



GHS HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS
Tuesday, December 4, 2018
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(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)

UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you peace and happiness in the New Year. Have a wonderful holiday season and enjoy the break!

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.

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, December 10th. Judy Nedell, Director of Guidance, will be a guest speaker.

School Improvement Plan:

The 2018-2019 [GHS School Improvement Plan](#) is available. Current and past plans are available on the [GHS Website](#).

Student Activities office:

Compass Yearbooks: NEARLY SOLD OUT! If you would like a copy for your student we strongly urge you to place your order by December 15th.

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 greenwichschools.org/ghs and click on the student activities web page.

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

Guidance Department/School Counseling Program:

Save the Date! Juniors and their parents have two options to attend the very important "College Kick Off" meeting to begin their formal post high school planning process: Tuesday January 3rd OR Tuesday January 8th, 7pm in the GHS PAC. Students will receive their Class of 2020 planning folder at this meeting. The School Counselors will present information to help you with planning, research and decision making. Attending one of these meetings will also ensure that each student is prepared to make the most of their individual planning meeting with their school counselor, which can be scheduled by contacting your Guidance Assistant: Bella - Angela Carino 625-8089, Clark - Judy Massi 625-8079, Cantor - Giovanna Vernuccio 863-8846, Folsom - Patricia Contreras 625-8055, Sheldon - Patricia Waurishuk 625-8066.

Save the Date! The next Hispanic Parent Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday December 4th, 7pm in the GHS Media Center. Luis Rivera, School Counselor, will present information about the College Research and Application Process.

PSAT Score Results will be made available to students the week of December 10th on the College Board website. Students will receive an email from the College Board when they are available. Emails have been (and will be) sent to students and parents to provide them with additional details.

Library Media Center:

Check out the [November Cardinal Bookmark](#) for information regarding staffing changes in the GHS Library, 2018 best books for teens, *Code Girls* author Liza Mundy's author talk in the GHS PAC, and a few interesting articles.

GHS Theater Department

Greenwich High School Theater Arts will present the *Pajama Game* on Wednesday December 12, Thursday December 13, Friday December 14 and Saturday December 15, 2018 at 4:30 and 7:30 pm in the Greenwich High School Black Box Theater. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased during lunch blocks in the student center, at the door or [reserved online](#)

From Outreach/CODA/Stressless Club:

Happy Holidays... the season of giving is upon us! The GHS Outreach Club, CODA Club, and StressLess Club have organized a **GHS Clothing/ Textile Drive from Mon. Nov. 26 - Fri. Dec. 21**. All donations collected will be reused, refurbished and recycled to raise money for [the Harris Project](#), and programs centered around teen substance misuse and mental health challenges. A green donation bin is located in the GHS front glass corridor and in the back gym parking lot, as well as at Arch Street Teen Center. Please share the attached flyer, and [PSA video](#) with your family and friends. The more we collect, the more we raise!! Together we can make a difference to end the stigma of addiction and mental health challenges, and create a community of caring!

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,

We had a great turnout for our GHS PTA membership meeting on Thursday, November 8th. A video of the panel discussion "*What Every Parent Should Know About Applying to College*," along with links to the handouts, has been posted on the [Parent Resources webpage](#) for those of you who were not able to attend.

Your PTA has enjoyed a great year so far with a successful fundraiser and parent socializer, *Paint the Museum Red*, informative PTA meetings and supportive funding for Curriculum Enrichment. Our 2019 PTA programming continues on January 31st with an evening discussion on Teen Vaping.

We hope your holidays are filled with peace and joy surrounded by loved ones.

Anne Pfetsch & Maureen Bonanno
GHS PTA Co-Presidents
ghspta@ghspta.org

Teen Vaping Epidemic: What Every Parent Needs to Know

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 *Life Hacks for a Healthier Teen Series* featuring the timely topic of Teen Vaping. Our expert panel will feature speakers, Dr. Sygall from Greenwich Hospital, Dennis Bludnicki from Liberation House, and GHS Dean of Students, Lorraine Termini. We've heard many parents asking: Is teen vaping really an epidemic? How do e-cigarettes work? What is in e-cigarettes and what is in the e-cig aerosol? How do I know if my teen is vaping? How do I talk to my teen about vaping? What can I do to prevent my child from vaping? How can I help them stop?

SummerFare 2019

The Greenwich High School PTA will be hosting SummerFare 2019 on Wednesday, January 23rd from 6:00 to 8:00 pm in the GHS Student Center. SummerFare is designed to provide families an opportunity to plan for summer. SummerFare is an evening for parents and children to meet representatives from many camps, programs and teen job employers including academic programs, sports camps, music, technology, outdoor adventure, travel abroad, performing and visual arts. **Free admission, open to the public and a chance to win a free set of Beats headphones.** Snow date is January 24th. For more information, please contact the committee chairs at SummerFare@ghspta.org

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

Distinguished Teacher Nominations Open

Please nominate a distinguished teacher! The Distinguished Teachers Awards Committee (DTAC) has launched the 2019 nomination process. Please visit the GPS website at www.greenwichschools.org/dta to download the Nomination packet or visit your school's main office. The deadline for all nominations is March 7, 2019, by 5 pm. Recipients of the 2018 award include Frank Kovac, GHS grade 9 through 12 social studies teacher; Eleanor Ritch, GHS grade 9 through 12 English teacher; and Meagan White, who covers pre-K through 12th grade instruction for hearing impaired students.

Attention Parents of Seniors!

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](#).

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? Go to ghs-ses.org 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:

- **Headmaster's Forum** - December 10 at 7 pm Meeting Room 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's 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](#).