



GHS INTERIM HEADMASTER and PTA NEWS

Tuesday, May 7, 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,

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. 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.**

School Improvement Plan

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

GHS Outreach Club, StressLess Club and GEMS Explorer Post

Presentation for Parents & Teens: [How To Have a Safe and Legal Summer Break](#), Tuesday, May 7th, 6:30 pm, 125 Elm Street, New Canaan. Attorney Matthew Maddox will help students and parents understand their responsibilities related to possession of alcohol, possession of marijuana, and how to avoid trouble while being safe in the upcoming summer season.

InLab STEM Exhibition

The Innovation Lab grades 10 and 11 classes will be hosting a STEM exhibition in the newly revitalized Horticulture Room 903 at GHS on **Thursday, June 6th from 5pm - 7pm**. Please join us for a night of fun and futurology that includes food science, hydroponics, and space colonization!

Workshop for Sped Parents

Wednesday, May 15th 9:30 am, Mazza Room, Town Hall: The Special Education Support Committee is hosting a workshop by Dr. Daniel Villiers from the Anxiety Institute to discuss family impact and parenting strategies for anxiety. All are welcome.

Towel and Toiletry Drive for Pacific House Homeless Shelter

From April 29th to May 10th the Help for the Homeless and Roots & Shoots Clubs will be hosting a towel and toiletry drive to benefit the Pacific House Homeless Shelter in Stamford, CT. Please consider donating any new or gently used (washed & clean) towels and unopened bars of soap and shampoo. Donated items should be put in a bag and placed in the boxes marked by House (these boxes will be outside of every House office). Our goal is to collect 250 gently used towels - that's 50 towels per House!

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Jessica Keller (Help for the Homeless Advisor, Clark House) or Kathy Mendez (Roots&Shoots Advisor, Cantor House).

Library News

Check out the [April Cardinal Bookmark](#) for exciting author talks at Greenwich Library in May and some thought-provoking articles.

Library staff will sign off on senior obligations during the week of May 13 to May 17 - all seniors need to return any outstanding materials and have their Final Approval Form signed by a member of the library staff during that week in order to graduate.

AP Testing is held in library meeting rooms and computer labs from Monday, May 6 through Friday, May 24. In an effort to support the students taking AP Exams, the library will be silent study only during that time period.

Theater Arts

GHS Theater Arts presents Disney's *Beauty And The Beast*

May 16, 17, 18, 2019 at 7:00 PM

May 18, 2019 at 2:00 PM

Tickets \$20.00

[Click here to order tickets online.](#)

Student Activities

Graduation has been set for Monday, June 17th at 6:30 PM in Cardinal Stadium. If there is inclement weather, graduation will be held in the Performing Arts Center (PAC). The first ceremony would begin at 4:00 PM for those with last names A-K. The second ceremony would begin at 7:15 PM for those with last names L-Z. More details regarding graduation will be coming out soon.

Senior Prom Tickets are now on sale in the school store or can be purchased through My School Bucks for \$70. If you were in SRO, tickets are \$60; please come to Student Activities to purchase.

Yearbooks will be distributed on Compass Night, June 6th from 5:00-7:00 pm in the Student Center.

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

UPDATES FROM THE GHS PTA:

Message from the Co-Presidents:

Dear GHS Families,

We are proud to congratulate GHS teachers, Sean Harriman (Social Studies) and Megan Ostruzka (Social Studies/AVID) who were honored as GPS Distinguished Teachers for 2019 at the May 7th ceremony. We congratulate all 6 of the teachers recognized this year.

As summer approaches, our PTA parent speaker series featuring life hacks for a healthier, happier teen concludes this month on **Thursday, May 30, 9:30am GHS Media Rooms 1 & 2** with ***Battling Teen Boredom: How to Have a Healthier Happier (and Productive) Summer.*** Jeff DeTeso, GHS school

psychologist, Alison Lochridge, College & Career Counselor and Judith Nedell, Guidance Coordinator, will talk about thoughtful academic and non-academic options for students over the summer months. Our [Parent Resources page](#) has links to recordings of all our featured speakers and handouts. PTA members will also be voting on the 2019-20 GHS PTA Executive Board slate from the Nominating Committee, as well as the proposed budget for next year. We hope to see you there!

Thank you also to all who donated gift cards, raffle items and signed up for food donations for Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week. The PTA hosted a luncheon for teachers and staff April 24th and it was much anticipated and appreciated. We were able to give a raffle prize to all GHS teachers and staff! A breakfast spread was in place at every house April 30th and on Thursday, May 2nd we rolled out sweet treats in each house. All donations were very much appreciated!

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

GHS PTA 2019-2020 Open Nominations

The GHS PTA nominating process is wrapping up. Openings remain for the following positions: College Night Co-Chair, Curriculum Enrichment Coordinator, DLE Liaison (PTAC), Hospitality Chair (2), Nominating, Paint The Town Red Co-Chair, Photography Coordinator, Website Manager and Website Editor. A brief description of our Executive Board and Committee positions can be found on our Nominations/Volunteer GHS PTA web page at <https://www.greenwickschools.org/greenwich-high-school/pta/volunteer-handbook>. Training and guidance are provided and there are a variety of positions to suit the amount of time your schedule allows. Inquiries and nominations can be directed to the Nominating Committee at Nominating@ghspta.org.

Underclass Parents - The Graduation Party Needs Your Help!

GHS will host a Graduation Party in the gym on June 17th from 10:00pm to 2:00am. This fun evening is organized by the Senior parents, but Senior parents are not allowed to attend. **WE NEED UNDERCLASS PARENT VOLUNTEERS** to assist in setup, check-in, food table assistance, handing out raffle prizes and the like. Volunteers are needed for three shifts: setup from 6:00 to 10:00pm; 9:45pm to midnight; and 11:45pm to 2:00am. Grab a friend and help out. It's a fun event and your student will someday get to enjoy it as well! To sign up as a volunteer, please contact the Grad Party Committee with your desired shift at gradparty@ghspta.org.

Grade 12 Parent Meeting Notes

Did you miss the April 9th meeting? Meeting notes can be found on the [Class of 2019 web page](#). Thank you to all who participated in our 48 hour online live parking auction. We have 5 lucky winners with VIP Graduation Parking. All proceeds from the parking auction go toward the 2019 Graduation Party. The party is free to graduating seniors and boasts a \$28,000 budget to entertain students. Suggested minimum donation is \$50 and can be made online at [MySchoolBucks](#) or by [check](#). Thank you to all who have contributed to make this festive night a safe celebration.

Graduation Lawn Sign Deadline May 14

Celebrate your senior with a custom lawn sign. Log into your account at [MySchoolAnywhere](#) (see instructions in the paragraph below) and navigate to the store. Choose your student's name in the drop down menu. If you prefer a name other than the one on file, please use the memo field to type the name. No greetings or college names are included on the lawn sign. All proceeds support the 2019 Graduation Party. Pick up is Thursday, June 6, GHS back parking lot.

PTAC Academic Excellence/ SIP Parent Workshop - Open to All

The Academic Excellence Committee is featuring a workshop on the STEM curriculum presented by Sheila Civale, Program Coordinator, STEM and Robert Hibson, Program Coordinator, Digital Literacy. All are welcome. **Tuesday, May 14th 10am-12pm**, New Lebanon School.

PTAC Special Education Parent Workshop - Open to All

The Special Education Support Committee is hosting a workshop by Dr. Daniel Villiers from the Anxiety Institute to discuss family impact and parenting strategies for anxiety. All are welcome. **Wednesday, May 15th 9:30am**, Mazza Room, Town Hall.

PTA Online Directory And Parent Portal

PTA members can access our new online Parent Portal via [MySchoolAnywhere](#). Use your email on file at GHS. Click '*Forgot your password?*' and follow the instructions to reset your password. You can access MSA, including the GHS PTA directory and store from any internet connected device, including your smartphone and/or download the GHS PTA MSA App. It's more than just a directory. Check it out! For questions and further assistance contact vp.communications@ghspta.org.

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 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. All you need to do is go to smile.amazon.com, 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:

- **Schools Closed Memorial Day** - May 27
- **PTA General Meeting** - May 30 at 9:30am Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **Headmaster's Forum** - June 3 at 7pm Media Center Rooms 1 & 2
- **Graduation LAWN SIGN PICK UP** - June 6 from 8 - 10am, GHS back parking lot
- **Last Day of Classes** - June 10
- **Exams** - June 11 - 17 ([exam schedule](#))
- **Graduation** - June 17 at 6:30pm Cardinal Stadium

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