



# PTA Newsletter

October, 2016

## OCTOBER

### Save the Date

3 to 7 - Fall clothing drive

3 to 7 - Week of Respect

10 - Columbus Day, school closed

12 - Last day to buy Penny Auction tickets

12 - Executive Board meeting, 6:30 pm

14 - \*SPIRIT DAY\* Wear pink for breast cancer awareness

19 - Board of Education meeting, 7:30pm

21 - Penny Auction Family Fun event, doors open at 5:30pm

31 - Halloween Parade for grades K-5, time TBD

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy September!

The children are back to school, and the PTA is back in full swing again. However, we've been busy well before the new school year started. We provided the teachers with an in-service breakfast in early September, and we can't thank our volunteers enough for their time and their donations. It was a nice way to start the school year.

We were also hard at work pulling together welcome packets for parents and teachers, providing updates and insights to all the planned events. Be sure to ask if you didn't receive one. Included in the packet was membership information, thanks to all those that already joined, if you know someone who hasn't, please let them know how much fun the PTA can be!

We are well on our way to funding curriculum requests, and in fact we had quite a few come in this month! We voted on some new requests and we are happy to support: magazine requests; 7th and 8th grade language arts material; a listening station; the program Students to Science; and the Lego Robotics registration and challenge set. A request for Chromebooks was also noted and had been previously approved.

We have also seen the return of our regular programs, the book fair, the clothing drive and the Reflections contest. I am so thrilled and excited that we were able to hold the book fair, as we

## **JOIN THE PTA TODAY - IT'S NOT TOO LATE!!**

Not yet a member for 2016-2017? You can sign up/pay your dues online at <https://myschoolanywhere.com/login.a5w>(for returning families) or <https://www.myschoolanywhere.com/new-family.a5w?fam=GreenHillsSchool69258> (for families new to GHS) or print and fill out this form <https://static.secure.website/wscfus/9630406/3975759/membership-form-2016-2017.pdf> and bring your \$10 dues to the meeting.

didn't have a chair until the last minute, and then a new parent took the challenge and is leading this program for the first time. If you have some time to help out I am sure she could use it, please contact Priscilla McCarthy at [priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com).

This year we are bringing back something we haven't had in awhile - the Penny Auction! I am sure you have seen flyers and emails on this already. Be sure to save the date for this fun event, Oct. 21. Tickets are on sale now and will only be sold until Oct. 12. No tickets will be sold the night of the event, so be sure to get yours soon!

We took the PTA to the road, and staffed a table at the Green Township Day event in Evergreen park on Sept 17. We saw many of you there, and even signed up new members. We advertised for our playground committee and explained how fundraising was going and what new events were planned. It was a great day to be able to represent in the community.

I hope everyone had a great summer and is ready for a fantastic fall.

Thank you,  
Jennie Eisenmenger  
PTA President

### **PTA Membership Dues Increase Explained!**

Returning members may have noticed an increase from \$7/year last year to \$10/year for PTA Membership Dues and wondered why after a few years without an increase, we had a substantial one this year. As a local PTA, we are required to allocate a portion of each member's annual dues to the state of NJ PTA and a portion to the National PTA. The state portion is \$1.75/member/year and the national portion is \$2.25/member/year. Last year, these allocations resulted in us retaining for Green Hills less than half of each member's annual dues. Therefore, the previous PTA Executive Board voted last fall to increase membership dues and updated our By Laws to reflect the increase. The By Law changes were approved by the state. We apologize to anyone who may have been surprised by the increase or left wondering about the rationale. As a new Board, we were focused on kicking off the year and didn't proactively communicate with the GHS community about the dues increase. Thank you to PTA member Candy Groth for suggesting we reach out and explain the increase. Please contact [greenptanj@gmail.com](mailto:greenptanj@gmail.com) if you have any questions about the increase.

## FRIENDS OF RACHEL

### A Note from Tiffany Lutz, GHS School Social Worker and Anti-Bullying Specialist

Friends of Rachel is a group that aims to end bullying by approaching the problem head-on with kindness and empowerment. Rachel Scott was the first person killed at the Columbine shootings and her father began Rachel's Challenge, an assembly that came to Green Hills in 2013. Friends of Rachel is the product of RC to keep the chain reaction of kindness going in the schools long after the assembly is over. This year FOR is trying to spruce up the entry to the school with some mums, fall decorations and a plaque proudly labeling the foliage, "Rachel's Garden." We are looking for donations of fall perennials, fall decorations, garden decorations, mulch, and even some time and labor helping to pick the weeds and clean up the area. For more information, feel free to contact me at [tlutz@greenhills.org](mailto:tlutz@greenhills.org) or x220. Thank you!

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Our volunteers are the heart of the PTA. In this section, we highlight the work of one of our volunteers and thank all the PTA members who volunteered at PTA events and activities during September. The entire GHS community thanks you for your time, effort, and love!

### Volunteer Spotlight - Book Fair Chair Priscilla McCarthy

Mom of two Priscilla McCarthy has earned superhero-like status among many PTA members for saving the book fair! This summer, many of us were worried that GHS's Fall Book Fair wouldn't happen because we didn't have a volunteer to manage it. Without the book fair, teacher libraries would suffer, as it allows GHS to earn books for classrooms, and many students would be disappointed to miss this fun event. Fortunately, Priscilla, mom of kindergartner Juliana and 2nd grader Chase, volunteered to Chair book fair, following Laurie O'Gorman's several year tenure as Chair.

Priscilla worked full-time as a pharmacist until recently, when she decided to stay home with her children. She is happy to have some time now to volunteer at school activities, including book fair and as a Room Parent in Ms. Maffei's class. Priscilla remembers enjoying book fairs when she was a child growing up in Parsippany and is looking forward to promoting reading and seeing the children's excitement as they discover books and other treasures. She also looks forward to working with many volunteers to make the Fall Book Fair a success. There are still opportunities for volunteers at Family Kick Off (October 15th from 9am-2 pm), Family Night (October 18th from 6-8pm), Classroom hours (October 17-21st), and Pack Up day (October 21st). If you'd like to get involved with the book fair, please contact Priscilla at [priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com).

When she isn't volunteering for GHS, Priscilla, who describes her family as very outdoorsy, loves taking her kids camping, hiking, kayaking and biking. She also enjoys taking karate lessons and loves ballroom dancing with her husband. THANK YOU Priscilla for all you do for GHS!

### COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

These events are not PTA or GHS events.

#### Miller Brothers MMA Little Spartans Trunk or Treat, October 22

A youth anti-bullying martial arts program will host a Trunk-or-Treat open to all local children.

<http://www.millerbrothersmma.com/events/trunk-or-treat-sparta-newton-andover-lafayette/>

## NOTES FROM PTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

### Ursula Leo, Chair, Clothing Drive

Earn money for GHS and clean out your closets and toy chests. The Green Township PTA is holding a used clothing and toy drive collecting:

- **Wearable & Usable Clothing (Mens, Womens and Childrens)**
- **Shoes, Belts, Handbags**
- **Linens**
- **Stuffed Toys**
- **Hard Toys**

Green Hills School will receive money for every pound we collect. Please place donated items into tightly tied plastic bags and drop off at the stage door (on your right as you walk up the main entrance path), **October 3 through October 7**. Questions - contact Ursula Leo at uleo@lclaw.com or 862-354-0705.

### Colleen McLean & Candy Groth, Co-Chairs, Box Tops

**CALLING FOR ALL BOX TOPS!** Send in your Box Tops and Campbell's Labels for Education and your family could win 1 of 3 prizes for the Fall Book Fair. **Deadline to send in your points 10/6/16. After 10/6 all points will be counted toward the next contest.** Remember to label your bag or envelope of Box Tops & Labels with your family's last name and the Homeroom of each child. Any questions, please email Colleen ccaroleo@hotmail.com or Candy - candy\_groth@yahoo.com.

### Annemarie Vena, Chair, PTA Reflections Committee

PTA Reflections is a nationally acclaimed student recognition program designed to encourage artistic creativity in the classroom and at home. This year, the art contest is running from September through October 28 and the theme is What is Your Story? All submissions must follow rules for the category, be mounted on sturdy paper, have a name on the back of the work, and include a completed entry form. All rules and entry forms can be found at NJPTA.org/Reflections. Submit entry forms to PTA through school or mail to PTA at: **Green Township PTA Reflections, P.O. Box 137, Tranquility, NJ 07879-0137**, to be received by October 28. Please send email to annemarie.vena@gmail.com with any questions.

### Laura Dellamo, Chair, Penny Auction

Please see the event flyer on our website for details on this fun family night scheduled for October 21<sup>st</sup>. Doors open at 5:30pm and winning tickets start being called at 7pm. Last day to buy tickets is October 12<sup>th</sup>. No tickets will be sold at the event. Don't miss out on this fun event!

## THANK YOU TO THE COACHES!

We are so grateful to GHS Literacy Coach Ms. Castellana and GHS STEM Coach Mr. Mirena for presenting at the first PTA

## SEPTEMBER VOLUNTEERS

PTA activity and event volunteers in September, 2016. \*\*\*If you volunteered at a PTA event or activity during September and don't see your name listed below, please let us know and we'll be sure to thank you next month.

**Teacher In-Service Breakfast, 9/1** - Volunteers set up and cleaned up and also bought, prepared, and delivered delicious breakfast items for

meeting of the year in September. They shared insights from last year's 20Time program and information on how this year's program will run, and they introduced Design Thinking.  
Thank you!

our teachers to enjoy at the start of their on-site training session. Thank you to Rachel Ambjor, Elizabeth Efremov, Jennie Eisenmenger, Rosangela Franco, Erin Fortunato, Dawn Geisinger, Giuliana Meany, Sharon Mills, Janine Neill, Jill Morehouse-Nicol, Kate Mull, April Orozco, Kristin Post, Allyson Tudda, Annemarie Vena, Nicole Vidal, and Julie Willis.

**Green Township Day, 9/17** - Thank you to Jennie Eisenmenger, Dawn Geisinger, Scott Guzzo, and April Orozco for sharing with the larger Green community what the PTA is working on.

**Back-To -School Night, 9/20 & 9/21** - Erin Fortunato, Dawn Geisinger, Scott Guzzo, Jason Mills, Sharon Mills, April Orozco, Nicole Vidal and Julie Willis welcomed families, encouraged families to join the PTA, and shared exciting updates about the Playground Project!

## MEET THE PTA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

All but one of us are new to our roles and we look forward to working with you this year! To briefly introduce ourselves, we each answered the same three questions.

- 1) What are the names, grades, and homeroom classes of your GHS children?
- 2) Where did you grow up?
- 3) What are you looking forward to as part of the PTA this year?

### **Jennie Eisenmenger, President**

- 1) Lexie is in Kindergarten with Ms. Franchino
- 2) I grew up in Union County, NJ.
- 3) I am looking forward to supporting all the great programs for the children. I'm excited to be leading and learning at the same time!

### **Julie Willis, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

- 1) Claire is in 5th grade with Ms. Franciosi and Austin (AJ) is in 2nd grade with Ms. Wohl.
- 2) I grew up all over - Colorado, Florida, Alabama and New Jersey.
- 3) I am looking forward to making the PTA a true collaboration between parents and school staff to make our children's school experience the best it can be and to let them enjoy their childhoods for as long as possible.

### **Sharon Mills, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

- 1) Zoe is in 3rd grade with Mrs. Martinka & Isla is in 1st grade with Miss Sprofera.
- 2) I grew up in Palisades Park, NJ. I moved to Green after college in 1995, and (except for 3 years in Stanhope), I've lived here ever since!
- 3) I love being a part of everything the PTA does - Room Parents, Book Fair, Tricky Tray, Field Day, etc. I'm very proud of our school, the PTA, and our town. We have awesome families! I'm looking most forward to continuing to foster the sense of community here. Everyone's invited to play!

### **Kathy Argobright, Treasurer**

- 1) Robinson - 3rd grade, Mrs. Martinka & Alixandra - 2nd grade, Ms. Wohl.
- 2) Born in Korea, raised in Queens, NY and Tenafly, NJ.
- 3) I'm looking forward to getting a better understanding of what the PTA does and how it contributes to better the child/teacher experience.

**Nicole Vidal, Recording Secretary**

- 1) Benjamin is in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade with Mrs. Martinka & Noah is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade with Ms. LaValley.
- 2) I grew up in Roselle Park Union County.
- 3) I'm really excited for the playground and would like to help out/ get more involved any way I can.

**Erin Fortunato, Corresponding Secretary**

- 1) Matty is in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with Mr. Martin & Katie is in 1<sup>st</sup> grade with Ms. LaValley.
- 2) I grew up in a suburb just west of Boston, Massachusetts, called Needham.
- 3) I'm really looking forward to welcoming new families to the PTA this year. It wasn't that long ago that I was new! And, I can't wait to see my kids' faces as they play on the new playground that will hopefully be built this spring.