



GHS HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS
Tuesday, November 6, 2018
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(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

School is now in full swing! Homecoming Week was a success filled with fun activities, senior dress up day, ending with the Homecoming dance and a win for the GHS Homecoming Game! Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and we had to cancel the parade but that didn't dampen our school spirit here at GHS!

Each month, the PTA and I send you news and updates from GHS in the form of this electronic newsletter. We are committing to sending this newsletter in both English and Spanish. Please allow a day or two for the Spanish translation (to be posted on the website). The newsletter will always be posted on our News and [Social Media](#) page found under the GHS Information tab on the GHS website.

Our goal is to keep you informed with the news that you need without burdening you with a lengthy publication. If there is timely news or emergency information, I will communicate that separately through email or a phone message. You can also stay abreast of news at GHS via our Twitter accounts ([@GHSHeadmaster](#); [@GHS CARDS](#); [@GHS MediaCenter](#)). Communication through Twitter does NOT replace other information (no need to worry if you don't have Twitter).

Thank you,
Richard Piotrkowski, GHS Interim Headmaster

INFORMATION/UPCOMING EVENTS TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR:

NEW! security information for Parents and Visitors to GHS

All visitors to GHS will now have their driver's license scanned in a system called "RAPTOR". This system checks the individual for criminal warrants, outstanding court orders that involve injury to children, and scans the national database of sex-offenders. Once cleared through the system visitors are given a pass to be worn that portrays their picture and the location in the school being visited. Please, when checking in make sure to have your driver's license and license plate number available.

Roots& Shoots

The 8th Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive and Penny Wars fundraiser House competitions start **Monday, November 5th and run through Friday, November 16th at 3:15 pm. The meal basket Delivery Day is after school on Monday, November 19th.** As we have in the past, to help those less fortunate than ourselves, the GHS Roots & Shoots Club has set a goal to collect food donations and raise enough money to provide full Thanksgiving meal baskets to over **150 families** in our Greenwich community. Money raised from the Penny Wars fundraiser competition will help pay for fresh turkeys, butter, fruits, and vegetables. **Delivery Day Information:** Meal basket deliveries will be made after school on Monday, November 19th (meeting at the South Loading Dock at 3:30 pm, subject to change). **Want to help?** If you or anyone you know who would like to help with this incredible endeavor, please send them our way! The GHS Roots & Shoots Club meets after school on Thursdays in Room 529. Community Service hours for students will be provided. We always need help wrapping and decorating delivery boxes, counting/sorting/inventory of food, which can be done during the week of November 12th. The most help will be needed after school on Friday, November 16th and on Delivery Day on November 19th.

Join Unified Sports and Hand in Hand!

Unified Sports and Hand in Hand are two school-based programs designed to foster a positive and inclusive foundation among special and general education students. Unified Sports is held on Saturdays (schedule to be determined) and offers three sports throughout the year: indoor soccer, basketball, and track and field. Hand in Hand will be held on Mondays from 2:45-3:45 p.m. in room 623. If you would like to receive more information about either program or be added to the email lists, please contact **Erin Randall at erin_randall@greenwich.k12.ct.us**

In partnership with the GHS Unified Sports Program, the GHS Cheerleading Program will be offering a Unified Cheerleading Team for the very first time during this 2018-2019 school year. The goal of Unified Cheerleading at Greenwich High School is to offer a positive, inclusive foundation for athletic and social interaction between special education and general education students in the school and community. The unified athletes will consist of all interested special education students, and their partners will be current members of the GHS Cheerleading Teams.

The season will run from mid November 2018 through mid March 2019 and include the following:

- 1 one-hour practice per week
- 2 appearances at GHS Home Basketball Games
- 2 performances at the FCIAC (2/2/2019) and State (3/9/2019) Cheerleading Competitions

All interested athletes and their families can join us for an informational meeting on Tuesday, November 14th, 5:30pm in the GHS Gymnasium. If you have any questions before the informational meeting, please do not hesitate to reach out to me via email erin_montague@greenwich.k12.ct.us, GHS Cheerleading Coach.

NAMES DAY

Names Can Really Hurt Us is a day-long workshop for the freshman class, co-sponsored by GHS and the Connecticut chapter of the Anti-Defamation League. This year's Names Program will take place on Tuesday, November 20th. It will be the 19th Names Day at GHS!

Interested in Learning More About Innovation Lab for Next Year?

GHS Innovation Lab blends disciplines to create STEM (Science and Math) and Humanities (History and English) for a rigorous, interdisciplinary, project-based approach to the core academics while meeting the standards for each department. Students develop the skills and content knowledge they require by connecting the learning across subjects and participating in public exhibitions of learning. Our exhibition at the Bruce Museum on February 6 from 6:30-8:30pm is open to the public.

Join us for a Parent/Student information session on any of the following dates and times:

- **Wednesday, December 12 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Thursday, January 10 6:00-7:30pm**
- **Tuesday, January 15 6:00-7:30pm**

Information sessions will begin in Lower Cantor Room 500 and will include a tour of our classrooms, an explanation of the program, and a Q&A with faculty and current students.

Go to <https://ghsinnovationlab.com> for more information as well as updates about our program and its students! Questions? Please email the Innovation Lab faculty at ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us

Headmaster Forums:

Headmaster Forums are relatively small gatherings (20-40 parents) with the GHS Headmaster. The topics for discussion are largely determined by the parents in attendance. All Headmaster Forums will be held in the evening starting at 7:00PM in the Media Center. The next Headmaster Forum for all GHS parents is Monday, November 12th.

Student Activities office:

Compass Yearbooks: The 2019 yearbook and Senior Ads may be purchased online at yearbookforever.com. Senior Ads are due by December 14, 2018. The deadline for the "early bird" yearbook price of \$55 is December 31, 2018 prices go up to \$65 on January 1st. **The 2019 Compass Yearbook is selling out fast! If you want a guarantee that your student will have a copy please order by December 31st!**

Student IDs: All students must carry their ID and schedules. Replacement IDs can be purchased in Student Activities for \$5.

School Store: School Store is opened every day from 7:15-2:30. Come to purchase your Cardinal gear and school supplies!

For all Student Activities information please go to the website grewnichschools.org/ghs and click on the student activities web page.

Athletic Office

REGISTRATION FOR ALL WINTER SPORTS IS OPEN!

WINTER STARTING DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

November 19: Bowling, Girls Ice Hockey

November 26: Girls Basketball, Boys Ice Hockey, Boys Skiing, Girls Skiing, Wrestling

November 29: Boys Basketball, Boys Fencing, Girls Fencing, Gymnastics, Boys Indoor Track, Girls Indoor Track, Boys Swimming and Diving

Please be reminded in order to participate:

- A student-athlete must be registered online on the GHS Athletic Website by a parent/guardian
- The Greenwich High School Health Office must stamp and sign a health verification (green) card to certify a current athletic physical examination is on file

Contact our webmaster at ghsathleticswebmaster@gmail.com with any questions or concerns.

Library Media Center:

Check out the [October Cardinal Bookmark](#) for information regarding the 2018 mock election at GHS, GRT author visit, and links to a couple of interesting articles.

This Wednesday, November 7, *Code Girls* author Liza Mundy will speak to students and faculty in the GHS performing Arts Center from 11:24 a.m. to 12:19 p.m. We have seats available for parents to attend Ms. Mundy's presentation, so please registered via this [GHS Author Talk Registration Form](#) by Monday, November 5 if you would like to join us. We will send a confirmation e-mail on Tuesday.

Ms. Mundy will also speak at Greenwich Library the evening of November 7 but that event is already sold out so we wanted to provide you with an opportunity to see her during her visit to Greenwich.

GHS Dress Code

We ask parents to help students make wise decisions about the clothing they wear to school. As stated in our Parent Handbook: *Dress Code Students should dress within reasonable limits so that their dress does not jeopardize the health or safety of the wearers or others, or cause distraction or disruption of the educational process as determined by the administration. (Clothing which advertises drugs or alcohol is inappropriate for school wear.) GHS reserves the right to determine what constitutes dress that is disruptive to the educational climate or process. Footwear and shirts must be worn at all times. Clothing should be neat and clean. Teachers may ask students to remove their hats during class time.*

Anonymous Alerts

Anonymous Alerts allows students or parents to anonymously submit any sensitive or urgent student issues quickly to school officials. Students or parents can submit reports such as bullying, cyberbullying, depression, dating violence, drug or alcohol use, threats against the school, weapons on campus and more. All messages submitted remain completely anonymous. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NEW: 2018-2019 Student Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

Parent Drop Off - Following the same pattern as last year, parent drop off before school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and drop off students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic. For obvious safety reasons, parents should not drop students off in the street, in neighbors' driveways, or in other entrances to GHS. For your convenience, students may be dropped off at 7:15. They will be minimally supervised until security and other school personnel arrive at 8:00.

Parent Pick Up - Following the same pattern as last year, parent pick up after school will be in the BACK of the school. Parents will be directed to enter GHS through the main entrance, drive behind the building and pick up students by the gym. Greenwich Police will assist us in directing traffic.

UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

Please get out and vote! There are many important local elections and your vote is your voice. Voter turnout will be a critical deciding factor for our local positions in this off-year election.

Paint the Museum Red was a tremendous success! Thanks to the generosity of the attendees and donors, the PTA has raised funds to support student enrichment throughout the year. Also, thank you to our Co-Chairs: Leila Horn and Leslee Spadone! If you attended and went home with the wrong ladies black coat or left one there, please email us at ghspta@ghspta.org.



Thank you for your support!

Anne Pfetsch & Maureen Bonanno
GHS PTA Co-Presidents

PTA General Meeting & "The College Process" Panel Discussion

Please join us at our next General Membership Meeting on **Thursday, November 8th** in the GHS Media Center Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 at 9:30am. The meeting will feature *"The College Process; What Every Parent Should Know About Applying to College"*; a panel presentation led by GHS Guidance Staff. Learn about creating a college list, standardized testing and the ACT vs. the SAT, the timeline of tasks to prepare for applying, and an overview of all of the resources available at GHS. Come with questions! If you cannot make the meeting, don't worry, it will be videotaped and on the GHS website a few days after the meeting.

Please arrive extra early (9am). GHS has a NEW security system, RAPTOR, which takes a few minutes to process first time visitors. You will need your driver's license and your license plate number.

Remember to park in a spot marked with a "V" or an unmarked spot. "S" is for Student and you will get a ticket if you park in an "S" spot.

Greenwich Alliance for Education's 8th Annual Turkey Trot 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk

Greenwich Alliance for Education's 8th Annual Turkey Trot 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk is **Saturday, November 24, 2018**. Support GHS by registering for the Turkey Trot to help us win a \$500 gift card for having the greatest participation. (Make sure to indicate our school in the drop down menu.) The Alliance funds innovation, expands opportunities, and inspires our educators through grant funding and programs for Greenwich public school students. Register by November 14th to guarantee a t-shirt at www.greenwichalliance.org. If you would like to volunteer at the event, please email turkeytrotvolunteers2018@gmail.com. Volunteers are need on Friday 11/23 afternoon and Saturday 11/24 morning. All student volunteers will receive certificates for community service hours.

Missed Picking up PTA Membership Incentives?

If you missed the PTA membership table during Open House, incentives can be picked up in the Student Activities office. If you joined at or above the \$250 level, please email Membership@ghspta.org to arrange pick up.

Picked Up the Wrong Coat at Paint the Museum Red?

Please check your closet. Someone went home with the wrong ladies black coat from the PTA Benefit on October 19th. If you have the wrong coat, please contact ghspta@ghspta.org

2019 Graduation Party

A memorable highlight of your senior's graduation celebration is the GHS Senior Graduation Party. The GHS Graduation Party is hosted by Greenwich High School and funded exclusively through donations. The GHS PTA coordinates all vendors, volunteers and prize donations. The party is held graduation night from 10pm - 2am and draws around 75% of the 697 graduates. Our fundraising goal to run this party is \$28,000. Please consider giving as generously as you can online via [MySchoolBucks](#) or by [mail](#).

The GHS PTA Presents: Teen Vaping Panel

Mark your calendars for January 31, 7-8:30pm, GHS Media Center Rooms 1&2. Join us for the GHS PTA Evening General Meeting and Workshop featuring the timely topic of Teen Vaping. Our panel will feature speakers, Dr. Sygall from Greenwich Hospital, Dennis Bludnicki from Liberation House and GHS Dean of Students, Lorraine Termini.

Need a Helping Hand? Hire a GHS Student

Need a babysitter, gift wrapper, tutor, eldercare, home help, tech assistance, sales help, or office help? Is your student looking for some full or part-time work, or perhaps a community service opportunity? Click [HERE](#) for more information on the PTA sponsored and operated Student Employment Service (SES). It's also quick and easy to register a job opportunity. Please list with SES as we are always in need of jobs! SES is located in the GHS Media Center and is available on regular school days from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm

AmazonSmile

Please consider supporting the GHS PTA throughout the year by linking your Amazon account to AmazonSmile! It is easy to do and once set up, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the GHS PTA, when you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com). All you need to do is Select PTSA Connecticut Inc Greenwich High as your charity, and shop away! Please email treasurer@ghspta.org for more information.

Looking Ahead

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- **Election Day SCHOOLS CLOSED** - November 6
- **PTA Meeting featuring "The College Process"** - November 8 at 9:30am Media Center
- **Headmaster Forum** - November 12 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2

- **Early Release** - November 21
- **Thanksgiving Recess - Schools Closed** November 22 - 23
- **Headmaster Forum** - December 3 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **Holiday Recess - Schools Closed** December 24 and will resume January 2
- **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Schools Closed** January 21
- **SummerFare** - January 23, 6-8pm Student Center (snow date January 24)
- **Headmaster Forum** - January 28 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **PLD Schools Closed** - January 30

Additional dates are available on the full School Calendar by clicking [HERE](#).