



## **GHS HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS**

**Tuesday, January 8, 2019**

***Setting the standard for excellence in public education***  
**(203) 625-8000 [Click Here to go to GHS Website](#)**

### **UPDATES FROM GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER:**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Happy New Year! I would like take this opportunity to wish all students good luck on their midterm exams. We are pleased once again to bring in therapy dogs during the exams from 10am-11am. Students can stop in to room 615 and destress between exams with our furry friends.

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, January 28, 2019 . Ms. Lucy Arecco, Program Administrator for Social Studies and Ms. Brigid Barry, Program Administrator for English.

#### **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:** The yearbooks are almost sold out. The deadline to pre-order and guarantee a yearbook has now passed. They are now being sold on a first come first serve basis. To buy a yearbook go to [yearbookforever.com](#)

**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](http://greenwichschools.org/ghs) and click on the student activities web page.**

### **SRO 2019: Senior Class Annual Show:**

Senior Parents - SRO, the annual senior show, is coming up March 7, 8 & 9. We are busy planning for the show with a great team of 26 students who are serving in chair positions. We are hoping to have every senior involved in the show in some capacity. It is truly a rite of passage for GHS students, and anyone who doesn't get involved is missing out. Every year seniors remark on how they became so much closer to their class through SRO. If you've never seen the show, it involves students acting out skits, dancing, singing, and playing musical instruments. No talent is necessary, all seniors are welcome for the mass dances, which are easy to learn! If your senior has stage fright, we have behind the scenes opportunities as well - we need people to take on technical duties, work back stage, help with ticket sales, run a bake sale, and much more.

How can you help? Please encourage your senior to attend one of our informational meetings, where we will explain all of this. Meetings will be before and after school on Jan 7th and 8th. Before school meetings are at 8:10 in Rm 604 and after school meetings are at 3:20 in the Student Center. If you have questions about the show please contact Jen Lynch, SRO Adviser at [jennifer\\_lynch@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:jennifer_lynch@greenwich.k12.ct.us).

How else can parents be involved? Every year we hold a cast dinner on Friday night (March 8th) before the show. We will bring in food, probably pizza or Garden Catering, for the whole cast. We are hoping that parents will pitch in with cash donations to help defray the cost of the dinner. We also will accept donations of food and water to have for the cast during the shows. If you are interested in contributing please contact Debra Chauvin, Senior Class Adviser at [debra\\_chauvin@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:debra_chauvin@greenwich.k12.ct.us)

### **Library/Media Center News**

Check out the [December Cardinal Bookmark](#) for some great reading recommendations from GHS faculty!

**During mid-term exams, the GHS Library will be open from 7:45 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. each day for quiet study only.** Media Specialists will be available to assist with technology, resource, and research questions during that time. A member of the IT Department will be available from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 to 10:45 a.m. to assist with Chromebook problems.

In addition, Greenwich Library will extend its regular hours to 10:00 p.m. on January 14 through January 17 and to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 20 to accommodate students studying for med-term exams. Students are asked not to bring food into Greenwich Library (the library cafe is open until 7 pm).

### **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:

- **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](mailto:ghsinnovationlab@greenwich.k12.ct.us)

### **Guidance Department/School Counseling Program:**

#### **AP Exam Information**

Any student currently taking an Advanced Placement course at GHS must register online this month for the corresponding AP exam, given at GHS in May 2019. Taking the Advanced Placement exam is an important part of all AP courses. Scoring well on an AP exam can often earn students college credit for their high school class, saving time and/or tuition. Each AP exam costs \$98.00. Students requiring financial assistance should speak with their school counselor.

Online Exam registration BEGINS Mon, Jan 7, 2019 at 8:00 AM and ENDS Fri, Feb 1, 2019 at 9:00 PM. **Registrations and payments after Monday January 28th at 8:00 AM will incur a \$10 late fee per exam.** To register, click on the link provided on the Guidance website or visit [www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/070240](http://www.TotalRegistration.net/AP/070240)

To complete registration, students must answer all of the required questions. We know that parents may desire to register their students for exams. **We strongly recommend that parents and students are both present while registering to ensure that the correct exams are ordered.** Please be sure to have a credit card or debit card available before beginning registration. Paying online is more efficient, but you may mail in your payment as needed. Please contact Angela Early [angela\\_early@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:angela_early@greenwich.k12.ct.us) or Judith Nedell, [judith\\_nedell@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:judith_nedell@greenwich.k12.ct.us), if you would like to register for an AP exam not listed or have any questions.

#### **Financial Aid Workshop for Seniors and Parents:**

GHS Guidance is offering a meeting to seniors and their parents to **assist you with comparing college financial aid award letters and learning about local scholarships and student loans.** We've scheduled this **College Financial Aid presentation at GHS on Monday January 14th at 7pm in the GHS Media Center.** The application for the scholarships provided by the Greenwich Scholarship Association is now available at: [www.greenwichscholarship.org](http://www.greenwichscholarship.org) The application for the Greenwich High School Student Loan Fund is also available for your review, although you won't be able to apply until you know which college or university you are attending. <http://www.greenwichschools.org/greenwich-high-school/academics/guidance/college-process-post-high-school-transition-planning-senior-packet/financial-aid-info> In addition to discussing these two local programs, we will provide you with information to help you effectively compare financial aid award letters using the net price for each college or university.

#### **From Outreach, CODA, and StressLess Club:**

Thanks to your generous donations to our GHS Clothing and Textile Drive, we collected 4,044 pounds- well over our 3,000 pound goal! If you still have things you'd like to donate post the holiday season, a permanent green drop off bin is located at ARCH Street Teen Center. All proceeds will benefit the [the Harris Project](#) to educate about co-occurring disorders. One prevention program that will take place at GHS before the February break, is [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#). If your child is interested in getting trained, have him/ her email [Kathy\\_Steiner@greenwich.k12.ct.us](mailto:Kathy_Steiner@greenwich.k12.ct.us) for more information. Together, we can make a difference 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,

Happy New Year! We had a great first semester with record membership, and record participation at our PTA General Membership Meetings. We hope you can attend our next PTA General Membership Meeting which will include a special evening programming event on Teen Vaping on January 31st. Teen vaping use is reaching national epidemic proportions. We are bringing together a panel of professionals to talk about what is happening locally, and to empower our parents with knowledge. Please join us at GHS on January 31st at 7pm, Room 900 for an informative evening.

Your PTA has also purchased vaping detectors to be installed in some of the bathrooms at GHS. These Vaping Detectors have been installed at other schools with great success in discouraging vaping. We are also funding improvements for the Media Center: new chairs for the high top tables, more comfy chairs, end tables, and a charging station. A donation for the new Steinway piano for the PAC has also been made.

Thank you for all your support!

Best regards,  
Anne Pfetsch & Maureen Bonanno  
GHS PTA Co-Presidents  
[ghspta@ghspta.org](mailto:ghspta@ghspta.org)

#### **Teen Vaping Epidemic: What Every Parent Needs to Know**

Mark your calendars for **January 31, 6:45 - 8:30 pm**, GHS Media Center Rooms 1 & 2. Join us for the GHS PTA Evening General Membership Meeting at 6:45pm followed by our *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](mailto:SummerFare@ghspta.org)

### **Are You The Parent of A Junior?**

January is College Kick Off month at GHS. Links to our November PTA meeting program *What Every Parent Should Know About Applying to College*, along with links to the handouts, has been posted on the [Parent Resources webpage](#).

### **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](http://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, 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:treasurer@ghspta.org) for more information.

### **Looking Ahead**

Mark your calendars with these important dates:

- **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
- **PTA General Meeting** - January 31, Room 900 at 7pm
- **Winter Recess & President's Day** - February 12th-19th

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

