



Superintendent's Newsletter

Jay Cummings
Superintendent

March 22, 2019

A Lost Girl's Diary

A year ago, the Grafton community lost a wonderful young woman in Alexandra Valoras. Alexandra and her personal struggles were memorialized in an impactful piece by CBS news this past week <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/a-lost-girls-diary-alexandra-valoras/>. The Valoras family has done tremendous work in shining a light on the need for community awareness, communication, and connection in an effort to better address the growing reality of suicide. As cited by CBS, teen suicide is now at a 40-year high for young women and is the second-leading cause of death for 15- to 24-year-olds of both sexes.

Resources for awareness and actions related to this incredibly complex and challenging topic can be accessed through the following links:

[Suicide Prevention, Children Ages 10 to 19 Years](#)

[Suicidal behavior in children and adolescents](#)

[Warning Signs of Suicide in Children and Teens](#)

[Suicide and suicidal thoughts](#)

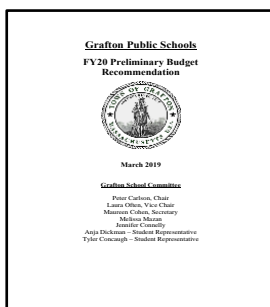
[Talking with kids about suicide](#)

[Teens & suicide: what parents should know](#)

If you have any questions regarding resources or supports, please contact Patty Ciampi, GHS adjustment counselor, at ciampip@grafton.k12.ma.us.

If you are in crisis, please call the [National Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#) at [1-800-273-TALK \(8255\)](tel:1-800-273-TALK(8255)), or contact the [Crisis Text Line](#) by texting TALK to [741741](tel:741741).

FY20 Preliminary School Department Budget



The preliminary FY20 school department budget is available via the Grafton Public Schools website at: graftonps.org/budget

We welcome questions! Please email budget@grafton.k12.ma.us or cummingsj@grafton.k12.ma.us with any questions you may have.

Summer Enrichment Programming

One of our strategic plan goals includes the extension of learning experiences beyond the standard school day. We are thrilled to announce the **2019 Summer Season of Learning!** This enrichment program offers learning opportunities that extend beyond the scope of our grade-level curricula. Topics include science, math, technology, literacy, and more. There is something for everyone!

Classes will be taught by Grafton Public Schools professional. We welcome students **entering** Kindergarten through grade 12 to participate. The program is designed to be self-sustaining: neither the town nor the school budget will fund the program. Rather, parents will pay a user fee of \$75.00 per half-day session.

2019 Program Schedule:

Week 1: Monday, July 15th - Thursday, July 18th
Week 2: Monday, July 22nd - Thursday, July 25th
Week 3: Monday, July 29th - Thursday, August 1st
Week 4: Monday, August 5th - Thursday, August 8th

Session Times:

AM Session: 8:15am - 11:15am
PM Session: 11:45am - 2:45pm

The link to the Summer of Learning Enrichment Program Guide (on the GPS website) is below:

<https://www.graftonps.org/enrichment>

Please send any questions to enrichment@grafton.k12.ma.us

Grafton Middle School is Looking for Career Day Presenters!

On Wednesday, May 29, 2019, from 12:15 pm - 1:45 pm, Grafton Middle School is organizing an afternoon for our GMS Eighth Graders to learn about a variety of careers. We are seeking parents/community members from a variety of fields to share a description of their job with a group/class of students and answer questions. There will be 2-3 sessions, and each session will last 20 minutes. Thank you for your time. If interested, please respond to the GMS School Advisory Council through the following link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/T2SCK6B>

Everyday Heroes

Each May, the Grafton SEPAC is pleased to sponsor this prestigious award given to individuals who have made a significant contribution in enhancing the life of a student with special needs.



ANYONE in our community can nominate someone who goes “above and beyond” to support inclusion, ease daily transitions, keep the student safe, adapt the school curriculum, support their unique learning style or enhance the social aspect of a student with special needs. In the past ten years, bus drivers, teachers, cafeteria workers, paraprofessionals, specials teachers (media, art, P.E., music), those in support positions, students, and community employees have all been nominated.

Please follow the link below to get *your* nomination form with instructions. Let’s make our 11th year of Everyday Heroes the best yet!

[Click here for 2019 EDH Nomination Forms](#)

School Committee Update

The next School Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 26th. The committee meets in Conference Room F in the Municipal Center (second floor) at 7:00 pm. The agenda will include an update on the FY20 budget, information on the GHS G-Term, and a school report for Millbury Street Elementary School.

Upcoming Events

March 23	Bon Voyage Mattress Fundraiser at GHS
March 27	Janet Applefield - Holocaust Survivor, GMS, 12:30 pm
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April 4 - 7	Mamma Mia! Spring Musical at GHS
April 6	GMS Vendor Fair 10:00-2:00
April 12th	NGES Ed Camp
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May 4	Prom at DCU Center, 7:00-10:00 pm
May 8	GHS Scholarship Night, 7:00 pm at GHS
May 11	Fun Fair at NGES, 10:00-3:00
May 14	Everyday Heroes, 6:30 pm at GHS
May 16	GHS Art and Technology Night, 6:00 pm
May 16	GHS Spring Concert, 7:00 pm at GHS
May 17	½ Day Professional Development
May 17	Cabaret for a Cause, 7:00 pm at GHS
May 22-25	8th Grade trip to Washington, DC
May 22	National Honor Society Recognition Night, 6:30 pm
May 28	GHS Sports Night; 6:30 pm at GHS (change from previous posting)
May 29	Senior Class Trip
May 30	GHS Class Night, 6:30 pm at GHS
May 31	GHS Class of 2019 Graduation, 6:00 pm at GHS
May 31	Senior Bon Voyage Party - 10:00 pm at GHS
June 6-11	G Term at GHS

Grafton High School Athletics - <https://www.graftonps.org/Domain/599>

Community Bulletin Board

[Grafton Library Presents Jungle Jim Ballooniverse of Stories on April 16th](#)
[Apple Tree Arts Presents Seussical Kids! on March 22 and 23, 2019](#)
[Female BSA Troop Meetings on Monday evenings - Visitors Welcome!](#)
[Massachusetts State Police Museum STEM programs for April Vacation - grades K-8](#)
[Story Time with a Trooper - 2nd Tuesday of the month starting April 9](#)
[Introduction to Crime Scene Investigation - Grades 9-12, April Vacation](#)
[GMS 3rd Annual Vendor Craft Fair - April 6, 9:00-2:00pm](#)
[Grafton Recreation April Vacation Program Flyer](#)
[Someone Special Dance - Friday, April 12, 2019](#)
[Apple Tree Arts Acting Adventures - MSES, Starting March 18](#)

These Community Bulletin Board materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the School Committee of the Grafton Public Schools, the superintendent or any of our individual schools.

Sincerely, -Jay