

**Dr. Charles Barnum Elementary School**  
**April 1, 2021**



**From the principal:**

*Thank you for your flexibility this week with the school schedule. I know there is a lot that you have to put into your planning to make it work. It was nice to have all grade levels back in the building this week.*

*Report cards are available through Power School as of today, April 1st. Just a reminder that you need to use Chrome as your browser and you must be on a desk or laptop computer to view them. If you do not have a parent PowerSchool account, please email Mrs. Wallis at: [rwallis@groton.k12.ct.us](mailto:rwallis@groton.k12.ct.us).*

*There is no school tomorrow and Easter is on Sunday. Enjoy the long weekend with your family. If you have any questions, please send me an email.*

*Seth Danner, Principal*  
[sdanner@groton.k12.ct.us](mailto:sdanner@groton.k12.ct.us)

**Principal of the Day**

Patrick Flynn  
~ Compassion ~



*Patrick's favorite food is a vanilla cake. He also enjoys books about World War II, the game Fortnite and playing with Legos. When Patrick is not doing one of these fun things, he is helping out by folding clothes. One day, Patrick would like to travel to Asia because in the movies, they have really good looking food. Patrick's hero is his dad because 'My dad is in the army'. Patrick's message for today is: "Good morning students. I will give you a day off tomorrow!"*

**April - Month of the Military Child**

Here are the weekly activities that students will be involved in to celebrate military children:

**March 29 - April 1:** Purple Up CB Fence Project

**April 5 - April 6:** Anchored for Life Purple Up letters to Central Office administrators

**April 12 - April 16:** Spring Break!

**April 19 - April 23:** School wide book reading & special project

**\*\* Thursday, April 22nd is Purple Up Day. Wear Purple to celebrate military children!**

**Family Discussion Starters!**

- What are some ways beyond art, music, etc. that people can be **creative**?

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ❖ **Apr. 1: Reports Cards**  
Available in PowerSchool
- ❖ **Apr. 2: No School** - Good Friday
- ❖ **Apr. 7-8: Conferences**  
Virtual Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ❖ **Apr. 7-9: Early Dismissal**  
(1/2 days for In-Person & Virtual; dismissal is at 1:12 pm)
- ❖ **Apr. 12-16:** Spring Break!



Groton Public Schools will be illuminated in blue on April 2nd to help raise awareness and in support of Autism.

*"To live a creative life we must lose our fear of being wrong." - Joseph Chilton Pearce*

## **Parent/Teacher Virtual Conferences**

**Wednesday, April 8th & Thursday, April 9th  
15 minutes only!**

**The zoom link for your conference can be found  
on Sign-up Genius next to your selected time.**

**If you have not signed up for your conference, copy & paste the link below.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/tabs/5317ED90FA3CEE5C53-fallconferences>

**You can also find the link on the Charles Barnum Website.**

### **ELEMENTARY MAGNET SCHOOLS**

*\*If you would like your child to remain at Charles Barnum, you do not need to complete the lottery application.*

**The GPS District is excited to announce that they Elementary Magnet School Application for the 21-22 School Year is now available on the Groton Public Schools website at [www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools](http://www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools).**

**We encourage all Groton students entering grades K-5 in September to learn more about each of our schools, including our two new schools opening in September, Mystic River Play & Ingenuity Magnet and Thames River Environmental & Marine Science Magnet. Those interested in attending a school other than their neighborhood zoned school may apply between now and April 16, 2021.**

**Susan L. Austin,  
Superintendent of Groton Public Schools**

Here are some additional sites you can visit for more information:

Magnet themes: [www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools/schools](http://www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools/schools).

FAQs: [www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools/faqs](http://www.grotonschoools.org/teachinglearning/magnet-schools/faqs)

School Locator: <https://mminc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapJournal/index.html?appid=bb78bda774aa409ea4dddb8dcb3982bb>

**To complete the application, you will need to create a user account. This one account can be used for multiple children and will allow you to modify your application before the deadline of 4/16/21 if needed.**

### **Barnum's Super Power for April: Creativity**

#### **Big Ideas to Help Spark Your Creativity:**

- **Creativity** is not just an artist's tool: it's available and helpful to us all.
- **Creativity is a process.** Let all your ideas flow, even if they look or sound messy.
- Go outside. Move your body. Explore what is around you. **Inspiration is everywhere.**
- Team up with others. **Sharing ideas** helps lead to even better ones. .

*"To live a creative life we must lose our fear of being wrong." - Joseph Chilton Pearce*



## Come feed Harold the Hippo!

Who: All classes at CB. The class that donates the most canned goods will be featured in our school newsletter AND earn extra recess!

What: Feed Harold canned goods by rolling them into his mouth!

Where: Classes will sign up to take turns feeding Harold the hippo right in their own classroom!

When: April 8th & 9th (Thursday and Friday)

Why: All canned goods will be donated to *Groton Human Services* to help Groton families!







# GROTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATION OFFICES

P.O. Box K, Groton, Connecticut 06340 • 1300 Flanders Road, Mystic, Connecticut 06355  
PHONE (860) 572-2100 • FAX (860) 572-2107

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March 30, 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian:

I am writing to inform you that the Connecticut state-wide tests will be administered to all students in grades 3-8, and in grade 11 in May and June. Connecticut has adopted challenging academic standards, including the Connecticut Core Standards in mathematics and English language arts, as well as the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Since there was no assessment last spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we aren't able to compare this year's data to last year.

The state assessment plan is one way that educators in Connecticut can measure student performance, determine strengths and challenges, and inform their instruction. State summative assessments are like academic checkups. These assessments help teachers and parents see students' academic growth from year to year, in a typical year. The results can reveal areas where students excel and where they need support. The state requires assessments in the subject areas of English language arts and mathematics using the Smarter Balanced Assessment at the elementary and middle school levels (grades 3-8) and in grade 11 using the SAT, which can also be used as a college entrance exam. The state also requires assessments in science in grades 5, 8 and 11, using the NGSS standards.

The Smarter Balanced and NGSS Assessments are both administered on computers. Computer testing enables assessment of more complex skills efficiently. The assessments are designed to measure skills in reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and real-world science using questions that require students to demonstrate that they truly understand the content. Additional supports are available for students with special needs, as determined by an individualized education program (IEP) or for students with a 504 Plan.

Please refer to your child's school webpage to view the exact testing dates/times. We need all students to take the SBAC in-person.

To find resources specifically for parents and guardians, including ways to help your child with the CT Core Standards at home, please visit [www.ctcorestandards.org](http://www.ctcorestandards.org) or <https://www.nextgenscience.org/parentguides>.

As always, we ask for your assistance as we encourage our students to do their best. It is important that they come to school well rested and ready to perform optimally. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your student's building Principal or Assistant Principal.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Sincerely,

Susan L. Austin  
Superintendent of Schools