excel. We appreciate his effort and are proud of his success.

### PROM IS May 3, 2014!

Please help us remind students about staying safe  
by reading the next two articles!

#### Every Fifteen Minutes

It is a fact that across the country students often choose to drive under the influence. On average, every fifteen minutes in the US, there is a vehicle related death attributed to driving under the influence. These choices are made despite what is taught at school and from parents and guardians at home. These choices are especially prevalent during prom season. Each year, because of this reality, Gresham High School enhances its prevention through the Every Fifteen Minutes Program.

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, every fifteen minutes program will be occurring during the school day, volunteer students will be pulled from classes. These students will then wear costumes representing deceased souls and will walk the halls silently. At the end of the day these volunteers will be taken from campus for an evening of seclusion. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the students will return to school for a powerful Senior class assembly where they will be reunited with their friends and family. This assembly is aligned with the *National Every Fifteen Minutes Organization* and hosted and organized by the Gresham police and fire departments. For more information go to <http://www.every15minutes.com/aboutus/>.

This assembly is a tradition at GHS and serves as a reminder to students that nothing good can come from driving under the influence.

#### Licensed Limo Services

Because of some recent safety concerns related to unlicensed limo companies and that prom season is upon us, the regulatory division manager for the City of Portland sent the following notice asking principals to distribute to our constituency. Below is the memo that was dated April 2, 2014.

“As prom season approaches, we would like to direct your attention to an important safety issue regarding limousine and driver services. When selecting a transportation company for this once-in-a-lifetime occasion, please choose one that has a valid operations permit.

By selecting a company operating legally, you know that the driver has gone through a criminal background check and passed a safe driver training course, the vehicle has passed all inspections, and the company is insured.

There are many limousine services out there that do not hold the necessary permits to operate their service. These non-permitted companies operate outside City standards and can be pulled over by police and ordered to cease operations. Common complaints include poorly kept vehicles, double booking conflicts, tardiness, and in some cases the vehicle not showing up at all.

To view the only companies that have permits to operate within the City of Portland, go to <http://www.portlandoregon.gov/revenue/LegalLimo>.

The memo also mentioned that if there are further questions you may contact Frank Dufay, Transportation Administrator, at 503-865-2487 or by email at [frank.dufay@portlandoregon.gov](mailto:frank.dufay@portlandoregon.gov). The memo was signed by Kathleen Butler, the regulatory division manager of the Revenue Bureau at the City of Portland.

### **Spring is Here**

Today's students are expected to perform at much higher academic levels than previous generations. The new common core national standards and tests that accompany those standards are quite rigorous and take a great deal of preparation. Juniors have already begun testing in the areas of writing, math and reading, however, their preparation for these critical assessments began years ago.

**Many students (and adults for that matter) struggle with their focus and work ethic when the weather shifts to sunny and warm.** At this time of year it is critical that parents and guardians pay close attention to these potential distractions. Staying connected to grades and time spent studying are very important. This is especially important for seniors.

Almost every year at least one senior loses focus and fails a class that is required for graduation and that student does not participate in the ceremony. I hope this is the year that does not occur. As always, we are here so call if you feel the need.

### **Students Fluent in a Second Language**

If you know a student that is fluent in a second language, they may qualify to take the FLATS test on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Taking this test and passing it will enable the student to earn two elective credits toward graduation. The cost of the test is \$50. Registration is now open. Students can register on the GHS website under *Pay Fees* or sign up and pay in person at the student fees office. If they have any questions, you can send them to talk to Barb Cook in Room 240.

### **Parent Communication**

We need your assistance to help minimize the interruptions to classrooms. If your child must check out of school to go to an appointment or attend to a family matter it is not appropriate to text the student in class and ask that the student leave. Not only does texting interrupt instruction excusing students from class in this manner forces the teacher into a difficult position of verifying the information which also interrupts instruction.

Instead of texting there are better methods parents can employ to make sure students are ready to leave school in plenty of time to make your appointment.

1. Call ahead of time and ask that a pass be sent to the student's class.
2. Call in the morning before school so that a pass for the time a student needs to be excused can be given to the student in the morning.

No matter what, parents must come into the office to sign students out. That way we can verify that the student is leaving with a person who has permission to check your child out of school.