



# GPFPE

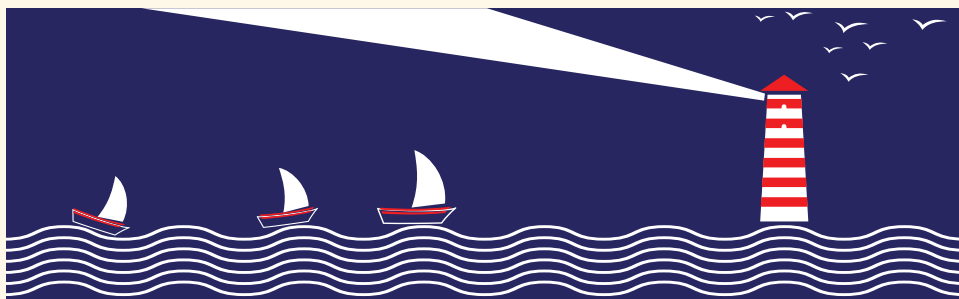
Grosse Pointe Foundation  
for Public Education

WINTER 2018

## THE TORCH

gpfpe.org

# Join us for our Annual Spring Gala



GPFPE Annual Spring Gala

## "Be the Beacon"

Saturday, April 14, 2018

Grosse Pointe Club

6:30 Cocktails • 7:30 Dinner

8:30 Live Auction

Raffle and Wine Pull

**Leadership Honorees**

The Nicholson Family

Jim, Mary Beth, David, Kristin, Tim, Stephanie, John, Alicia

Cocktail Attire ~ Limited Space Available ~ Valet Parking

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**bodman**  
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 Ascension

*Enriching, Engaging, Inspiring Our Future*

This year's event will honor The Nicholson Family - Jim, Mary Beth, David, Kristin, Tim, Stephanie, John and Alicia - GPPSS alumni and business, community and philanthropic leaders in Grosse Pointe and beyond. The proceeds from the event will benefit *The Leader in Me* and many other exemplary grants for students at every age and level in the Grosse Pointe Public School System.

Tickets to the Gala begin at \$175 per person. There are three ways to purchase tickets to the Gala or make a donation. Return the RSVP card from your mailed invitation, visit [gpfpe.org](http://gpfpe.org), or call our office at 313-432-3058.



# A Letter From Our President

We're delighted to be able to share more about all that's been going on with the GPFPE. In this edition we are thrilled to recognize the many community members who have supported us during 2017. Thanks to you, we've been able to make a major impact at each of our schools throughout the district. If you're interested in supporting *The Leader in Me* program, we think you'll really enjoy seeing a glimpse of it in action at Ferry Elementary. You also might enjoy reading more about some of the recent grants we've made at the middle and high school levels. Last, but certainly not least, be sure and mark your calendar for our upcoming Spring Gala.

This edition of "The Torch" also marks the end of an era. We are deeply saddened by the passing of GPFPE Board Member, Lois Warden, who has been a part of our organization since its start. Lois' dedication to enhancing the educational experience of children throughout our district was truly unparalleled. To say she will be missed is an understatement.

On behalf of our Board of Trustees, thank you for your continued support and encouragement and for helping us in Enriching, Engaging, Inspiring our Future.

Sincerely,  
Bob Bury

## A Tribute to Lois Warden

On December 21, 2017, the world lost a true force of nature. GPFPE Board Member, Lois Warden, passed away peacefully with her family and friends by her side. Lois dedicated her life to making the world a better place. She cared deeply about the community and helping others and when Lois saw a need, she filled it. Her persistence, tremendous leadership skills, and passion enabled her to bring people together to make a difference. Whether it was through her work and commitment to The Greening of Detroit, the Grosse Pointe Garden Club, Services for Older Citizens, The Detroit Historical Society, The Detroit

Zoo, or the Moross Greenway Project, Lois did truly amazing things for our community. Her tenure on the GPFPE board was no exception. As a founding member, Lois helped the GPFPE grow and evolve into the organization we are today. Her dedication to the students of our district was remarkable!

To that end, the GPFPE has established the Lois J. Warden Fund in honor of Lois' steadfast dedication to the education and growth of young children and the schools they attend. This fund will help continue her work in perpetuity. In concert with her family's wishes, the grant committee of the GPFPE will annually review and recommend programs for elementary

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Photo courtesy of Agnes Domanska

students and their schools to be funded from monies received. Donors to the fund will be recognized individually and collectively.

# Ferry Elementary School -Leader in Me at Lunchtime

**F**erry Elementary School students are in their second year of *The Leader In Me*, based on Stephen Covey's "7 Habits of Highly Effective People". Funded by the GPFPE, *The Leader In Me* is a whole school transformational model that allows educators to unleash students' full potential based on the idea that every child can be a leader.

Twice a month, many Ferry students meet at lunchtime to plan activities, events, and ways to make their community a better place. In Ms. Flanagan's classroom, Lighthouse Leaders from every grade have been working on posters for the Kindness Challenge. Earlier in the month they distributed bags with lists of hygiene items needed for "Kindness Care Kits for Crossroads" (a social service agency in Detroit).

The Lighthouse Leaders also prepare for the upcoming Townhall Meeting assembly for the entire school. This month, the third grade will be sharing Put First Things First success stories - Habit 3.

In Mrs. Lassiter's classroom, The Nature Club meets to make posters of animals that live in their nature center. Other lunchtime projects include a Nature Center Scavenger Hunt, identifying animals that live in the nature center, partner research on the nature center using computers and library books, and making videos of animal research for the morning announcements. When the weather warms up, they will be enhancing an area with new plantings,



wood chips and a Sharpen the Saw sign - Habit 7.

In Ms. Walkley's Special Needs classrooms, students have experienced great success with *The Leader in Me* both inside and outside the classroom. Every day they discuss the habits that impact their lives. Likewise, Ferry students in other classes have had the opportunity to spend time with Ms. Walkley's students in NESTS (small groups from all grades and classes), and getting to know their special classmates using Habit 5, *Seek First To Understand, Then To Be Understood*.

## What Are Your Favorite "Habits"?

### Ferry Students:

*"Be Proactive* – I wake up an hour early now because I need quiet time before school to think about my math facts."

*"Put First Things First* –In Nature Club we plan before we execute our projects."

*"Synergize* – My friend is a better 'drawer' and I am better at 'coloring in'. So, she draws the posters and I color them.

### Ferry Teacher:

"On a professional level, *The Leader In Me* has given a common verbiage to our community. Be it with colleagues or students a simple phrase like "Put First Things First" can bring us all back to the task at hand when we live in a busy world where it is so easy to get sidetracked. The *The Leader In Me* philosophy and strategies have made my days more productive, successful and satisfying."

# GPFPE Middle School Grant – Gizmos

The “Explore Learning Gizmo Subscription Renewal” grant was awarded by the GPFPE to all three GPPSS middle schools in the Spring 2017 grant cycle. Gizmos, an online library of interactive math and science simulations, feature inquiry-based lessons that are ready to use or customize, assessments with instant feedback for both students and teachers, and correlations to the latest Michigan academic standards. Gizmos can be used for personalized, small group, or whole group instruction. Gizmos simulations are most often used with Chromebooks in the classroom - but can be used on smart devices or logged into from home computers.

At Brownell, Mark Sonnenberg, who submitted this renewal grant on behalf of all three Grosse Pointe middle schools, is currently working with his 7th grade honors science students on mutation and selection. Gizmos allows Mr. Sonnenberg to bring science concepts to life from different angles. Brownell students use Gizmos to make predictions on phenotypes and genotypes in the rat family. Mr. Sonnenberg likes Gizmos because they are easy to edit and have a library of lessons that continues to grow. He appreciates the fact that educators developed the simulations using methodology that works.



Mark Sonnenberg, Science Department Chair and 7th grade Honors Science teacher.

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*“I like the Gizmos because it gives me the opportunity to test prior knowledge and help me understand what I know.” – Bridget*

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# Allow Students to Engage with Science

**A**t Pierce, Bill Thompson's 7th grade science class is currently studying osmosis using the Gizmos subscription on Chromebooks. Mr. Thompson likes Gizmos for many reasons, including the opportunity for immediate feedback, and the practice it gives students prior to the M-Step assessment that will be given via computer this year.

*"Learning with Gizmos is great because we can manipulate information on the computer to learn concepts in science."*

*– Pierce 7th Grader*



Bill Thompson – 7th grade Honors Science teacher.



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*Enriching, Engaging,  
Inspiring Our Future*

*Photos courtesy of Lisa Vreede.*



# GPFPE

Grosse Pointe Foundation  
for Public Education

**The Grosse Pointe Foundation for Public Education  
brings our community together to fund extraordinary  
educational opportunities for our children.**

#### **Our Guiding Values**

We strive to demonstrate the following in all that we do:

**Collaboration:** We search out and develop partnerships to better serve our students and community.

**Responsibility:** We pledge to be accountable to our partners, donors, volunteers and the students we serve.

**Innovation:** We strive to be forward thinking and inclusive.

**Impact:** We enhance our school system, our greater community and as a result, our world.

**Empowerment:** We fund programs that help each student realize his or her full potential.