

Greenwich PTA Council

ANNUAL REPORT

July 2019 - June 2020



Greenwich PTA Council Mission:

The Greenwich PTA Council works with National PTA, Connecticut PTA, the Board of Education, Greenwich Town Government, community partners, our 14 Committees and our 15 member PTAs to support the students, staff and families of the Greenwich Public Schools to advocate and work to improve the education, health and welfare of all children and youth.

Table of Contents

*The power of the PTA in
three words...*

**FAMILY
COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT**

JIM ACCOMANDO
NATIONAL PTA PRESIDENT 2017-2019

Overview: 3, 4

2019-2020 Areas of Focus: 5, 6

Looking Ahead 2020-2021: 7

Overview of Key Accomplishments
of Unit PTAs and Committees: 8

Essence Award: 9

Appendix:

PTA Council Board of Directors: 10

PTA Council Committee Chairs: 11

PTA Unit Presidents: 12

PTA Council Committee
Accomplishments: 13

PTA Unit Accomplishments: 25

every child. one voice.

PTA support led to more involved families
and additional academic growth for students
in Greenwich Public Schools in 2019-2020.

- Council encouraged the administration to hold a Safety Forum to hear parent concerns about building safety.
- Council advocated to improve the home-school connection, Special Education, and student welfare.
- Council engaged with the Board, BET and RTM, to support the BOE FY 2020-2021 Budgets.
- Health and Wellness Committee advocated for healthier food options.
- Green Schools Committee advocated for waste reduction in school cafeterias.
- Academic Excellence Committee worked to educate parents on new aspects of the curriculum.

Promoted and Supported

- Implemented video conference meetings via Zoom for Council with nearly 100% attendance.
- Health and Wellness hosted a "Parenting During COVID-19" webinar for families.
- Held weekly meetings with Dr. Jones to facilitate communication between Administration and PTAs.
- Aided PTAs with Zoom capability so all 15 PTAs were able to have online PTA meetings while schools were closed.
- Held fundraiser for PTAs impacted by COVID-19.



Advocated and Educated

- Council encouraged parents to speak up in support of the schools and especially for funding for our schools. As a result, hundreds of parents began to tune in to Town meetings.
- Council co-sponsored a Candidate Forum for the Board of Education candidates in November.
- ALP, 2E and SES Committees continued to share information and resources in order for each child to reach their potential.
- Promoted the institution of a SEAC - Special Education Advisory Council by the district to "build full, equal and equitable partnerships between families, the school district and community partners" to provide advisory opinions to the Board of Education.
- Digital Learning Committee promoted better communication regarding digital learning.



Pandemic Response

Advocated



PTA Council spoke or provided comments at every Board of Education business meeting and at BET and RTM Meetings where the Education Budget was on the agenda. In addition, Council attended Committee meetings of all the aforementioned governmental bodies, and participated when invited.

Supported



Our 15 Unit PTA's worked together and supported one another during the year. Best practices were frequently shared at Council meetings. When the opportunity for a fundraiser arose, the PTA's shared their portion of the proceeds with the PTAs most in need.

In '19-'20

3.86%

% increase in membership

OVER 1 Million Dollars *

budgeted donation to district schools

OVER 1,500

of PTA volunteers

9,023

of students served

85

**# of leaders trained to
support PTA mission**

*Actual amount less due to COVID-19

2019-2020 Areas of Focus

GOAL: COORDINATE: Support and empower PTA Council Board of Director VPs, PTA Council Committees and Committee Chairs, and PTA Presidents at the 15 unit PTAs to accomplish their respective goals and missions through communication, training, coaching and coordination.

RESULTS:

- Supported leadership development and mentoring of unit PTA leaders.
- Worked to educate Council on district initiatives such as the Strategic Plan, Personalized Learning, BOE Budget Process and revised BOE Policies.
- Improved Council awareness and communication of local initiatives that affect our schools.

Supported and empowered PTA Council Board of Directors, Committee Chairs, PTA Presidents and board members at our 15 unit PTAs through communication, training, coaching and collaboration.

- Advised PTA's on bylaw revisions
- Provided four opportunities for Council Training, and
- Mentored PTAs in areas such as: programming, volunteer coordination, and leadership support.

GOAL: COMMUNICATE: Increase family and community engagement in the Greenwich Public School District by communicating with all parties involved in the education of our students, delivering and supporting parent education, and providing opportunities for partnerships with the district.

RESULTS:

- Created and supported parent education meetings/opportunities. Worked with and supported PTA Council Committees and their work by publicizing Committee workshops to parents outside of Council. Worked with local partners in education to create additional parent educational forums/workshops on topics such as student safety, curriculum and parenting.
- Highlighted Council Committee and Unit PTA achievements and happenings through council membership meetings, council website, social media and at school board meetings.
- Communicated information about our programs and other programs of interest to the community, PTA units, parents and teachers using a variety of communication tools.

2019-2020 Areas of Focus

GOAL: ADVOCATE: Present and advocate for the needs of our students by supporting the goals and work of all committees, communicating the opinions of parents, and participating in the development of the next strategic plan.

RESULTS:

Promoted cooperation among home, school, and community.

- Held a community wide election forum for BOE candidates.
- Participated in District Key 2 Ed Task Force
- Member of District Food Service Committee
- Member of District Menu Planning Committee, and
- CT PTA Board Member.

Advocated for:

- Increased Communication from the District
- Health and Wellness of Students
- Special Education Support
- Safe Schools

Supported Connecticut and National PTA goals:

- Increasing local PTA membership,
- Maximizing family involvement,
- Advocating for the improvement of public education

GOAL: IMPROVE: Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of PTA Council by improving the e-mail structure via G-Suite, streamlining document retention and access by organizing archives, improving PTA event communication, and streamlining PTA Council meetings.

RESULTS:

- Created and maintained an all-inclusive Council calendar posted on the website.
- Communicated information about our programs and other programs of interest to the community, PTA units, parents and teachers using a variety of communication tools.
- Added Zoom meetings during the pandemic.

Looking Ahead: 2020 -2021

GOAL: ADVOCATE. PTA Council will focus our efforts on advocating for the needs of our students and the district. The coming year promises to be like no other: socially distant in-person learning, distance learning, a combination of both, or some type of learning entirely different to what we have experienced. The key word is LEARNING. We will provide feedback to enable the district to ensure that the learning provided is as close as possible to a normal school year, so as to not impact students and not widen the achievement gap.

All of the endeavors of the BOE and the district, and the actions of PTA Council, will be viewed through the lens of improved learning. The efforts will likely include engagement with the district on:

- Social and Emotional Support for students and teachers

- Personalized Learning

- Digital Device Use

- Strategic Plan Review

- District Programs Review

- Special Education Review

GOAL: COORDINATE. PTA Council will continue to support the PTAs through the coordinating efforts of the Council Committees, as well as through the provision of training in such areas as procedures, nominating, event forms, scam awareness and, in partnership with the district, web page maintenance and gift cap.

GOAL: COMMUNICATE. Council will also look to formalize the communication link between the PTA Council Board of Directors and PTA Presidents, to provide more rapid dissemination of information on issues that affect Greenwich, our Public Schools and our students.

GOAL: IMPROVE. To support more informed advocacy, we will investigate means of gathering ideas, thoughts, and opinions from PTAs in a rapid fashion, where appropriate and allowed by bylaws. We will also encourage parents to be directly involved via in-person or virtual attendance at Board of Education and other Town meetings which impact education.

Key Accomplishments of Unit PTAs

PTA Council supports the 15 Unit PTAs in the Town of Greenwich. Each PTA deserves high accolades for the contributions made every year to our schools. As is detailed in the appendix of this report, every PTA makes invaluable contributions to its school in the areas of curriculum enrichment, social and emotional learning, family and community engagement, and facilities. In this way every Greenwich PTA is alike, however, as will also become apparent by reading these reports, it is in the execution that each PTA's distinct personality comes through.

While many of the unique programs and fundraisers were canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, PTAs did not stop their work just because our buildings were closed. Our 15 PTAs continued to work hard to advocate for the needs of all children by sharing vital information and providing feedback.

See Appendix for all Unit PTAs yearly work done in areas of Curriculum Enrichment, Social and Emotional Learning, Family and Community Engagement, and Facilities.

Key Accomplishments of Committees

Each of the PTA Council Committees worked to develop new objectives, establish means toward those goals, and assessed the implementation of the initiatives. In addition, the Committees facilitated meetings and managed the information flow when concerns arose, and worked to proactively improve parents' perception of the PTAs and the District by communicating successes. Highlights of the work of Council Committees have been featured throughout this report but for a complete understanding of the vast work done by Council Committees, please see the Appendix for each individual Committee report.

**"WHEN YOU BELONG TO PTA, YOU HARNESS YOUR
COURAGE AND COMMITMENT TO CREATE RELATIONSHIPS THAT
HAVE THE POWER TO CHANGE
THE EXPERIENCES OF CHILDREN IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND
ACROSS THE COUNTRY."**

-Nathan R. Monell, CAE
National PTA Executive
Director



PTA COUNCIL ESSENCE AWARD

Without volunteers the PTA would not exist.

The PTAC Essence Award recognizes an outstanding PTA member of the Greenwich Public Schools PTA communities who, through exemplary achievement, has inspired others, demonstrated selfless spirit and made a significant difference in our school community.



2020 Essence Award

Winner

Ana Laborde

2020 Lifetime Essence

Award Winner

Maureen Bonanno

2020 Essence Award Nominees

Maureen Bonanno • Greenwich High School
Shelly Cryer • Old Greenwich School
Betty DaSilva • Hamilton Avenue School
Maureen Harper • Old Greenwich School
Alison Hoenig • North Street School
Clare Kilgallen • New Lebanon School
Ana Laborde • The International School at Dundee
Kerstin Montenegro • Hamilton Avenue School
Dina Murphy • Eastern Middle School
Marla Leamon Nedder • North Street School
Geovana and Geancarlos Sanches • Hamilton Avenue School

Greenwich PTA Council Board of Directors

President	Cricket Dymont
First Vice President	Brian Peldunas
Treasurer	Alejandra Fajardo
Secretary	
VP Curriculum	Rosemary Hyson
VP Enrichment	Cindy Lyall
VP Facilities	Ann Marie Bulis
VP Nominating	Leila Marin
VP Recognition	Valerie Rimmer
VP Student Support	Kathy Walker
VP at Large	Renee Jennings

Greenwich PTA Council Committee Chairs

Ana Laborde Mimi Duff Jessica Enright Polish	Academic Excellence
Jenn Donat Scott Griffith Michelle Lopez	Advanced Learning Program
Mikaela Kull-Baig Monica Huang	Afters
Katherine McKersie Kristin Prohl Kleinbardt	Curriculum Enrichment
Alison Hoenig Cathy Goldstein	Digital Learning Environment
Patricia Carey	Directory
Janet Stone McGuigan	Early Childhood Education
Kara Mendelsohn Maria Merrill	Essence Award
Kathy McCormack	Green Schools
Nerlyn Pierson Bevan Talbott	Health & Wellness
Lori Woodring Lori Fields	Scholarship
Audra O'Donovan Doreen Conte	Special Education Support
Jessie Bennett Katie Nogaki	Special Programs
Robin Leader	Twice Exceptional

Greenwich PTA Unit Presidents

Maureen Bonanno Terry Lamantia	Greenwich High School
-----------------------------------	------------------------------

Claire Muldoon Diana Orbanowski	Central Middle School
------------------------------------	------------------------------

Sarah Fugelsang Stephanie Bastek	Eastern Middle School
-------------------------------------	------------------------------

Nancy Lu Natalie Adee	Western Middle School
--------------------------	------------------------------

Dawn Silver Nicole Ehret	Cos Cob
-----------------------------	----------------

Erica Westfall Kristen Hawreluk	Glenville
------------------------------------	------------------

Kristi Castellon	Hamilton Avenue
------------------	------------------------

John Fisher Angie Hartofilis	ISD
---------------------------------	------------

Bob Chaney Michele Tierney	Julian Curtiss
-------------------------------	-----------------------

Clare Kilgallen Dawn Zimmerman	New Lebanon
-----------------------------------	--------------------

Aimee Muth Elizabeth DeHaven	North Mianus
---------------------------------	---------------------

Marla Leamon Nedder Dina Urso	North Street
----------------------------------	---------------------

Cristina Broderick Carolyn Petersen	Old Greenwich
--	----------------------

Ashley Connaughton Meredith Curreri	Parkway
--	----------------

Kristin Duda Heeyoon Slater	Riverside
--------------------------------	------------------

PTA Council Committee Accomplishments

Academic Excellence

The Academic Excellence Committee continued to collaborate with Irene Parisi, Chief Academic Officer and Dr. Ann Carabillo, Assistant Superintendent to plan six meaningful and relevant Workshops, open to all AE Reps and GPS parents. These Workshops enable the school district to communicate information regarding new and current curricular programs. These Workshops also allow parents to share their questions and feedback, as related to their individual schools. This year's Workshops, presented by Parisi and Carabillo included:

- September 24: **Vision of the Graduate**
- October 15: **Families as Partners in Learning: Curriculum & Assessment**
- November 19: **Personalized Learning in GPS, with Panel of K-12 Teachers**
- January 28: **What's New in Humanities at GPS**
- March [STEM] and June [topic TBD] Workshops were cancelled due to schools being closed

AE Reps expressed interest in and discussed the following topics this year:

- Access to curriculum and units of study for elementary
- Online curriculum resources provided on GPS Website
- Personalized Learning: the pedagogy, research and efficacy
- Consistency of curriculum across elementary and middle schools
- Parent-Teacher Conferences at the elementary level (two per school year as a district norm)
- Consistency and amount of homework at elementary and secondary
- Consistency of communication (S'mores, Newsletters, etc.) at the elementary level from school admin and grade-level teachers

Some other notable "highlights" from this year:

- Clarified titles as AE Reps, (formerly SIP [School Improvement Plan] Reps)
- Created two surveys via Google Forms
- Feedback on role and school-level involvement of AE Reps
- Feedback on Distance Learning (to all AE Reps + PTA Presidents)
- Created Google Slides presentation on AE Committee and role of AE Reps
- Endeavored to share "best practices" across schools
- Solicited feedback from Reps on new online curriculum resources to share with district administrators

We continued the conversation around the role of and access of AE Reps at the individual school level. As noted in previous years' Committee Reports, AE Reps continued to express confusion regarding their role on their schools' PTA and with their administration. Many Reps reported that the School Improvement Plan (SIP) was not

shared with them or, the Reps had to seek out access. Some AE Reps also continued to struggle with how to disseminate information shared at the AE Workshops.

It is worth repeating that AE Reps require more access to their own school conversations in order to be a bridge between GPS and PTAs. As dynamics in teaching and learning are greatly impacted by the pandemic, it seems all the more important for AE Reps to have a voice at the school level, and provide feedback at the district level. It is suggested that AE Reps have regular meetings with their PTA presidents, in addition to the school principal so that their efforts are more integrated with PTA initiatives.

It is also suggested:

1. A minimum of 6-8 AE Workshop dates are agreed upon in early summer prior to the upcoming school year
2. AE Workshop dates are posted on MASTER CALENDAR on GPS website and via each schools' individual calendars before September
3. A universal, streamlined means of summarizing and sharing the content/presentation of each Workshop (that could then be easily shared via each schools' Newsletters/PTA webpages). Perhaps the AE Committee could have its own Newsletter?
4. All Workshops should be recorded and uploaded to GPS website for easy access for parents that were unable to attend in person
5. Principals should be expected to meet with their AE Reps a minimum of 3x per year, with or without PTA presidents, in the Fall, Winter, and Spring to share SIP details
6. As previously mentioned, AE Reps should have regular meetings with PTA Presidents and occasionally be guests at PTA Board meetings to present and discuss curriculum with their PTA board.

In closing, Distance Learning and the recent budget cut discussions have confirmed what we already knew- AE Reps and parents across Greenwich continue to be invested in and supportive of our children's education. We are interested in learning more, sharing more, and strengthening the link between individual schools, homes, and the overall GPS administration. Communication and community are more important now than ever before and we look forward to continuing this work!

Advanced Learning Program Committee

This has been an unprecedented year! With schools closing March 12th for the remainder of the year, we did most of our committee communication through emails. We did make an impact to the ALP program though in the time that we were in school. The ALP program review was supposed to be released in April but has been delayed with the school closing. We are anxious to hear about the commendations and the recommendations in order to shape our goals for next year.

The committee worked this year to increase communication across schools about the ALP program and curriculum. We held a meeting for all school representatives on October 25th. Bonnie O'Regan discussed the ALP program and the ALP program review that happened at the end of last school year. We also had a question and answer period.

One of our major goals this year was to advocate for more rigorous science offerings at the elementary and high school levels. For the previous two years the science program has been a “push-in” model, where ALP teachers push into the regular classroom and teach science lessons to everyone. For each unit, the teacher was to identify gifted students and teach them separately. We advocated for reverting back to the “pull-out” method of teaching where identified students would go to the ALP classroom for science. Pulling students out allows for more advanced teaching to those students that are ready for it and need it. Also second grade students were to pilot a new science assessment this year in order to qualify for ALP science. I am not sure how many schools got to administer the test before we started distance learning.

We also thought it would be valuable to collaborate more with the 2E committee. We did share emails but did not get to collaborate in a meaningful way before we started distance learning. We hope to continue this goal for next year.

Afters Committee

Before and Afters Programs are offered as enrichment programs in GPS elementary schools outside of the school day. Before and Afters are administered by a dedicated group of PTA volunteers. Each school's PTA decides its programs (the times, durations, days, structures, and subjects). Schools offer a wide variety of classes with opportunities for students to try new activities and improve academic, athletic and artistic skills. Afters enrich and enhance in-school learning in all disciplines, foster new friendships, and allow the kids to have fun. Ancillary benefits include the additional hours of childcare, removing some of the “overscheduled child” aspect from extra-curricular activities, and promoting community cohesion. Similar offerings from the secondary schools have been mandated by the BOE and Administration validating the GPS beliefs in the social-emotional benefits of the program.

A new trend of outsourcing is quickly emerging, as it takes the bulk of the work off the PTA, and those volunteers can spend their time ensuring the quality and consistency of the classes and teachers to provide the best quality. 5 elementary schools, Julian Curtis, North Street, Cos Cob, Riverside and North Mianus currently outsource to either Flex Academies or Greenwich After School. We will likely see additional schools move to outsourcing. For some of the schools, the Afters Program is positioned as a fundraiser for their PTAs.

For the 2019-20 school year, 10 of the 11 elementary schools across the District participated in the Before and Afters program.

- Each of the elementary schools typically offer 3 – 5 sessions, with an average of 16 classes per session. This year, schools were unable to offer their “Winter 2” and “Spring” sessions.
- Some of the new course offerings include cooking classes, coding classes, an “Escape Room”, jewelry design, robotics and film making.
- Schools hope to offer Afters in the fall, but understand that we are in a wait and see situation.
- If a student required a paraprofessional, the PTAs worked with the school administration to help identify the appropriate aid for a particular student, and the Afters Program has paid for it. There is no additional cost to the school. We have found the Principals and Assistant Principals helpful in this process.

PTAC Afters Committee

- As the central resource for all Afters program, the PTAC Afters Committee will continue to be a forum to share best practices and new class ideas.
- PTAC Afters coordinates additional insurance to cover athletic classes to ensure our teachers and participating students have appropriate insurance coverage.
- We continue to work with NSCI Employment service to provide an online background check for vendors. Our policy is for vendors and individuals to have annual checks. We are in the process of updating the database so that our members have the latest information to see who is cleared, and they do not need to duplicate the work.

Curriculum Enrichment Committee

The Curriculum Enrichment (CE) Committee provided support by planning and implementing curriculum-supporting programs for students that are paid for by the PTA. During the 2019-20 school year, PTAC CE identified four goals:

1. Networking and information sharing
2. Vendor paperwork
3. Documentation and Information Transfer
4. GPS Assured Experiences

1. Networking and Information Sharing

The Curriculum Enrichment Committee created a list of PTA presidents, CE Reps and other interested PTA members at all GPS schools. The Curriculum Enrichment Committee also established an email network to communicate with CE Reps to share information, best practices, news about vendors, resources and otherwise support the implementation of PTA-sponsored enrichment programs. Over the course of the school year, the Curriculum Enrichment Committee hosted two in-person meetings: the first

meeting featured a presentation by GPS heads of curriculum (Irene Parisi, Jeremy Boland, Sheila Civale, Lori Elliot, Bob Hibson, Adriane Hirsch-Klein, Laura White, and Bonnie O'Regan) who shared updates on curriculum and ideas for intersections with enrichment and a review of the paperwork required to administer CE programs; the second meeting featured a presentation by representatives of the Bruce Museum (Corinne Flax and Kathleen Holko) who shared information about the museum's commitment to education and outreach programs, as well as a review of the paperwork required to administer CE programs.

2. Vendor Paperwork

The Curriculum Enrichment Committee helped CE Reps understand the required paperwork. Over the course of the school year, the Curriculum Enrichment Committee hosted two in-person meetings, both of which allotted time for a review of the paperwork required to administer CE programs. In addition, the Curriculum Enrichment Committee maintained a library of completed "ACORD" liability insurance forms for CE Reps to review and reference, as needed.

3. Documentation and Information Transfer

The Curriculum Enrichment Committee maintained a shared drive of CE materials to be passed on to future Curriculum Enrichment Committee chairs. The Curriculum Enrichment Committee also solicited feedback and distributed information about enrichment programs for GPS students.

4. GPS Assured Experiences

The Curriculum Enrichment Committee sought to cultivate a relationship with district and community leaders to consider what currently constitutes GPS "Assured Experiences," as well as how the "Assured Experiences" programs may look in the future.

Digital Learning Committee

The DL Committee started the 2019-2020 school year with the committee changing the name to Digital Learning (DL) to fit with the district change to DL from DLE. Our focus for the year was to work with appropriate district leaders to address screen time concerns, develop a better understanding of the district best practices and guidelines where appropriate, and provide education to parents.

In meeting with administrators, we shared our goals for the year and discussed the questions and concerns gathered by the committee. This included questions from both the current year and open questions from the previous year that had not been

answered. Questions covered topics such as screen time usage, best practices, safety, app selection and purchase, continued the push for analytics.

Some of our key accomplishments from the year are listed below:

- Continued its focus on improving communication to parents about digital devices, tools, and platforms in the district that support student learning.
- Met with point people in the district to review parent questions and concerns related to device usage, applications
- Worked with administration to schedule CT State Trooper to speak to parents on device safety
- Continued advocating for interactive FAQ pages, including consolidating and sharing top questions from parents. This page is now live on the GPS website.
- Collaborated with other Council committees, specifically Academic Excellence/SIP to share information where there are common areas of interest and concern.

We started the year with meetings and working with district administrators. Similar to other committees, much of our work was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. After three months of Distance Learning and the potential for additional Distance Learning in the 2020-21 school year, we believe that a parent committee remains essential to continue to advocate for concerns and questions related to digital technology in the district. Parents continue to have concerns related to screen time and monitoring, measuring effectiveness of various software programs on student performance, and how to best support our students at home.

Essence Award Committee

The Essence Committee awards PTA Council's annual award for volunteerism, the "essence" of PTA. On May 26, 2020 via Zoom, the PTAC Essence Award Ceremony was held. The Essence award, in its 10th year, was created to acknowledge individuals who tirelessly and admirably work to better the Greenwich Public Schools, whether in a position of leadership or as a member of a team. This year we honored two winners, a traditional Essence Award winner and a Lifetime Essence Award winner. The lifetime category was created in 2017 to specifically honor an active, long-standing impactful PTA volunteer who has contributed over the course of many years through a variety of positions and schools.

The 2020 Recipient of the Essence Award was Ana Laborde, International School at Dundee and current PTAC Academic Excellence Co-Chair.

The 2020 Recipient of the Lifetime Essence Award was Maureen Bonanno, current Co-President of Greenwich High School PTA.

The following individuals were also honored at the Recognition Ceremony for their contributions to their individual schools and PTA Council committees: Shelly Cryer, Old Greenwich School; Betty DaSilva, Hamilton Avenue School; Maureen Harper, Old Greenwich School; Alison Hoenig, North Street School; Clare Kilgallen, New Lebanon School; Kerstin Montenegro, Hamilton Avenue School; Dina Murphy, Eastern Middle School; Marla Leamon Nedder, North Street School; and Geovana and Geancarlos Sanches, Hamilton Avenue School.

Green Schools Committee

During the 2019-2020 school year, Green Schools moved forward with the Cafeteria Waste Reduction Program that began as a pilot in the Spring of 2019. The program, a collaboration with Green Schools and GPS Facilities, aimed to reduce waste in the cafeterias of 3 schools: New Lebanon, North Mianus and EMS. The program consisted of color-coded sorting stations for compost, liquids, trash and recyclables. Instructional posters were placed above the bins to guide the students and we provided education on the proper ways to dispose of waste through training sessions in the cafeterias by parent volunteers. Information about the program was also included in school newsletters. The program was widely successful, resulting in a 60% reduction of waste by volume:

- Liquid collection had the largest reduction of 31% or 32lbs liquid diverted daily.
- Composting fresh fruits and vegetables resulted in an 18% drop, with about 23lbs of waste diverted daily.
- About 10lbs of recyclables were collected each day.

Most importantly, the simplified process and enhanced education reduced contamination of recycling. With this process, 164,000 lbs or 83 tons can be diverted each year at all K-12 schools with a savings of \$9,000 in disposal costs.

The benefits beyond cost savings include:

- Cleaner lunchrooms
- Easier cleanup for custodial staff
- Students learn about environmentalism and stewardship

This program was expanded in the 2019-20 year to include North Mianus, New Lebanon, EMS, CMS, Riverside, and North Street. As of March 2020, efforts were underway at OG, ISD and Julian Curtiss to install bins and our goal is to install bins at Hamilton Ave, Glenville, Cos Cob, Parkway and Western in the 2020-21 school year.

Green Schools will also continue efforts to urge for the replacement of the disposable serveware currently used in GPS cafeterias with a reusable ware system. The reusable system that was proposed for the 2020-21 school year was voted down among the \$3

million cuts to the Board of Education Budget, even though it would save the town over \$100,000 in purchasing and disposal costs.

In the spring of 2020, Green Schools also collaborated with the Greenwich Conservation Commission and Greenwich's Independent Schools for the first ever town-wide EARTH WEEK of ACTION from April 20-24 in honor of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. Principals were given ideas for simple daily activities that engaged students, families and faculty. Schools were able to use their discretion and creativity to interpret the plan for the week which was as follows:

MONDAY: **Artists for the Earth** - students were encouraged to make art such as flowers and butterflies from upcycled materials.

TUESDAY: **Foodprints for the Future** - Students were asked to think about food waste and the benefit of plant-based meals on the environment.

WEDNESDAY: **EARTH DAY** - Students were asked to ring bells at NOON for the Earth.

THURSDAY: **Citizen Science** - Using the app iNaturalist, students were encouraged to go outside in their own yards to identify different animals, insects, flowers trees etc. Their data was compiled and Greenwich students identified over 330 unique plants and animals.

FRIDAY: **ARBOR DAY** - Trees were planted at nine of the public schools: CMS, EMS, WMS, CCS, ISD, JCC, NMS, OGS and RVS.

The EARTH WEEK OF ACTION program was warmly welcomed by students, teachers, and schools who shared their activities on social media with a hashtag #greenwichearthweek that was created by the Earth Week development committee. Given the enthusiastic response, Green Schools hopes to continue the Earth Week partnership going forward.

Health and Wellness Committee

Our committee has been working on a few of our goals this year and are excited to report some great results due to our committee's work.

Lunch Menu Improvements

Throughout the year, we worked with Food Services and the administration on our continued quest for healthier food options in K-12 lunchrooms. One of our co-chairs sits on the School Lunch Fund Committee ("SLFC"), which is tasked by the BOE to look into options for food service improvements. The SLFC established the Menu Planning

Sub-Committee (“MPC”), which consists of parents, nutrition experts and administrators. The main objective of the sub-committee is to transform the current school food program by bringing better quality, nutrient-dense food to the forefront. One of the co-chairs of our committee is a member of the MPC. The MPC:

- Drafted food menu guidelines that is the basis for (i) the Food Services department in their annual Request for Proposal for food products and (ii) menu planning for the 2020-2021 school year;
- Will serve as an advisor to the Food Services department on menu arrangements and ala carte options in the school lunch rooms;
- Will serve as a resource to the Food Services department in their annual Request for Proposal for food products; and
- Will be working with students to help shape the school lunch menus with input and feedback from students.

The sub-committee’s vision is that the menu guidelines will be the roadmap for the District’s food services program going forward. Any food services program in the District should abide by these guidelines.

During the 2019-2020 school year, there were some notable and big changes in the lunchroom due to the initiatives noted above. There were more simplified menus with healthier, less-processed items, with more to come. The Food Services Team developed recipes based on the new guidelines noted above by increasing vegetable-based recipes and replacing meat products with meat alternatives and legumes. In addition, unlimited fresh fruit and vegetable cups were offered every day in K – 8th grade. ALL students could help themselves even if they did not purchase a meal. Even children who brought their lunch were able to stop in the kitchen for some fresh produce. We worked on informing the parenting community of these changes.

Digital Posture Awareness Training Program

Our committee created a posture awareness training program which provides best posture practices with digital devices. We have been working with Bob Hibson to incorporate this posture awareness program into the lesson plans for K-8. We also worked with Kathy Steiner of GPS to discuss how to integrate posture awareness training for grades 9-12.

We distributed to teachers, parents and students a tip sheet on proper posture during distance learning. We plan to coordinate with the administration distribution of said tip sheet for the 2020-2021 school year.

Reusable Ware Initiative

Our committee continues to advocate, along-side Green Schools, for reusable wares in our schools and the centralized dishwashing system. We are also exploring ways to address food waste in our lunchrooms.

Anti-Vaping Initiative

We continue to explore opportunities to work with and support town and community organizations on an anti-vaping campaign in the high school and the middle schools. This year, prior to distance learning, we launched a **parent education campaign** on the dangers and risks of vaping (e-cigarettes) by teens. The committee planned to distribute some fact-based information on vaping via school newsletters over a series of weeks. The education campaign will continue for the 2020-2021 school year as parents can play an important role in preventing their kids' e-cigarette use by learning the facts of e-cigarettes and by setting expectations about substance use.

Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee works to provide scholarships to graduating seniors. The Committee consists of 2 co-chairs and representatives from each of our 15 public schools. This year the Committee collected \$28,750 from all 15 schools for need-based scholarships. This donation is provided to the nonprofit organization, Greenwich Scholarship Association (GSA), which collects funds from community organizations, civic groups, local businesses and families and administers and distributes the funds to the scholarship recipients. The PTAC need-based scholarships are distributed by GSA to alumni from each of the elementary and middle schools. Donation to the scholarship fund remains a vital part of PTAs involvement in the GPS community and benefits students graduating GHS that have attended the various schools in the district. The Committee also coordinates the administration of over 80 merit-based scholarships for alumni from each of the elementary and middle schools. Criteria and funding for these merit-based awards are determined by each individual school's PTA.

Special Education Support Committee

This year we worked together with Mary Forde, head of Pupil Personnel Services and with Special Education Coordinators throughout the district to explore creative solutions to improve our special education programs. We expanded our meetings to include all representatives throughout the district to meet with district representatives every other month as well as have our Special Education Administrators host meetings in school buildings throughout the district. We worked in collaboration with KEY2Ed to hear from our community about the strengths and weaknesses about our special education program and we look forward to diving into the feedback KEY2Ed provided to see where our special education department can improve. We formed a subcommittee to

explore the possibility of incorporating an autism program within our school and will continue this endeavor next year.

The Special Education Support (SES) committee spent the year focused on increasing awareness of how the committee provides support to parents through education, resources, and community. The committee is looking forward to building on this progress during the following school year.

Goal #1: Strengthen communication and relationship between parents, teachers, and administrators.

Strengthening communication and the relationship between parents, teachers and administrators emerged as the committee's top priority again this year and where attention was needed to address other goals. The committee co-chairs met with PPS Administrators and all SES building representatives to share parent perspectives, gain clarification and strategize ways to strengthen communication and relationships. Our GPS special education team also hosted open meetings throughout the district to answer all questions from parents and provide updates in programs and staffing. This opportunity helped the parent representatives learn more about the district while sharing the parent perspective on a variety of topics related to the education of students with IEPs and /or 504 Plans. The School Based SES Reps also met regularly with their school's Assistant Principal to open the same lines of communication on a school-based level. In addition, a group of parents joined PPS Administrators and faculty for a series of discussions on exploring an autism program in GPS. The SES District representative also participated on the Key2Ed Devising Seminar Task Force to gain feedback from our families and community stakeholders on strengths and concerns in our Special Education Program. We look forward to using the data gained to focus on areas to address next year.

Goal #2: Increase awareness of the Special Education Support Committee to support parents, increase committee membership and parental participation

This year the committee placed a continued effort on deepening the support system for EDS Representatives to become leaders at their schools. Representatives from the majority of GPS schools came together for bimonthly meetings to discuss successes, concerns, and strategies on ways to increase support for parents. For the last few months all building representatives also attended meetings with GPS special education administration. Throughout the year the school-based representatives gathered parents for coffees and other school-based events to get the word out about the committee, as well as serve as a place for parents to come together for support and resources. In addition, the committee focused on and encouraged members and other parents to become more deeply involved in district and town issues, to advocate not only for the education of special education students, but all students serviced by the GPS. These efforts included attendance and public comments at Board of Education meetings, as well as more personal meetings with the GPS administrators.

As the year comes to a close, the SES committee would like to thank all of the PTAC, BOE, GPS Staff and community members who supported the special education community throughout the year.

Special Programs Committee

Special Programs Committee:

- Provided breakfast for the staff at the Board of Education/Havemeyer Building during the holiday season
- Provided Lunch for the Superintendent during Teacher Appreciation Week
- Organized the Virtual PTAC Council Annual Dinner and Recognition Ceremony

Twice Exceptional Committee

Twice Exceptional (2E) refers to students who are both advanced or “gifted” and have a learning disability/difference (SES).

Highlights/Accomplishments:

- Hosted two parent roundtables
 - The PTAC 2E Committee Roundtable provides an opportunity for parents/guardians to share information and resources to help each child realize his/her fullest potential.
 - The third and fourth roundtables were cancelled due to the stay at home order.
- Hosted one 2E representative meeting to discuss the best way for our school representatives to work with their parents of 2E students. The second 2E meeting was cancelled due to the stay at home order.
- Worked with the school Representatives on the best way to educate the GPS community on what is a 2E child.
- Emailed the 2E parent email list information that would be relevant and interesting to our constituents.
- Worked with ALP and EDS to email information and gather important responses from our constituents for relevant feedback. Continued and updated a list of “parent recommended” resources from our 2E Parent Roundtables to use a source for parents.
- Continued and updated the Operation and Transition manuals for future 2E chairs.

PTA Unit Accomplishments

Greenwich High School PTA

Goals

Build Parent Engagement

- The newly formed New Family Committee arranged 2 coffees during the year to bring together families either new to town or new to the GPS system.
- Hosted a successful Fundraiser/Parent Social, hosted meaningful and relevant parent education programs at our general meetings along with grade-level meetings for 9th and 12th grades.

Increase and improve communications with parents, Greenwich Community and BOE.

- In addition to our monthly newsletter, we utilized our online platform, MembershipToolkit to send targeted emails to parents with updates on district issues and school and grade related events.
- Increased use of social media and newspapers to convey the work of the PTA.
- Spoke throughout the year at BOE meetings to convey PTA accomplishments.

Increase PTA Membership.

- Created a new membership level at \$10 for Free and Reduced Lunch Families

Update PTA Bylaws

- The GHS PTA Bylaws were updated and approved by the PTA General Membership.

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- The largest portion of GHS PTA spending continues to be funding for curriculum enrichment and student services. This year, we will have helped to provide over 35 field trips and classroom experiences with a diverse assortment of learning opportunities, primarily class-specific field trips chosen by the faculty. The number of trips is down significantly due to the pandemic. One of the trips funded was for the entire 10th grade class to visit the FDR Presidential Library. This was the first time we provided funding for an entire grade to attend.
- Our Ventures in Education program allows teachers to apply for funding for innovative programs for their classroom and this year we purchased Google Cardboards for Art and Social Studies Classes and equipment for Video Production and Digital Media classes to create Podcasts.
- We provide outreach assistance for families with financial need. Fees for ACT/SAT classes, yearbooks, cap and gowns, merit and need-based scholarships and field trips are partially paid by the PTA. Several programs were not funded this year due to the pandemic, including Jr. and Sr. prom tickets, the 9th grade trip.
- We formalized a grant process for AP exam fees for students with financial need who do not qualify for Free and Reduced Lunch discounts.

Social and Emotional Learning

- The GHS PTA partners with staff and students in producing a multi-faceted week of special programming, Diversity Week. We help shape and fund special keynote events that are learning opportunities with the ability to inspire conversation and thought with strong relevance to the GPS Strategic Plan. The varied events promote conversations and learning that reflect back into the classroom, with learning involved relative to various academic

disciplines and the opportunity for growth in personal development and civic responsibility for our students.

Family and Community Engagement

- In an effort to continue our goal of building community, we hosted the “Paint the Town Red” cocktail benefit in October which was not only a fundraiser, but also a way for parents to meet early in the school year and build a GHS community. Over 200 parents attended.
- Our PTA continued the work of providing parent education. Our programs offer information from experts on current topics and recurring needs to help members enhance best practices in teen parenting. This year’s programs included The College Process, Navigating Teen Relationships in the Age of Social Media: What Parents Need to Know, Pandemic Parenting and Pandemic Summer. The programs were videotaped and made available on the Parent Resources page of our website.
- The GHS PTA reaches out to neighbors who live near the school to keep them informed of school events that might affect the neighborhood and to invite them to attend events at the high school.
- Parent engagement is a cornerstone of the National PTA. The GHS PTA encourages parents to become involved with the school as a way of engaging them and bringing them closer to the pulse of their child’s education. We provide nearly 6,000 parent volunteer hours to the five Houses, the College and Career Center, the Media Center, Student Activities, and Student Employment. The number is even larger when other volunteer capacities are counted.

Facilities

- During the BOE, BET, and RTM phases of the budget process we advocated for capital projects including the redesign of the front entrance at GHS and Cardinal Stadium.
- Our volunteers do amazing media center thematic displays each month to engage the students in literature available in the GHS Media Center.
- We purchased red picnic tables for students and faculty use. The tables are located in the courtyard behind the security desk.

Looking Forward

- Goal setting for the GHS PTA and certain committees will occur over the summer among GHS PTA Board members and the respective committee chairs, as is our usual practice.
- We look forward to advocating for the GHS community, including students, staff, and parents.
- We will continue to help parents feel connected to the high school by expanding our New Family Program and creating Grade Level Ambassadors to help organize, publicize and facilitate grade level participation.

Central Middle School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Engineering For Algebra with Mark Love
- Don’t Press Send, Dare to Care presentation by Katie Schumacher

Social and Emotional Learning

- 6th Grade Ice Cream Social
- Don't Press Send, Dare to Care presentation by Katie Schumacher (all school assembly)
- 8th Grade Celebration (t-shirts, video montage)

Family and Community Engagement

- Friday Facts newsletter
- Membership Toolkit (directory – calendar – sign-ups - store)
- Teachers Back-to-School Luncheon
- Volunteer Coffee including presentation by Mr. Healy to parents
- Fall Fling social for parents
- Teachers Open House Dinners
- Don't Press Send, Dare to Care presentation by Katie Schumacher
- Book drive and gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble
- Local business fundraisers at Val's, Splurge, and La Taqueria
- Holiday Boutique
- CMS at SkyZone Glow Party
- Two additional General PTA Meetings (& Coffee)
- Teacher Appreciation Week – celebrated virtually with Amazon gift cards as well as other teacher appreciation for all CMS staff
- Scholarships (PTAC and GHS)
- Spring Membership meeting – speakers: GHS Athletic Director Gus Lindine, Director of Clubs and Activities, Karen Foster, to discuss life beyond CMS. Also, Kate Napoletano, School Psychologist and Ashley Dawson, School Social Worker to discuss Strategies & Tips during Distance Learning.
- Chalk-On!: Town-wide initiative focused on “togetherness while being apart”.

Facilities

- School beautification:
 - new outdoor sign (working with the town on installation)
 - CMS Waste Reduction Program (Green Schools initiative)
 - Purchased 10 additional tables for general school use

Eastern Middle School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- **Mini Innovation Grants** - This program is used to innovate creative learning opportunities for different student learning styles and to support deeper grounding in course materials. We award grants to staff and teachers for innovative teaching materials, professional development, or other items that they believe will enhance students' experiences. This year we awarded grants to assist with art supplies including a new drawing tablet. We also granted access to enhanced digital learning software for teachers.
- **American Museum of Natural History in New York** - an all-day field trip experience. (8th Grade) CANCELLED - due to school shutdown.
- **Judith Altmann, Holocaust Survivor** - Mrs. Altmann shared with 8th grade students her experience of living in and surviving the Holocaust, as well as the importance of

tolerance, inclusion and remembering history. (8th Grade) CANCELLED - due to school shutdown

- **Alvin Ailey Arts in Education** - A percussion demonstration/lecture that introduced rhythm and movement using percussion instruments. Students learned about the basic rhythmic structure of indigenous music and the cultures that created it. This was an interactive presentation in which students were invited on stage to sample dance styles. (7th Grade) CANCELLED - due to school shutdown.
- **Norwalk Maritime Center** - The EMS PTA Enrichment team collaborated with the Norwalk Maritime Center to enrich our 6th and 7th grade science programming. Our own EMS teachers worked through the science standards and the Maritime's offerings and linked their "Coasts that Shift and Change" program to their curriculum. The Maritime Center describes the program as: 'From Storm surge to sea level rise, the ocean's forces have a profound impact on our coastal communities. Following an introduction to the science of extreme weather and coastal change, students use an interactive beach in a box to model storm conditions and the effects of erosion on beaches and buildings. They test the effectiveness of various structures for coastal resilience and conclude by engineering an improved resilience method to protect coastal communication and habitats.'
- **Poets in Residence** - Outspoken Literary Consultants came for a residence with the 6th Grade. Acclaimed authors and consultants, Sara Holbrook and Michael Salinger spent a week at EMS enriching the 6th grade English curriculum with their assembly and writing workshops. Their goal is to help students develop complex thinking and the literacy skills they will need to succeed in the future. You can click [here](#) and learn more about the Outspoken Literary Consultants. This is the second year the PTA has provided this enrichment experience for the 6th grade.
- **Reading Images with the Bruce Museum** - Presentation by the Bruce Museum language arts program to teach symbolism, author's perspective and setting. (6th Grade)

Social and Emotional Learning

- **Anti-Defamation League** - The 6th and 7th grade students participated in the Anti-Defamation League's (ADL) Step Up! program. The program was designed to give a voice to the targets of bullying and bias; build empathy in the perpetrators; and inspire and empower bystanders to become allies against prejudice and bullying.
- **Dr. Michael Fowlin presents "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me"** - A talented theatrical performer with a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, Dr. Fowlin took the audience on an experiential journey, having them re-examine core precepts taught to us as early as 1st grade. He used many of his gifts - humor, performance art, storytelling, psychology, theatrical monologue, and his personal journey - to create a moving experience for all. Dr. Fowlin's mission is to create an atmosphere of worldwide inclusion, not just tolerance, toward all people.
 - **7th Grade Assembly** - Dr. Fowlin's "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me" performance.
 - **8th Grade Assembly** - Dr. Fowlin's follow-up performance titled "I Am Not The Enemy"
 - **Parent Presentation and Question/Answer Session** - Dr. Fowlin's "You Don't Know Me Until You Know Me"

- **Screenagers** - All students viewed the original film which discusses students struggles over social media, video games and academics. The film offers solutions on how families can navigate the digital world. Students debriefed afterwards in their ABs.
- **Grade Level Dances/Socials** - EMS PTA sponsored events for students to come together as a grade and socialize in a fun, safe setting, with peers from the school, twice a year, fall and spring. Dances included games, DJ, dancing, snacks, photo booth and fun activities organized by parent volunteers and teachers.
 - **Sixth Grade Social Dance** - All 6th graders were invited to participate in formal dance lessons where they learned the fox trot, jitterbug, waltz and many more. A little social etiquette was introduced, as well!
 - **Seventh Grade Dance** - Dance which included DJ, games & snacks.
 - **8th Grade Gaga Ball Event** - 8th graders participated in a Gaga ball social event where they competed in a fun competition and listened to music and ate dinner/snacks.
- **Mix It Up Lunch** - The goal of Mix It Up Day is for students at EMS, and around the country, to get to know each other better as individuals. They were randomly seated in the cafeteria, encouraging them to step out of their comfort zone to get to know someone else. Questions were placed on each lunch table to start conversations, encouraging students to identify, question and cross social boundaries. Together with the EMS Guidance Department, the PTA and parent volunteers helped to facilitate activities at lunch for students to sit and engage with a variety of students.

Family and Community Engagement

- **Book Fairs** - Our PTA Volunteers worked with the EMS Staff to host a fall book fair (spring cancelled due to school shutdown). Funds went directly to the media center to provide books and resource materials for the teachers. Book vouchers were funded by the PTA with a goal to get a new book in the hands of every Eastern Middle School student.
- **Book Talk/Parent Discussion Groups** - Like Book Clubs, these were designed to offer opportunities for parents to connect in a relaxed, supportive environment to hear and discuss ideas related to parenting during the middle school years. The PTA had a discussion group led by Emily Trotman on the topic "Practical Strategies to Set Tech Limits at Home."
- **Green Schools Committee** - This committee provided ongoing education and awareness on the importance of environmental consciousness to our students and parent body. EMS piloted the Greenwich Public Schools Cafeteria Waste Reduction Program, requiring the students to dispose of their trash in four different bins: trash, liquids, compost and recycling. Our Green Schools Committee provided bins, signage and training for the staff and students. The Green Schools Committee collected plastic bags, film and wrap to be recycled into composite decking and other products. Barb Bartlett also planted a wildflower garden in spring 2018 which continues to grow. Finally, this committee supported the PTAC initiative for Foam-Free Lunches. They piloted a town-wide earth day celebration which was not fully implemented due to school shutdown.
- **Newcomers' Welcome** - Our Newcomers' Committee at EMS provided international coffees and meetings for families new to Greenwich and the Greenwich Public Schools System. A Fall meeting with parents, teachers and staff was held at the school, as well

as gatherings throughout the year, to help families feel connected to the school community and community at large.

- **PTA Meetings/Speakers** - Through collaboration with staff and listening to parents' needs and interests, our PTA Speaker Coordinator focused on bringing in experts on topics of interest to educate our school parent body and enhance the connection between school and home.
 - **Back to School Coffee** - Parent Meeting: This provided an opportunity to meet new families and reconnect with friends, as well as meet several key staff members and teachers. This is a great way to find out what is happening at Eastern Middle School at the start of the year.
 - **Aspen & Schoology Tech Workshop** - Parent Workshop to help parents understand these tools and how to use them better to assist their students. Primary speakers were Jason Goldstein and Karen Ball, media center specialist.
 - **"Be Internet Awesome" Tech Workshop** - EMS won a Google grant and presented a workshop on encouraging safer and more responsible use of online technology for children. Using apps and social media responsibly, making safer choices in the face of online security threats was discussed.
 - **"Casual Conversation with Interim Superintendent Toni Jones"** - Coffee Talk: Thoughts on academic performance, student well-being, Budget, Staffing issues at EMS and other parental topics of interest, Q&A.
 - **"Screenagers" Film screening and discussion panel** - Had a viewing of the original film which probes into the family struggles over social media, video games and academics. The film offers solutions on how we can help our kids navigate the digital world. A discussion panel was held afterwards with Psychologist Jeff Deteso, Principal Jason Goldstein, guidance counselor Megan Moore and media specialist Karen Ball.
 - **"8 Ways to keep your student focused, on track, and on task in the new distance learning environment"** - Parent Workshop with Michelle Sagalyn providing expert advice on how we can help our students navigate and cope in this new, unexpected environment we find ourselves in.
 - **"Endurance Parenting"** - Cristina Young, LCSW A local parent therapist presented a webinar (originally scheduled as an in-person PTA meeting) on "Endurance Parenting Tips" for this unique and uncertain time at home. She discussed important topics such as self-care for parents and students, the adolescent brain, communication, relationship building and acceptance and management of the current environment. She also discussed why grieving is ok.
 - **"Beyond EMS"** - Coffee Talk with Gus Lindine, GHS Athletic Director, Karen Foster, GHS Director of Student Activities and GHS School Resource Officers, Hayes Sgaglio and Fred Reisch.
 - **"5 Ways to Prevent Learning Loss and Prepare your Student for Fall"** - Parent Workshop with Michelle Sagalyn providing concrete where parents can learn best-practices, tools and strategies to support their student over the summer, so they can be ready for school this fall.
- **Parent Fundraiser** - A fundraiser and parent social was planned at Innis Arden in late March but was cancelled due to Covid shutdown.
- **Scholarships** - Thanks to generous PTA contributions, graduating Greenwich High School students from Eastern Middle School may qualify for EMS Book Awards to help defer the cost of college books and expenses. The PTA underwrites 12 different book

awards to capture a variety of student achievements and recognize the outstanding work of our graduates. Additionally, the PTA maintained the tradition of contributing to the PTAC partnership with the Greenwich Scholarship Association.

- **Spirit Wear/School Pride** - Our students and staff take pride in our school and its successes, whether at Gator Walk, a basketball game or a math team event. Our Spirit Wear team provided Gator Gear at cost for our community to show their pride with EMS merchandise. Additionally, our team created Staff Spirit Wear, which was worn proudly by our staff on Fridays.
- **Teachers Appreciation Events: Back to School Lunch & Teacher Appreciation Week** - Parents sponsored a luncheon at the beginning of the school year for all teachers and staff. In the spring, we held a fundraiser to collect parent donations and sent all teachers and staff generous gift cards (since we could do our normal TA week activities due to school shutdown). A video was also made by students in each grade to send out to teachers as a thank you.
- **Fifth Grade Parent Roundtable Discussions:** Our PTA President's plan to hold round table discussions at each of the feeder elementary schools for parents of 5th graders who will be 6th graders at EMS in the fall. These provide the opportunity, following the Incoming 6th Grade Orientation at EMS, for parents to have their individual questions answered, no matter how big or small, and make the transition to middle school less intimidating. **TBD on timing** (these may be done late summer/early fall when we know more about fall 2020).
- **Parent Communications -**
 - **Summer Gator Bytes Mailing:** This is our back-to-school newsletter, providing all things "Eastern" that parents and students need to know prior to the start of the school year. In collaboration with the school office, we provided information to help with a smooth transition to the school year.
 - **Gator Bytes Newsletter:** Our weekly newsletter is our main communication tool to connect with our parents about school and PTA events, community activities, district news and various opportunities for families. It is our main method of staying connected and providing ongoing communication between the school and home.
 - **Eblast Announcements:** On occasion, we send special announcements to the parent community regarding events happening at EMS or in the district.
 - **Student Directory:** This year we offered an online directory only via Membership Toolkit.
 - **Online Membership:** Families were able to immediately sign up as a member of our school PTA via Membership Toolkit. This allowed us to efficiently provide important tax donation letters and membership information upon online enrollment.

Facilities

- **School Beautification** - We take pride in our school and provide seasonal plantings in planters by the front entrance, as well as in the office. Volunteers work with office administration on providing proper lighting for school grounds, clean walkways and benches for our ever-growing student population.
- **Media Center Displays** - Provided by parent volunteers, in collaboration with the media center staff, to create artistic and subject-relevant displays in the Media Center. These

displays inspire students to explore new genres of books to read and subjects to investigate.

- **Property Donations** - The PTA donated items to improve our aging Media Center including seating, charging stations, mobile circulation and staff desks as well as cafe style tables with stools.

Western Middle School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Sponsored Engineers Teaching Algebra for 7th and 8th graders taking relevant classes and across levels.
- Invited CT Attorney General William Tong to speak to the 8th graders during their Social Studies Unit on the U.S. Constitution. He spoke about Federalism and States' rights. Incidentally, as CT's first Asian-Pacific American elected official, his appearance supports Diversity and Inclusion goals in education. He spoke about his family's immigrant beginnings and going to the White House for the first time to meet the President.
- Hosted Judith Altman (March 2020) of Holocaust Child Survivors of Connecticut to support an 8th literary unit. We had originally scheduled her to come visit the 8th graders at school. As the effects of Covid became more known, we decided as a precaution that she present virtually.
- Supported the Spring theater program with funding.
- Parent-led book club event to read "Call of the Wild". The movie-viewing was put on hold in March.

Social and Emotional Learning

- PTA started a new tradition of calling all incoming 6th grade parents to welcome them and their child to school, asking if they had any questions or concerns, etc.
- Hosted "Managing Social Dynamics in Middle School" with Stephane Smarth of Bullyproofingprevention.com. He spoke about how to prevent or manage peer-to-peer-aggressive behaviors in young people, and the negative effects overlooked by the adults around them.
- November 2019: Supported the school and 8th graders in the Sudell Sprint, a fundraiser to create the Sudell scholarship going to a student who models the kindness and compassion exemplified by the life of WMS alumnus Steven Sudell.

Family and Community Engagement

- August 2019: Welcome Back to School Staff Lunch and Ice Cream Social for new students
- September 2019: Organized parents to help clear out the school garden for our Consumer Science, Special Ed, and Science teachers
- September 2019: Created new webpage and directory through Membership Toolkit.
- September 2019: Supported teachers in seeking AVID tutors
- October 2019: Organized 6th grade parents and purchased refreshments for "Coffee with Gordon", a small group meeting with the Principal
- October 2019: Hosted Pumpkin Carving activity for students
- October 2019: Hosted annual HalloWestern Dance

- November 2019: Fall Parent Social and Silent/Live Auction at Gabriele's Restaurant. We also held a weeklong online auction for people who could not go to Gabriele's to participate in the live event
- November 2019: Organized 7th grade parents and purchased refreshments for "Coffee with Gordon", an small group meeting with the Principal
- December 2019: Organized 8th grade parents and purchased refreshments for "Coffee with Gordon", an small group meeting with the Principal
- December 2019: Supported school-wide holiday celebration with refreshments and decorations
- December 2019: Hosted holiday crafting event of decorating wreaths
- January 2020: PTA meeting was a cooking event with a parent-led information session of how-to make dumplings
- February 2020: Provided refreshments for the BoE meeting held at our school
- February 2020: Organized "Our Teachers are Souper" lunch where parents provided soups and chilis ahead of the Superbowl. This year we provided take-away containers that help our busy teachers get right back to their students
- Supported teachers by creating flyers and advertising Career Day
- Planned March events were put on hold
- April 2020: Hosted a Distance Learning Workshop with Michelle Sagalyn of s4studyskills.com: 8 Ways to Keep Your Student Focused, On Track, and On Task in the new E-Learning Environment
- April 2020: Hosted a virtual town hall meeting with the Principal in the wake of the lockdown and Distance Learning
- May 2020: Organized the purchase, design, and delivery of e-gift cards for our Teachers and Staff
- May 2020: Our PTA meeting had a how to prepare for Greenwich High School theme featuring Fred Reisch, GHS SRO, Karen Foster, Director of Student Activities, Gus Lindine, Director of Athletics, and Judith Nedell, Director of Counselling
- May 2020: Organized the purchase of bags and bottles for gifts to our 8th graders
- May 2020: Organized the purchase of school binders
- May 2020: June 2020: Contributed to scholarships for Western alumni graduating from Greenwich High School
- June 2020: Supported decorations for graduation events
- Provided updates on all school, district, and community events for our parent community
- Wrote articles and statements for BOE and local newspapers about events at our school and community

Facilities

- Purchased umbrellas to protect teachers from elements during morning drop-off and afternoon pick-ups
- Purchased water filters for existing water fountains
- Purchase new filtered water station
- Installation of water stations should occur in March during the lockdown
- Provided lunch to our custodians during Custodian Appreciation Day
- Holiday gifts to our custodians
- Provided lunch for our custodians when March lockdown began

Cos Cob School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Ruben Marroquin Weaving Workshop (2nd & 4th Grade)
- Grace Lin- Author Visit
- Cliff Mendelson- Day in Clay
- Journeys Into Native American Territories (Grade 3)
- Traveling Art Program
- Spark Movement Collective presents “Alice in Wonderland” Principals choice Summer read culminating event
- Theatreworks Presents “Rosie Revere Engineer & Friends” STEAM supporting event
- Theatreworks presents “Felix Pitre: Stories of Songs of Latin America” to celebrate Hispanic and Latin American Heritage Month
- Cultural Cafe: Henry Jones: Infinite Roots African Dance & Drumming, Lotus Music & Dance, & Adelka Polak.
- Field Trips by Grade:
 - Kindergarten: New Canaan Nature Center Visit & High Touch High Tech
 - Grade 3: Field Trip to the Stamford Nature Center & High Touch High Tech
 - Grade 4: High Touch high Tech
 - Grade 5: High Touch High Tech & Doktor Kaboom
- Materials for All School Assembly
- On Site Opera Presents “The Tale of the Baby Silly Mouse,” introducing elementary-aged children to the world of opera through story/comedy/folktale
- Support of the 5th Grade Play
- Deposit for 5th Grade Plymouth Trip

Social and Emotional Learning

- Ropes Course (5th Grade)
- Boosterthon (Fun Run)
- Dry Erase Table (SPED)

Family and Community Engagement

- Kindergarten Play Date
- Coffee & Evening Cocktail Party
- Bingo Night
- Book Fair
- Winter Dance
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Dinners for teachers during conferences
- Back to school stagg lunch
- Signs, balloons and gifts for all 5th graders
- Life Events Fund for teachers and families
- PTA Meetings with child care
- Support for PTAC Scholarships
- Scholarships for GHS grades
- Afters
- Morning Meet-Up

- Fall Festival
- School Directory
- Skate Nights
- Veterans Day Celebration
- Spirit Wear for new students
- Nomination of teacher for GPS
- Diplomas for 5th Grade graduates
- Support for Distinguished Teacher Awards

Facilities

- Courtyard Clean-Up
- Bottle Filling Fountain
- Violin Rack
- Assorted Stools
- 60 Dry-erase Clipboards
- 44 Book Bins
- 2 Adjustable Computer Desks
- 2 Classroom Mailboxes
- Cork Tiles
- Dry-Erase Table
- Frames for students artwork
- Kindness Rocks & Paint
- Learning Commons Fish Tank Maintenance
- Bean Bag Chairs
- 6 Tables for 1st Grade Classroom
- Banners for Field Day

Glenville School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

After Program

- A diverse offering of one-hour after school enrichment classes in three separate sessions throughout the school year. (Spring session cancelled due to school closure)

Assemblies & Workshops

- Bash the Trash: Trash Jam (Grades K-2)
- Eli Whitney Museum: Pinball Wizard Workshop (Grade 4)
- Journeys Into American Indian Territory Full Day Immersive Visit (Grade 3)
- Brain Wash Game Show: Interactive Assembly (Grade K – 5)
- Stepping Stones: Above and Beyond (Grade 1) (cancelled due to school closure)
- Stamford Nature Center: Animal Adaptions (Grade 1) (cancelled due to school closure)

Author Visits

- Shanda McCloskey
- David Adler

Field Trips

- Grade K:
 - Ambler Farm, Wilton, CT

- Ridgefield Playhouse: Dogs Love Books (cancelled due to school closure)
 - Stamford Nature Center, Stamford, CT
 - Hands On Heckscher Farm (cancelled due to school closure)
 - Stepping Stones Museum for Children, Norwalk, CT (cancelled due to school closure)
- Grade 1:
 - Stamford Nature Center, Stamford, CT (cancelled due to school closure)
- Grade 2:
 - Audubon Center, Greenwich, CT (cancelled due to school closure)
 - Stamford Nature Center, Stamford, CT (cancelled due to school closure)
- Grade 3:
 - The Bronx Zoo, Bronx, NY (cancelled due to school closure)
- Grade 4:
 - Greenwich Point Beach (cancelled due to school closure)
- Grade 5:
 - Philadelphia, PA (Full Day Trip) (cancelled due to school closure)

Health/Nutrition/Wellness

- Food Explorers: A new monthly program in which free, healthy food samples are provided to students during lunch, to introduce them to potentially new foods and increase awareness of healthy eating options (January, February & March) (April & May cancelled due to school closure)
- Recycling program reinforcement

In Classroom Programs

- Hands On Science:
 - Sensational Senses (Grade K)
 - What-A-Matter (Grade 3)
 - Magnet Dragon (Grade 4)
- High Touch High Tech:
 - Clockwork Orbit (Grade 5)
 - Force of Motion (Grade 1)

Music on the Menu

- Graham Clarke (OCT)
- Nick Depuy (NOV)
- Caribbean Vibes (DEC)

Reading & Other Classroom Support

- Purchased schoolwide read books for the Glenville Reads Committee:
 - Hands Around the Library: Protecting Egypt's Treasured Books
- Annual classroom materials discretionary fund for each teacher
- Paid the accompanist for our Winter Concert
- Pay for and host our annual Spelling Bee
- Provided materials and supplies for Glenville School K-5 Parent Showcase Night
- Purchased games and crafts for Glenville's Global School Play Day
- Purchased Supplemental Math and Reading Materials for Grade 5
- Purchased books for Glenville Staff
 - Relentless: Changing Lives by Disrupting the Educational Norms
 - Purposeful Play: A Teacher's Guide to Igniting Deep and Joyful Learning Across the Day

Subscriptions (Paper & Digital) for Teachers

- Scholastic Magazines (Grades K-3, 5)
- Time for Kids (Grade 4 & ESL)
- Greg Tang Math Worksheets (Grades K-5)
- IXL ELA (Grades 3 - 5)

Social and Emotional Learning

- Ryan Martin Assembly: Motivational Speaker (Grade K – 5)
- Supplemented existing flexible seating furniture in Grades 2 & 3

Family and Community Engagement

Community Building Endeavors

- Back-To-School Events
 - o Welcome signs for Incoming Kindergarteners
 - o Welcome Back Teacher Lunch
 - o Ice Cream Social/Meet & Greet for entire school
 - o Welcome Back Coffee for Parents
- Fifth Grade Community Service Council support
- Kind Campus Committee support
- Sunshine Club (teacher morale booster club) support
- Life Events funds for teachers
- Teacher Appreciation Week (swag purchase and organized virtual appreciation)
- PTA Meetings featuring guest speakers, refreshments, childcare
- Food provided for staff meetings and professional development days
- Schoolwide participation in Greenwich Alliance for Education's Turkey Trot
- Offer Gator Gear school spirit wear for purchase
- Monthly water service for the staff breakroom
- Support for student birthday photo with Principal and birthday cards
- Scholarships for GHS graduates who attended Glenville School
- Support for PTAC Scholarships
- Support for Distinguished Teacher Awards
- Support for staff holiday breakfast
- Support for Best Day Ever Hat Project
- Graduation Signs for Grade 5 Students
- Provided Photographer for 5th Grade Moving Up Ceremony
- Provided Middle School Survival Kits for Grade 5 Students
- Provided End of Year School Wide Gift to Each Student to acknowledge distance learning
- Provide free field day t-shirts for all students and staff (cancelled due to school closure)

Family Events

- Family Outdoor Movie Night
- Harvest Festival
- Bingo Night/Book Fair Kickoff
- Book Fair Week featuring Dads & Donuts
- Daddy-Daughter Dance
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Book Fair featuring Moms & Muffins
- Mother-Son Night of Fun (cancelled due to school closure)
- Glenville School Family Fun Night at Sound Tigers Hockey

- Gator Games Obstacle Course Challenge (cancelled due to school closure)

Newsletters and Communications

- Weekly PTA Newsletter: The Gator Bytes
- School Directory: Online (web and app) & print
- PTA Website featuring online school directory, calendar feed, parent resources & info
- PTA App featuring access to school directory, calendar, and communications

Parent-Only Events

- Moms Nights Out
- Gator Ball Annual Fundraising Gala (Gala cancelled due to school closure, but held online only auction this year)

Facilities

Furniture, Fixtures, & Equipment

- Provided Interior Navigational Signage throughout school hallways
- Provided Cafeteria Window Decals to filter sunlight
- Provided Cafeteria Door Shades to block sunlight
- Provided window and door privacy decals in conference room and front office
- Purchased additional folding tables for various school events

School Beautification

- Maintain Planters for front entrance
- Banners for front foyer
- Staff Directory Photo Board

Special Projects

- Converted an existing courtyard into usable outdoor learning space with uniform, level flooring
- Purchased storage shed to house unused desks while flexible seating is being utilized
- Purchased golf cart to aid in set up and clean up at various school events
- Developed digital math library of videos

Technology

- Headphones with microphones (Grades K-5)
- Continued repair and maintenance of staff remote communication system

Hamilton Avenue School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- We continue to provide volunteer efforts to find programs that provide special pricing for Title 1 schools in order to make sure that our limited budget has maximum impact. One curriculum enrichment effort that we feel is a unique and important offering for our Title 1 school is that our biannual Scholastic Book Fair. All funds accrued from the book fair are converted to book purchases through a special program offered by Scholastic. The PTA then provides a dollar value of free books that teachers may select to add to their classroom library, along with a single free book for each student as well.
- We continue to provide funding through PTAC/GSA to extend need and merit-based scholarships to graduating GHS students who were HAS students in elementary school.
- We continue to fund field trips and enrichment opportunities (i.e.-Day in Clay, etc.) as needed, for all students throughout the academic year for a variety of learning experiences for the children of HAS.

Social and Emotional Learning

- We provided a digital safety night with funding from a grant we received from National PTA and Facebook. With the help of teacher volunteers, HAS PTA provided parents and their children with activities which focused on increasing awareness of digital safety by participating in activities which focused on cyberbullying, internet safety and privacy on the internet.

Family and Community Engagement

- The HAS PTA Board of Directors determined that continuing to grow the HAS PTA membership and building an engaged community of families continued to be a top tier focus for us this year. Key concentrations for our PTA meeting programs included: 1) providing our families with information that would allow them to be better able to partner with the school to support their child's academic progress, and 2) providing parents and children opportunities to build community among our HAS families.
 - **Communications** = We continued to refine our efforts to work toward an optimal level of communication which we began in the 2018-2019 school year when we partnered with HAS administration to contribute to weekly newsletters via Smore. In addition, we launched the digital platform Membership Toolkit to enhance our Membership process and through this program we were able to also increase communication to parents with email communication through this site.
 - HAS PTA volunteers updated our PTA bulletin board to serve as another source of information about events happening throughout the year. Parents coming into the building would have visual information regarding PTA events when they entered the building. HAS PTA volunteers worked throughout the year to keep this bulletin board up to date.
 - HAS PTA also invested in more signage to promote joining the PTA. Two large heavy duty signs promoting membership were placed near the parking lot entrance of the school and hung there for the duration of the school year. HAS PTA had these signs created in English and Spanish and they were hung side by side to promote joining the PTA to our parent community.
 - **Community Partnership** = We continued our communication with Bruce Museum to continue to provide opportunities for parents and students. A presentation was in the planning phase with the representative from Bruce Museum when the schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This partnership will continue for the 2020-2021 school year with planning for opportunities for parents and students through the year.
 - At the holiday time, every student was asked to donate \$1.00 to take up a collection for our crossing guards on Hamilton Avenue and St. Roch Avenue. The crossing guards are Veterans and the school collected donations to gift to them at the holiday season for all they do for our students.
 - **Social Emotional Learning** = In the 2018-2019 school year, we received a \$1000 grant from the National PTA and Facebook to present a Digital Family Wellness event for our families. Teacher volunteers assisted the PTA to facilitate the event which provided parents with best practices, resources and tools that will empower them to have conversations with their children about living a healthy and safe life online.

- **Literacy** = We planned to tie our April PTA meeting program into literacy and the kickoff of our Spring book fair. Our PTA invited author and former teacher at HAS, Valerie Bolling to come in to provide information and do a reading of her recently published children's book. This event did not occur as planned due to the COVID-19 pandemic but plans to move it to the Fall to coincide with the Fall Book Fair will be considered dependent upon the status of the schools in the Fall.
- **Health & Wellness** = This year the HAS PTA began holding Zumba nights hosted by one of our parents who is a Zumba instructor. We hosted two this year where parents, teachers and students joined together in a fun evening that promoted a healthy physical activity. This initiative began to raise funds for a Gaga Ball Pit for the physical education teachers to use during P.E. classes but everyone enjoyed it so much that we can see it being on our list of annual events for years to come.
- Through our Zumba fundraisers the HAS PTA was able to raise funds to purchase a Gaga Ball Pit for the Physical Education teachers to use during physical education classes.
- **Virtual Presence** = HAS PTA continued to provide informal PTA meetings via zoom in order for our parents to connect with each other as well as administration and some of our teachers during distance learning.
- As part of teacher appreciation, HAS PTA provided virtual classes which focused on self-care for our teachers during the challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic. HAS PTA wanted self-care to be the focus of our teacher appreciation offerings during the distance learning so teachers were able to participate in self-care activities offered through virtual classes weekly in May (Cooking, Zumba & Yoga). Additionally, students appreciated their teachers virtually by sending virtual messages through a variety of online platforms (i.e.-padlet, flipgrid, etc.).
- **Spiritwear** = HAS PTA re-stocked our Spiritwear for the first time in a few years and added some new items based on interest from families, students and staff.
- HAS PTA provided a HAS spiritwear t-shirt and book to all incoming Kindergarten students.
- We have enjoyed a moderate level of attendance at our PTA meetings and continued to have a high level of attendance at many other events this year. Babysitting is provided at all PTA membership meetings to make attending meetings easier and more welcoming for our diverse community of families. Securing translators to be present for translation at every PTA meeting continues to be an effort of the HAS PTA.
- A committed group of HAS PTA volunteers made sure that many other activities and events occurred during the school year to celebrate our teachers, our learners and their families. Some of those events were Halloween Bingo, International Night, Staff Appreciation Holiday Breakfast. These events have been occurring annually with the support of our PTA volunteers.

Facilities

- The HAS PTA continued to advocate for the replanting of several trees that had been removed from the school grounds during the previous school year. Parents were particularly concerned that a line of trees had been removed where a small complex of condominiums had been built. The line of trees provided a visual barrier between the

playground and school building from the condominium complex. The HAS PTA invited Dr. Toni Jones to our first PTA meeting of the 2019-2020 school year to provide information on these trees which were scheduled to be re-planted as they had been removed from school property with proper authorization. HAS PTA had been very vocal on behalf of the parent community in advocating for the replanting of these trees.

- The HAS PTA invited Dr. Toni Jones to our first PTA meeting of the 2019-2020 school year to inform parents and answer questions regarding the field project which is slated to begin at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.
- The HAS PTA raised money to purchase a Gaga Ball Pit for the physical education department at HAS.
- The HAS PTA restored the Hamilton Avenue school signing by giving it a fresh coat of paint.

Looking Forward

- We are looking eagerly to next year with the goal of furthering our work of building strong family engagement in education at Hamilton Avenue. We will continue to work closely and collaboratively with administration to assess the social-emotional needs of our students and families upon returning to school from the COVID-19 pandemic. We look forward to finding new and creative ways to rebuild our budget that has been negatively affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- HAS PTA was working on starting events that we were hoping would become annual events (i.e.-Spaghetti Dinner) and continuing events that were successful for Hamilton Avenue in recent years (Fun Run, School Play, etc.), when the school closure occurred. As a result, we were unable to hold many events that were in the works for the Spring however we will work to bring those events and more to our families when we are able to be together again in our beautiful school building.

International School At Dundee PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

** Due to steps taken by the State, the Town of Greenwich and GPS to battle the Covid-19 pandemic, some planned activities were partially completed, or cancelled in progress*

- Back to School Assembly, this year featuring a vibrant Flamenco Dance Troupe
- Science month in January included weekly interactive science experiences for students from Connecticut Science Center and the Children's Museum of Bridgeport, plus 2 family Science Nights with the Mad Science company
- Author visits: Shanda McCloskey (October), Troy Cummings (Oct.), Tish Rabe (November)
- Weeklong creative writing program with Writer in Residence Jessie Janowitz (March)
- Books by Shanda McCloskey, Tish Rabe and Jessie Janowitz gifted to every student who worked with and met with those authors
- Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration with Students performance and school assembly
- Additional grade level science and social studies enrichment financial support
- Math Night – PTA sponsored evening event in cooperation with ISD teachers
- High Touch/High Tech interactive presentations for each grade level.

- Classical Café – monthly lunchtime musical performances for all grades with notable performers including a Chinese music ensemble, a world-renowned Indian sitar and tabla duo, an engaging folk musician, a five-person a cappella group and an award-winning performer showcasing instruments from Africa.
- The ISD PTA proudly supports the International Baccalaureate Cultural Partnerships which included financial and volunteer support for programs with:
 - K- Stamford Nature Center
 - 1st Grade – Greenwich Audubon
 - 2nd Grade – Stamford Nature Center*
 - 3rd Grade – IB Ballet Program
 - 4th Grade – SoundWaters
 - 5th Grade – Philadelphia Day Trip*
- Financial support for the Fifth Grade Exhibition production
- Purchased nominated books for all teachers as part of the Charter Oak Book Award

Social and Emotional Learning

- There is a large Social and Emotional Learning component imbedded within the IB framework at ISD. The IB Learner Profiles teach the students the value and the skills of being open-minded, caring, balanced, being a risk-taker, being a communicator, complemented with other character traits.
- In the 2019-2020 school year, the ISD PTA also supported Social and Emotional Learning through a range of activities and events for the children and families, including:
 - Hosted a parent education session on Mindfulness as an Approach to Combat Anxiety, presented by the GPS Psychologist Dr. Fabian Boie
 - Hosted parenting workshop based on the book “Peaceful Parent, Happy Child”
 - Birthday T-shirts gifted to each student on their birthday, which are decorated and signed by their classmates
 - ISD Spirit Wear

Family and Community Engagement

- ISD PTA continued the tradition of hosting a number of family events this year to bring the community together and build social connections for the magnet school population. A number of our planned events had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, but for the events we were able to hold prior to the pandemic this year, all were at no cost to the families attending, including:
 - Back to School Ice Cream Social (September)
 - New Parent Coffee (September)
 - Open House Parent Social (September)
 - Monster Mash (October)
 - Family Skate Day (March)*
 - Talent Show (March)*
 - International Family Night at ISD (May)* (For International Family Night we sell tickets for a very nominal fee, primarily to manage occupancy for fire code and other safety reasons.)
 - ISD Beach Party (June)*
- The PTA hosted Parent Socials twice during the year, including Back to School Night (October) and a Gala Parent Party Fundraiser at Innis Arden Golf Club (March)

- The Afters Committee organized two sessions (Fall, Winter) of after school programs for ISD students to explore their various interests. Offerings included sports, arts, creative performance and STEM classes. Our Spring Afters program had to be cancelled due to the pandemic.
- The PTA provided Afters Scholarships to Free and Reduced Lunch students for each session of Afters classes, with those scholarships managed in confidence by the school
- Hosted the 3rd annual Greenwich Color Challenge (fun run), in October. This has become a community-wide event, drawing participants from throughout all of Greenwich and many surrounding towns
- Book Fair with Scholastic Books (November)
- ISD Photo Day
- Continued providing ISDPTA.ORG website – allowing access for all PTA members to ISD activities, events, directories, forms, purchases etc.
- Weekly electronic Dragon Tales newsletter is sent to every parent to keep them informed of ISD and district information and events
- ISD PTA online directory available to all families who joined the PTA
- Welcome Back to School Coffee for all parents on the first day of school
- Buddy Families - Families new to ISD are paired with seasoned ISD families to welcome and assist them with questions related to the school, held in September.
- Health & Wellness Week: activities including smoothie and fruit & veggie tastings with fitness and stretching in the morning announcements
- Donation to Greenwich Alliance “Tuning In To Music Program” in recognition of ISD Music Teachers
- Hosted a parenting workshop based on the book “Peaceful Parent, Happy Child.”
- Holiday Staff Breakfast in December
- Holiday cookie packaging party, which brought parents together for a fun morning to create sweet treat boxes for teachers during parent-teacher conferences
- Financial support for scholarship awards to GHS students and the Distinguished Teacher Awards.

Facilities

- Installed a new Garden Shed to be used in working with the lower grade students to raise appreciation and awareness of plants, biology, and the environment
- Ongoing upgrades and maintenance to the learning garden, used mainly by the primary level classes
- Awarded Eight Teacher Grants to fund instructional innovations in the classrooms, music, Spanish, and the Learning Commons / Media Center
- Purchased indoor and outdoor recess games and equipment for approximately half of the classrooms
- School beautification committee provides fresh plantings of flowers and seasonal plants to enhance the school appearance, particularly around the first day of school and holidays
- Green Schools Committee provided several education and awareness initiatives to highlight the importance of environmental consciousness to our students and parent body, including the roll out of the Cafeteria Waste Reduction Program, guiding the students in the proper separation and disposal of their trash in four different bins: trash, liquids, compost and recycling

- Purchased a set of traffic safety cones used in the traffic circle in front of the school to improve visibility and safety during daily drop off and pick up of children from school and at the time of family events at the school.
- Amazon Gift Cards presented to all certified teaching staff on the first day of school to assist with supplemental classroom purchases
- Gift cards presented to all non-instructional staff members in December
- Teacher Appreciation Gift Cards presented to all teachers and instructional staff in recognition of their extraordinary efforts throughout the “distance learning” experience (in lieu of recognitions for Teacher Appreciation Week in May which usually includes PTA hosted lunches, breakfasts, cards and small token gifts for the staff)
- Purchased a set of International Flags, replacing a set that had expired Fire Resistance certificates. These flags truly represent the “International” nature of ISD and help raise the students’ awareness and appreciation of their heritages and their connections to the world.

Julian Curtiss School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Writer’s workshop- several authors and parent specialists came to visit various grades. We hosted many Zoom author visits.
- Through Flex Academies we offer many after school programs. To name a few, there is Hip Hop, glass blowing, cooking, lacrosse, and golf, to name just a few. We provide a scholarship to one student per class offered. We also had an “Eagle’s Nest” where we were able to sponsor students via scholarship to stay after school for our new after care program.
- Music Cafe offers many different musical artists during lunch in the school cafeteria several times throughout the year.
- Reading Buddies- program where parents volunteer in 1st and 2nd grade lunches to read to small groups of children while they eat.
- Mad Science Assembly (planned but did not happen due to school closing)
- Inquiry Night - (did not happen due to school closing)
- Field Trips (NOTE- all of this was planned but several did not happen due to school closing!)
 - o **Kindergarten:** Audubon Greenwich
 - o **First Grade:** Beardsley Zoo, Greenwich Library, Ridgefield Playhouse, Stamford Museum and Nature Center (in-house) High Tech, High Touch- Force and Motion (in house)
 - o **Second Grade:** Asiana - opinion writing, High Tech High Touch, Ridgefield Playhouse, Audubon Greenwich
 - o **Third Grade:** Journey into American Indian Territory (in house), Stamford Museum and Nature Center (in-house), Bush Holley House
 - o **Fourth Grade:** Sound Waters, Ridgefield Playhouse, Tod’s Point, social responsibility
 - o **Fifth Grade:** United Nations, Statue of Liberty/Ellis Island, Liberty Science Center, Sturbridge Village, MA
 - o **Art:** 4th grade- Yale New Haven Art Show
 - o **Music:** Young People’s Concert at GHS- 4th and 5th and 2nd and 3rd

- o **ESL:** Maritime Aquarium

Social and Emotional Learning

- General PTA meetings that focused on topics that follow the district norms. A few of these topics include internet safety, the Second Step Program, etc. One of these meetings focused on math skills and several teachers from various grades showed parents how the math portion of the day worked for their children.
- The PTA works with the teachers and administration to create a Student Council for 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders. There was a police officer that was to show up to the meeting just after school was cancelled...
- PTA provides a weekly newsletter and email reminders so that children and parents are constantly informed of all the happenings at JC

Family and Community Engagement

- Family Fun Day, which was once called the Back to school blast is the first PTA sponsored event to welcome families to the JC community in the fall.
- The PTA held an election day bake sale in November.
- The PTA organized a Movie Night twice this year where families come to watch a family friendly movie together while eating pizza, popcorn, and cookies!
- The PTA organized Bingo Night, where families come to play BINGO! We organized gift baskets as prizes, sold dinner, and invited teachers to call out the numbers! (This did not happen this year due to school closing)
- The PTA organized a fresh produce delivery program to the community.
- We organize a lost and found and overlook it, and donate unclaimed items to Neighbor to Neighbor.
- PTA organized a Scholastic Book Fair
- PTA organized a used Book fair- families donate their gently used books, and they are sold for \$1 each for someone new to enjoy! (This did not happen due to school closing)
- UN Day- Our annual week long event that includes a parade of nations, school assembly, international food tasting night and a trip for the 5th graders to the UN in NY, NY. This year, the PTA sponsored the Inside Out Program that brought awareness to cultural diversity and understanding the differences and similarities in people throughout the world.
- PTA organized Teacher appreciation week- organized a Our Teachers are STARS Hollywood theme where students told their teachers why they were a star, we also provided luncheon, swag bags and trophies, a coffee cart, yoga class, manicures for each teacher and numerous raffle items and gift cards given away all week. We were able to do this virtually with a "drive by" appreciation where families drove by certain faculty houses with approval.
- Fall Fundraiser- Parents and Teachers came together at Mike's Organic for dinner, dancing and silent auction
- Grandparents' Day- Grandparents are invited into the school to enjoy breakfast, assembly with the principal, and visiting classrooms. We are doing this virtually by having parents donate money to go toward the Birthday Boxes campaign. The Grandparents were then mailed certificates that talked about what the donation was for and to wish them a Happy Grandparent's Day from the student. A slideshow was also created.

- The PTA organized a Father(or special person)-Daughter dance for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders (This was organized but did not happen due to school closing)
- In the Spring we have the JC Family Fun Run- a week long opportunity for children and their caretakers to come together before school starts to get in some early morning exercise! (This was organized but did not happen due to school closing)
- In the fall, we organized being part of the National Walk to School Event
- Newcomer Outreach Program- PTA has a Newcomer Rep who reaches out to all parents to help get them comfortable to the school routines and happenings
- PTA organizes a Yearbook
- Kindergarten Playdate- Prior to the first day of school, the PTA organizes a playdate at the JC playground for all kindergarteners and new students
- Back to school Coffees- for parents to come together and reconnect and meet fellow JC parents
- Continued with an annual scholarship in MaryAnn Murray's name, who retired from the district after 40+ years. A graduating 5th grader, who fills certain criterias created by MaryAnn, will receive a \$250 Staples gift card to help them prepare for middle school.
- Election Day Bake sale- PTA sells snacks, treats, lunch and drinks to the local voters
- What's Cooking?- A parent teacher event that took place two times. Adults come together to feast on an authentic home cooked meal provided by one of our very own JC parents and hosted by another JC parent(s). This year we had Japanese and Chinese!
- Twice annual, Welcome back and End of the Year Social at the Bowman Observatory on JC grounds- PTA provides food for parents and teachers to celebrate the end of another great school year! (The second Social did not happen due to school closing. A Zoom idea is being discussed)
- The PTA provided refreshments for district events like Open House, curriculum nights, Kindergartener visitation, Magnet Open House, K orientation, etc.
- The PTA organizes Photo Day
- The PTA organizes a summer reading program
- The PTA recognizes Nurses' Day and Administrative Asst Day and provided those staff members with a few gifts of thanks.
- The PTA organizes "pop-up" fundraisers at local stores and restaurants, such as Chipotle, Pizza Post, and Splurge. This is to help encourage families to shop local and meet for dinner to socialize. A percentage of the local businesses proceeds from these events goes to the PTA.

Facilities

- The PTA has been providing ongoing assistance toward the transformation of the school's media center into a "learning commons".
- The PTA provided Poland Spring water and a cooler in the teacher's lounge.
- The PTA has a School beautification Rep who helps to keep the front flowers/plants healthy
- The PTA gives every teacher a stipend at the beginning of the year to help them buy supplies for their classrooms.
- The Pta worked with the custodians to organize a better recycling program during the lunch shifts.
- The PTA oversees a recycling center for old batteries and dried up markers

New Lebanon School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- **Schoolwide:** Bus transportation for field trips, provided scholarship assistance for:
 - Field trips
 - After school enrichment programs
- **Author visit:** by Shanda McCloskey who provided STEM fiction books
- **High Touch-High Tech:** science enrichment workshops for all grades
 - Kindergarten - "Weather or Not" Workshop
 - 1st grade - Friction and gravity Workshop
 - 2nd Grade - Wind and water Workshop
 - 5th Grade - Info Waves Workshop
- **Field Trips:**
 - Ridgefield Playhouse - Mayhem Poets (5th Grade)
 - Connecticut State Capitol (3rd grade trip)
 - Young People's Concert with Greenwich Symphony Orchestra at GHS. (4th & 5th Grades)
 - Field trip to tour the Bush Holley House
- **After School Enrichment Programs:**
 - Dance Club
 - Creative Club
 - Kempo Karate
 - Gymnastics
 - Empower Me! (empower girls to be all they can be)
 - Ninja Warrior (Gymnastics)
- Purchased many books to support literacy and ESL programs, the school Media Center, and provided each grade level and specialists classrooms with new books.
- Purchased Media bags for kindergarten students' media center check outs

Social and Emotional Learning

- There is a large SEL component woven into the IB framework of New Leb through the IB Learner Profiles which include being open-minded, caring, balanced and being a risk-taker and communicator, among other character traits.
- The New Leb PTA supports Social and Emotional Learning through a range of activities and events for the children and families. In addition, the PTA:
 - Hosted speakers on executive functioning
 - Hosted a speaker on Stress & Anxiety in children at school & home

Family and Community Engagement

- Back to School Sweet Treat Social
- Hospitality for Parent Coffees
- Hartz Pack to School student supply program
- New Lebanon Photo Day
- Zumba Night for Adults & Kids
- Election Day Bake Sale
- Spooktacular Halloween Party
- Salute to Veterans (Veterans Day Observance) hospitality

- Grandparents and Special Friends (“Grandfriends”) Visit
- Winter Wonderland Holiday Event
- Communications:
 - Peek at the Week E Newsletter issues inform parents of New Leb, district, and community events
 - PTA maintains database of family information used to send Constant Contact messages as needed
 - Social Media Posts on our public Facebook page, private Facebook group and Twitter
 - Share news via Class Dojo app
- PTA Meetings
- Childcare for PTA meetings
- Parent-Teacher Conferences – As part of the Families as Partners in Learning Grant field test program, hosted Patti Jomo of Willow Road Consulting at our November, February, and March PTA meetings in preparation for the December and March parent-teacher conferences. The first program was “From Puzzle to Plan: Learn How to Partner with Teachers to Support Your Student’s Learning.” Parents received information and tips on how they can be active partners in advocating for their children and be involved in the process of educating their children and particulars on how to have a positive and productive parent-teacher conference.
- Teacher Appreciation events - Welcome Back Staff Luncheon
- Fall Scholastic Book Fair
- Family Skate at Hamill Rink
- Books and Bagels hospitality (2 events)
- Bobcat Spirit Wear
- Read-a-thon
- Battery Recycling
- Marker recycling via Crayola’s ColorCycle program
- Kindergarten visitation with intro from PTA Presidents
- Book Awards for GHS graduating seniors who are New Lebanon School alumni
- Support for PTAC Scholarships administered by the Greenwich Scholarship Association
- Support for the Distinguished Teacher Awards
- Spring Scholastic Book Fair - virtual (*in-person cancelled due to CT closure of schools*)
- Boxtops for Education
- Stop and Shop A+ Rewards Program
- Amazon Smile
- Coca-Cola GIVE bottle caps and beverage code donations
- *Spaghetti Dinner (cancelled due to CT closure of schools)*

Facilities

- New USA Flag for outside of school building flagpole
- Volunteers school media center/Library Learning Commons
- Teacher Grants for classroom supplies
- Books for Classroom Libraries
- Note: first full school year in new school building (opened February 2019)

North Mianus School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

Schoolwide:

- Summer Theater of New Canaan performed Peter Pan to students in two assemblies tying in with schoolwide summer reading. Students prepared assignments over the summer that were also featured on a bulletin board in the school along with photographs of the performance.
- Critically acclaimed author and illustrator Dan Yaccarino met with students in each grade and signed autographed copies of his books. Yaccarino is the winner of a Parent's Choice Award, an Emmy, and has done character designs for Nickelodeon's *The Backyardigans*.
- STEM presenter Jay Mankita visited North Mianus and conducted "Playful Engineers Traveling Maker Space" sessions with all of the students. The students learned about Chain Reactions and Creative Contraptions through hands-on STEM building workshops. They designed, built, tested, and played with Rube Goldberg "machines" learning about basic forces and motion connecting focused play with science.
- Traveling Art led sessions with students in Kindergarten, Second, Third, and Fifth Grade.

Kindergarten:

- Kindergarteners traveled to the Palace Theater to see a performance of Eric Carle's classic children's book *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*.
- High Touch High Tech led in-school sessions on matter, where Kindergarteners explored the properties of solids, liquids and gases.

First Grade:

- First graders traveled to Ridgefield Playhouse to see a performance of *How to Fill Your Bucket*.
- High Touch High Tech met with first-graders to learn about the natural forces of gravity, friction, and magnetism and how they start, stop and accelerate everything around us.
- The first graders traveled to Stepping Stones Children's Museum and became astronomers, replicating the movement of the sun and moon as they orbit and rotate in the sky. Students were also given a guided tour of the museum.

Second Grade:

- High Touch High Tech made two visits to the second grade to cover science concepts on sounds and shadow and light.

Third Grade:

- Science Tellers visited third grade and an energetic performer acted out a lively tale and students conducted experiments on aliens escaping from earth.
- The Eli Whitney conducted *New England Whaling Ships* sessions with third graders to teach them about the whaling industry in Connecticut.

Fourth Grade:

- The Eli Whitney conducted *Pinball Machine* sessions with third graders, teaching them game design, logic, marble movement, and creative design.
- NMS art teacher took the fourth graders to tour the Guggenheim Museum.

Fifth Grade:

- Fifth graders traveled to the Institute of American Indian Studies Museum.

Social and Emotional Learning

- Boosterthon activities coordinated with School Norms
- Presentation for parents on How to Manage Anxiety in Your Children with Dr. Avital Falk
- Open Arts performances linked to School Norms and PBIS initiatives
- Meditation & Mindfulness Workshops for students K-5
- Virtual Meditation Workshop videos for use at home

Family and Community Engagement

- Hosted Back to school luncheon for teachers
- Kindergarten Playdate on Playground after supplies drop off
- Pops on the Playground
- New Family Committee for Welcome Coffee and Yearlong Events
- Picture Day
- Family Fun Night Picnic
- Executive Board luncheon
- PTA meetings with and without speakers
- Fall Parent Social (Hawk Fest)
- Parent Social following Open House
- Boosterthon Fun Run
- Class Coffees (one for each grade) in Cafeteria
- Fall Book Fair
- Hot Chocolate and Read Aloud with Principal Schmidt
- Spring Virtual Book Fair
- Monster Mash
- Veterans Day Celebration Breakfast
- Holiday Boutique for children to shop for gifts for their families
- Executive Board Holiday Potluck
- Fruit and Veggie Challenge
- Sound Tigers Hockey Game
- New Family Social
- Virtual Teacher Appreciation Week
- 5th Grade Moving Up 'Celebration'
- Extra Candy Drive After Halloween
- Cell Phone, Sneaker, Battery and Crayola Recycling Programs
- Webpage developed to share resources during Distance Learning
- Summer Drive to Assist Local Agencies

Facilities

- School Beautification
- Teacher classroom set up funds
- Book fair donates books to all the classrooms and Learning Commons
- Tools for Schools
- Cafeteria Composting and Recycling Program: NMS is one of the GPS pilot schools and PTA supported and expanded education and implementation of program.

Looking Forward

- Class Parent Support
- Creation and Maintenance of Online Family Directory
- Rebate Programs (Box Tops/Amazon Smile)
- Allergy Awareness Program
- Fluoride Rinse
- PBIS Planning and Support
- Cafeteria and Bulletin Board Decoration/School Beautification
- Board of Ed Meetings Attendance
- Afters Program – 3 Sessions & Gymnastics in January
- Homework Club
- Spirit Wear
- Green Schools – Walk/Bike to School days, Recycling and Composting Pilot, Composting, & Recycling
- PTA Website Maintenance
- Learning Commons Volunteers to restock Books
- Art Department Volunteers
- Weekly Preview
- Constant Contacts
- Scholarship Donations – Book Awards, Distinguished Teacher, PTAC
- Fundraised specifically for Courtyard clean-up and design for outdoor learning space. Awaiting removal of fuel tank by district in order to proceed with plan.
- Fundraised specifically for Sensory Wall and Path to provide extra support for children with special needs. Awaiting approval to install.

North Street School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- In class Presentations and Field Trips
 - Cortney Sheinmal writer in residence – 3rd, 4th 5th
 - Traveling Art – 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th
 - High Touch/High Tech – K-5
 - Bush Holley House – 2nd and 3rd ?
 - Animal Embassy – K
 - Macinspires
 - Mystic Aquarium – (whole school assembly and then residency)
- Assemblies and Cultural Cafes
 - Summer Theater of New Canaan-Robin Hood (whole school show-summer book)
 - Bash the trash (whole school show)
 - Don't Press Send-Katie Schumacher (4th/5th only)
 - Don't Press Send-Katie Schumacher-portion of adult presentation at Central
 - Project Trio-4th and 5th music residency
 - Inca Son Music and Dance-Cultural Café
 - Dartmouth Aires-Cultural Café
 - The Players Club-Cultural Cafe
- Additional Programming
 - NSS OnStage Presents Little Mermaid – ½ of program and did a video show
 - Afters by Flex Academies

- NSS Early Bird Media Center
- Word Masters
- Math SuperStars-20 weeks

Social and Emotional Learning

- The PTA along with the Student Council supported various charities throughout the year including Neighbor to Neighbor Toy Drive, Pajama Day, Favorite T-Shirt Day, Community Service Award for NSS students, and Valentines for Vets.
- The PTA promoted the special color theme days related to the districts social and emotional learning throughout the year.
- The PTA sold spirit wear throughout the year at various PTA events and had a 2 week flash sale. The PTA also gave clothing to anyone not able to afford it.
- The first Friday of every month is Spirit Day, where the staff and students are encouraged to wear NSS clothing or the schools colors blue and white.
- The PTA pays for school supply kits and classroom funds for those unable to afford it.
- The PTA donates any unclaimed clothing from lost and found twice a year.

Family and Community Engagement

- Back to School Picnic including lunch for the staff
- Volunteer Fair
- New Family Coffee and buddy families
- Take Your Parents to Lunch
- Fall Family Costume Party
- Veterans Day celebration
- Book Fairs (Fall and Spring with family night and pastries with parents) spring was online
- Staff Holiday Luncheon
- Membership Meeting – Psychologist speaker and AVID presentation
- Katie Schuamacher – Internet Safety speaker (split cost with CMS)
- All school Boosterthon Fun Dance
- Books and Bagels
- Pizza Bingo
- Parent Social-Fall
- Weekly Newsletter, “The Dragon’s Tale”
- Regular email blasts regarding school happenings
- Annual directory (online only-MTK) with minimum PTA membership
- Yearbook
- School Dismissal Manager
- Teacher Appreciation Week

Facilities

- Continued maintenance of NSS garden
- Fall and spring plantings around the school
- PE Equipment
- Folding chairs and tables
- Flexible seating
- Conference room chairs and front desk chairs
- Rain suits and umbrellas for drop off and pick up staff

- Speaker system-cordless
- Portable projection screen
- Stem supplies for Media- Dash Robots, etc
- Music supplies

Old Greenwich School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

**A significant portion of our Curriculum enrichment both grade specific and all-school was cancelled due to the school closure for Covid-19 beginning on March 12th. Listed below are all events before that date.*

Grade Specific:

- In School Enrichment: Police Visit (K), EMS Visit (K), High-Touch High –Tech (K, 1, 2, 3), Judge Krumeich (3), Chemistry Presentations (3), Stepping Stones (K, 3), Bash the Trash Instrument Making Workshop (2, 5), Eli Whitney Museum Workshops Force in Motion and ElectriCity (4), Waterworks (2), Science in Motion/CT Science Center - Roller Coasters (3), Guest Artist - Roberto Dutesco (3), Story Arts Concert (K, 1), Nappy's Puppets (K), Spanish Flamenco Workshop (3), Stamford Museum and Nature Center Waterworks (2), Talcott Mountain (1, 5), Performance by Odds Bodkin –“The Odyssey”(4), Spanish culture enrichment with a Weaver (4), Dirtmesiter (2, 5), Princeton Tigertone Chorus Workshops (4, 5)
- Field Trips: Harriet Beacher Stowe/ Mark Twain House (4), Greenwich Town Hall (3)
- Traveling Art for Grades K, 2, 3 and 5
- Visiting Authors: Shanda McCloskey (Gr. 3-5) and Adam Rubin (Gr. K-2)
- Spelling Bee for Grades 4 - 5
- Hosted WordMaster Breakfasts (Grades 3-5), led by teachers 9 times throughout the year.
- Morning Math Enrichment for grades 3-5. Led by teachers during weekly sessions before school to utilize a range of enrichment materials such as; Continental Math League (CML's), Math Olympiad and Sunshine Math
- ESL Thanksgiving Feast
- Credits for 2020-2021: CT River Museum (5), Sucari 'Arts for Learning CT' (3-5)

All Grades:

- Summer Reading Program focused on Treasure Island, with performance by Summer Theater of New Canaan
- Princeton Tigertone Assembly K-5
- “Music on the Menu” lunchtime program
- Bash the Trash performance/assembly Grades K-5
- Afters Program offerings: Chess, Dodgeball, Flag Football, Arts & Crafts, The Kindness Rock Project, Matball, Golf, Art, Flying Machines, Cartooning, Singing, Karate, Yoga and Fitness, Sewing, Robotics, Critter Caravan, Gym Games, Running Club, Junior Builders, Future Picassos, Hip Hop Music and Beatmaking, Hip Hop Dance, Gymnastics, 3-D Printing, Code Ninjas, Painting Party, Cooking, Fun with Chemistry and Physics, Let's Sing, Hooray for Clay, iMovie Video Production, Magic, Little Robotics, Yoga, Cursive Writing, Cheer and Move, Fashion Design, Manners in a Modern World, Sports Spectacular, Escape Room, Science Wonders

- Host Early Birds Computer Skills and Activities Hour before school

Social and Emotional Learning

- Kyle Dine Allergy Awareness Assembly K-5
- School Spirit Fridays
- Dolphin Depot Spirit Wear

Family and Community Engagement

Events and Fundraisers:

- New Family and Kindergarten welcome lawn signs
- School Photo Day
- Pumpkin Lady Unveiling Day
- Pumpkin Patch Festival – Largest PTA fundraising event. This is our annual Fall Festival that draws the entire school and neighborhood communities together for some old fashion family fun
- Winter Book Fair and Spring Virtual Book Fair
- Family Fun Night at Eastern Greenwich Civic Center (January)
- OGS Yearbook
- OGS Musical for 4th and 5th graders– Peter Pan (Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- OGS Talent Show (Performance Cancelled due to Covid-19)
- School supply fundraiser – gives parents an easier option for obtaining school supplies
- 5th Grade graduation activities

PTA Meetings and Hosted Events for Families:

- First day of school PTA Welcome Coffee and Information Session
- Back to School Night Parent Social hosted at local restaurant
- Greg Tang Family Math Night
- New Families Committee offered “buddy” families to all new Old Greenwich School families and hosted social events
- Kindergarten Social held in the Fall
- PTA Meeting – to kick off the year, featuring Principal Bencivengo
- Q&A Coffee with PTA Co-Presidents
- Hosted “Grade Level Coffees with Principal” for overview of curriculum and expectations for the school year
- Class Coffees hosted by class parents
- Hosted Kindergarten Orientation Presentation
- Hosted Hang with Friends Virtual Hangouts
- Hosted Virtual Parent Webinar “How to Prevent Learning Loss and Prepare Your Student for Fall”

Outreach Events:

- Halloween Candy Drive for Operation Smile
- Operation Backpack with Ambassador Program
- Operation Santa Toy Drive
- December Month of Meals delivery to Kids in Crisis
- 100 Day Can Drive to benefit Neighbor to Neighbor
- Funds from the Run Across America collected for Americares
- “Lost and Found” clothes delivered to Neighbor to Neighbor

Health and Wellness/Green Schools:

- Run across America to support hurricane victims via Americares (in conjunction with Outreach)
- Fruit and Veggie Week
- Green Schools Waste Management Initiative (new recycling and waste bins)

Teacher Outreach and Support:

- Provided teacher welcome luncheon
- Provide hospitality at monthly staff meetings
- Provided meals to our teachers during December Teacher/Parent Conferences
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- Teacher Grants (outlines in the “Facilities” section”)

PTA Communication:

- The PTA creates the weekly online “Between the Waves” school newsletter and Sunday evening Reminders
- PTA maintains database of family information used to send Constant Contact messages as needed and to create a printed school directory
- Membership Toolkit online directory and payment system, including APP
- PTA maintains and updates a board outside the school and in-school digital message screen with current events and photos
- Annual school Yearbook
- Maintain the PTA webpage
- Submit press releases to local papers alerting them to activities and programs happening at OGS

Facilities

- Capital purchases (some as part of annual Teachers’ Grants)
 - New School Sign
 - Flooring for Gaga Ball Pit
 - Peaceful Playground Accessories
 - Kidversations Workbooks (Kindness Rocks Project) for 4th Grade
 - Place Value Math Games for 2nd Grade
 - White Board Film for Administration
 - Ellison Die Cut Machine with accessories
 - Light Table with accessories for Kindergarten
 - Social Studies Short Nonfiction Text Toolkits for 4th and 5th Grades
 - Set of Comprehension Building Books for Literacy Room
 - Books for Classroom Library for 2nd Grade
 - Teaching Resources for Special Education
 - Ramps and Balls for Block Corner for Kindergarten
 - Flexible Seating Wobble Chairs for 1st Grade
 - New Costumes for 2nd grade Thanksgiving play
- Beautification
 - School bulb planting project Grade K-5 (Plant bulbs at the beginning of the school year and see it grow, just like the students)
 - Parents plant and clean up the “secret garden” at school with the help and guidance of the Garden Club

Parkway School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Philly Field Trip
- Bronx Zoo
- Discovery Museum FT
- Soundwaters
- Animal Embassy
- Greg Tang Math Night
- Hi Touch Hi Tech
- SMNC
- Bush Holly House
- Suny Performance
- Bruce Museum
- Journeys
- Legoland Stem
- Eli Whitney
- Mystic Penguin
- Beth and Scott
- Ruben Marroquin
- Bash the Trash

Social and Emotional Learning

- Speaker to discuss Internet Safety
- Speaker to discuss Child Anxiety

Family and Community Engagement

- Teacher Appreciation
- School Spirit Fridays
- Good Citizens Committee Family and Community Engagement
- Volunteer Breakfast Fair
- GingerBread House Making
- Escape Room
- Glow Run
- Ice Skating Party
- Ski Event at Thunder Ridge
- Back to School Bingo Night
- Math and Muffins
- Books and Bagels
- STEM Mornings
- International Night
- School Dismissal Manager
- Yearbook Regular email blasts regarding school events
- Teacher Appreciation

- Parent Fundraiser Social (October)
- Science Expo Book Fair
- Membership Meetings
- Health Wellness-Sprout Program
- Music on the Menu
- New Families Committee
- Veterans Day Celebration
- Afters Programs
- Green Initiative (planting)
- Field Day
- Picture Day

Facilities

- 3D Printers (was in the works before DL)

Riverside School PTA

Curriculum Enrichment and Supplementation

- Though the school year transitioned to distance learning as of mid-March, the PTA was still able to sponsor an array of enrichment programs in the arts including author visits, music and theater programs.
- ***Frozen*, Riverside's 2020 Winter Musical Production**, was a big success.
- **The Riverside Rhythms** program is designed to allow our children to sit back, relax and enjoy music during their lunch break. This program is offered around six times each academic year with the goal of expanding children's exposure to diverse music and culture.
- **Riverside's annual STEM Fair** (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) offers students a chance to sharpen their STEM skills as they explore their world and/or create solutions to real-world problems. This year's STEM Fair was held virtually and facilitated by Riverside School's PTA website.
- **Riverside School hosted a Math Marathon** where classes went head to head for three weeks to complete the most math problems on IXL and to complete problems connecting math to the real world.
- Riverside School PTA has continued to build on the success of its **Summer Reading initiative** as a way to encourage reading. For the summer of 2019, the school chose *James and the Giant Peach* by Roald Dahl as a suggested novel for students to read independently or with their parents across all grades for a shared summer reading experience. This culminated in back-to-school activities in the Fall of 2019. Our 3rd grade Play on a Day program, for example, used *James and the Giant Peach* as a theme for their work. Our 3rd annual Summer Read Initiative will have an "Adventures in Toyland" theme for the summer of 2020. Four books were selected featuring toys coming to life - *The Velveteen Rabbit*, *Toys Go Out*, *The Doll People* and *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane*.
- **Poetry Week and Poetry Picnic** are held annually in conjunction with visits by Ted Scheu. Many classes continued these traditions, including visits and workshops with Ted Scheu, this spring with a virtual approach due to distance learning.

- Many of our planned spring arts enrichment programs had to be cancelled or postponed. We are looking forward to welcoming back some of the school's favorite programs next year including the weeklong **dance residency workshop with Double up Entertainment** during which students participate in hip hop workshops during their PE classes, the **Riverside School Arts Field Day**, and visits with favorites like *Biscuit* author **Alyssa Capucilli**.
- **Riverside offered fall and spring Afters** – Partnered with Flex Academies
- In addition to arts enrichment programs, the Riverside School PTA also offers science enrichment programs. We have detailed all of our programs below.

Arts Enrichment Programs:

- **for All Grades :**
 - Rochel Coleman. Actor, poet, and storyteller Rochel Coleman returned to Riverside School to celebrate Black History. This year, Mr. Coleman performed *I, Nat Love*, a story of an African American cowboy and his journey from enslavement to freedom. For grades K-2, Mr. Coleman focused on the determination and hard work Nat used to achieve his goals. For grades 3-5, the emphasis was on the many changes Nat made during his adventures on the frontier. He also presents *MLK: Amazing Grace*, in honor of Martin Luther King Day, and a program of African American stories called *Tales of a Harvest Moon*.
- **Programs by Grade:** Many of our planned grade-level arts enrichment programs had to be cancelled this year due to distance learning. Among these were visits by author Marcie Aboff (grades 1-4), author of the *I Survived* series Lauren Tarshis (grades 3-5), storyteller Lot Therrio (K), author of the *Biscuit* series Alyssa Satin Capucilli (K), the *Journeys into American Indian Territory* program (grade 3), and the *Dragoons* (grade 5). We look forward to welcoming these programs back to Riverside School in the future.
 - 1st Grade
 - Henry Jones, *Infinite Roots*. Master drummer Kwamé Henry Jones introduces students to the complex rhythms of African drumming with an upbeat, hands-on workshop.
 - Shanda McCloskey. Author and illustrator Shanda McCloskey discussed her STEM-inspired books *Doll-E 1.0* and *T-Bone the Drone*. She shared details of her writing and illustrating processes and how she gets her inspiration for her books.
 - 2nd Grade
 - Shanda McCloskey. Author and illustrator Shanda McCloskey discussed her STEM-inspired books *Doll-E 1.0* and *T-Bone the Drone*. She shared details of her writing and illustrating processes and how she gets her inspiration for her books.
 - 3rd Grade
 - *Play in a Day*. Students work together with professional storytellers from CT Storytelling Center to craft a play out of a story – all in a single day. This year's plays were inspired by *James and the Giant Peach*, tying in the Summer Reading book.

- Government Program by Carol Glynn – Discussed democratic process in our national government.
- 4th Grade
 - Connecticut Historical Society. Connecticut Historical Society presents its outreach program On the Move: Immigration and Migration to Connecticut. This program introduces students to stories about moving to Connecticut.
 - The Baker's Dozen. The Yale acapella group performed and conducted workshops with students.
- 5th Grade
 - Jo Kroeker. Jo Kroeker, a reporter for Greenwich Time, led a writer's workshop to help kick off the 5th grade's journalism unit. She covered writing stories for the newspaper, the difference between a breaking news story and a feature, and the process of researching and writing an article. Jo used the context of Riverside School's new mascot as an example to walk students through how to build a story.
 - Michele Mozier. This workshop includes a discussion of the origins of Chinese Brush Painting and two painting styles.
 - The Baker's Dozen. The Yale acapella group performed and did workshops with students.

Science Enrichment Programs

- Several of the planned science enrichment programs were cancelled due to distance learning. Among these was **"The Magic of Chemistry"** and Encore's assembly for all grades.
- **Programs by Grade:**
 - Kindergarten:
 - Let's Make Sense
 - Amazing Mammals
 - Weather or Not
 - 1st Grade:
 - Force of Habit
 - The Shadow Knows
 - Biome Sweet Home
 - Metamorphic Mystery
 - 2nd Grade:
 - Bash the Trash
 - Dinosaurs Rock
 - Life Under the Surface
 - 3rd Grade:
 - Mixed Up Matter
 - Endangered Species
 - 4th Grade:
 - Force of Motion
 - Dirtmeister
 - 5th Grade:
 - Power of Light
 - Vibes

■ Green Machine

Social and Emotional Learning

- Riverside School participates in the **District-wide norms** dates and teachers incorporate this into their morning meetings each day.
- **ROPES** – Riverside School follows the District Norms and when a teacher notices a student following the norms, they will receive a “ROPES” slip. The PTA takes the student’s photograph which is then displayed on our Wall of Respect for the entire school to admire
- The PTA supports our school’s **Riverside Rangers** – this leadership opportunity is a direct outgrowth of our ROPES social emotional learning program. Students in grade 5 are trained to be leaders in the fall of their 5th grade year. Students serve as activity leaders for special events (e.g., book fairs & assemblies).
- The PTA also sponsored a **Mascot Drawing Contest** this year in honor of the school re-discovering our school song, which indicates the Red Hawk as the mascot. The PTA received over 135 entries and four finalists, whose art work inspired a professionally-designed Red Hawk image for school use, were chosen. Honorable mentions in several other categories, such as best representation of core values and artistry, were also chosen.
- This year, the Riverside PTA-sponsored a **Wellness Week**, during which Riverside staff, students, and parents were encouraged to participate in a week-long challenge to be more conscious of overall wellness. Daily themes included Mindful Monday, Tech-Free Tuesday, Wake Your Senses Wednesday, Thankful Thursday (with guest speaker for parents), Feelings Friday. Wellness Week took place during the week of March 9-13 and was therefore curbed, but the initial feedback was very positive and we look forward to hosting another Wellness Week during the coming school year.
- The PTA again sponsored a **Fitness Week** to encourage active lifestyles. The week culminated in a Riverside School roller skate night at OGRCC.
- **Riverside School Spirit Wear** organized by the PTA Apparel team
- **Teacher Appreciation Week** with teacher gift cards and digital cards by students. The traditional Smoothie Day and Taco Truck were sorely missed this year, but are on deck for the 2020-21 school year.
- **School Spirit.** Prior to distance learning, the PTA organized monthly Spirit Days during which students were encouraged to participate in school-wide themed days (such as crazy hair day or Riverside red-shirt days). The PTA secured a Red Hawk costume (see above) for staff use; the Red Hawk made appearances during SEL assemblies and greeted students on the mornings of our monthly Spirit Days. **Spirit at Home** is a new initiative launched during distance learning to offer families a way of staying connected to school even while sheltering in place. Each week consists of a window treasure hunt, a couple of fun facts that families can explore further if desired, and a more traditional spirit day, such as pajama day or crazy hair day.

Family and Community Engagement

- **First Day of School Back-to-School Coffee** after the “Parade of Learners”
- **PTA purchased welcome back breakfast for staff**
- **Grade Level Coffees** with Principal Chris Weiss and Vice Principal Safiya Key

- **The Community Service Committee** hosted three School-wide community service initiatives:
 - “Holiday’s for Haiti” to support an orphanage in Haiti
 - Month of Meals to Inspirica in January
 - Riverside “Run for Life” event where students ran laps during gym/recess as a fundraiser was transformed into “Play and Pay It Forward,” where families purchased game boards with an array of fun, family activities and proceeds went to Connecticut Alliance of Foster & Adoptive Families to support adoptive and foster families that have been affected by COVID-19.
- **The PTA also collaborated with the school to support other community service initiatives**
 - The Wellness Committee collected Halloween candy donations to give to local Pediatric Dentist Dr. Stacy Zarakiotis who matched \$2 for every pound of candy collected and in turn donated the money to Operation Smile to fund pediatric cleft lip surgeries for children in need.
- **Green Schools Committee**
 - **Earth Week** – our Green Committee worked with the Town of Greenwich on its 50th Anniversary of Earth Week festivities, which was ultimately re-worked to an at-home version
 - **Lunchroom recycling and composting**
 - **National Walk/Bike to School Day**
 - **Recyclable Bags for Purchase**
- **The Peek of the Week** is Riverside School PTA’s weekly digital newsletter in which the PTA communicates important school, PTA and community news and events
- PTA publishes a **Riverside School PTA Directory** and we only distribute these to our PTA members in the beginning of the year
- **Annual Book Fair in the Fall** – Includes an ice cream social night where we invite a teacher/author to read excerpts from a selection of award winning books which are then auctioned off to some lucky students.
- **Veteran’s Day ceremony** is a special annual ceremony where we honor guests, including veterans and community officials, along with our 4th and 5th grade chorus to celebrate and honor our veterans.
- **Boo Bash** is a PTA Sponsored Halloween party at school for all grades to attend. The children enjoy games and activities in addition to crafts and amazing decorations.
- **The PTA Garden Committee** has maintained our wonderful garden and incorporated activities for teachers/students and hosted plant and vegetable sales
- **Beautification** - Students along with PTA volunteers planted numerous bulbs all around the school grounds and was beautiful to see the flowers blooming this spring
- **The PTA Garden Committee** helped support and has helped maintain a newly installed Rain garden
- **PTA Fall Meeting** – Featuring Dr. Toni Jones
- **PTA Spring Meeting** – to take place on June 3, featuring school psychologist Alexa Brennan and District Behavior Coach Lisa Berluti
- **PTA School Supplies**
- **PTA School Photos**
- PTA Provided meals to our teachers during December Teacher/Parent Conferences
- PTA Maintains and updates the website – **RIVPTA.ORG**

- **PTA PR** writes and submits press releases to local papers to promote programs and news happenings at Riverside School
- **Kindergarten information** sessions with Riverside Co-Presidents will not be held in the traditional format, but the PTA is working with the School to disseminate information to incoming kindergarten families.
- We were sad that we had to cancel two of our school's favorite events, **Pizza Bingo** and **Riverside Run** (a tradition that had run consecutively for over 35 years), but plans are already underway to hold these events in the next school year.

Facilities

- PTA fulfilled annual Teacher Initiatives
 - o "Ninja Course" wall for the gym
 - o Various classroom furniture options across grades and specials including: "anywhere" chairs, stack stools, shelving, writing stands
- Successfully worked with Facilities and School to fund and install an outdoor storage shed