



November, 2016 PTA Newsletter

Prepared by PTA Corresponding Secretary Erin Fortunato

Comments, suggestions, corrections - please send to greenptanj@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

Save the Date

8: Executive Board meeting,
8:30am, location TBD

10 & 11: School closed for
teachers convention

15: Veterans Day Assembly,
wear red, white, and blue,
9:00am

15: SkyZone/Panera
playground fundraiser,
4pm-9pm

16: Board of Education
meeting, 7:30pm

16 - 18: Early dismissal for
Teacher Conferences,
12:50pm

18: Last day of playground
bricks competition

23: Early dismissal, 12:50pm

24 & 25: School closed for
Thanksgiving break

29: Tricky Tray meeting,
6:30pm

29: General Membership
meeting, 7:30 pm

John Nittolo to speak

NOTE FROM A PTA EXECUTIVE OFFICER - This month's note is from 1st VP Julie Willis.

“We didn't know we were making *memories*, we just knew we were having fun.”

This quote struck me, as a parent and a board member of the PTA.

When I think back on my childhood, I don't remember the things I had, I remember the things I did - the trips, the parties and the friends along the way. My name is Julie Willis and I am serving as the 1st VP for the PTA this year. I live in Green with my husband Jeremy, daughter Claire, who is in 5th grade, and son Austin (AJ), who is in 2nd grade. We have been a Green Hills family since Claire started kindergarten and have found a place to not only learn but to make memories. I was a PTA member early in Claire's schooling, however I was never too involved, just helping here or there when I could. As life moves us forward, I find myself getting more involved, motivated by the desire to make my children's and your children's childhoods the best they can be. If you have ever thought about joining the PTA, but don't think you will have time or think that we require a lot of time, please reach out to me or any member of the PTA, as we will take as much or little as you can offer. There are so many ways to get involved and make a difference for the children in our school, but also to give yourself a voice in what you want to see happen at Green Hills. We are all in this to make a difference and together we can!

at 11/29 Meeting

Please join us on **Tuesday, November 29 at 7:30pm** for our **General Membership meeting** where Superintendent John Nittolo will share an overview of the GHS curriculum and answer questions. Learn more about GHS's plan to make each student his/her best self.

1st Tricky Tray Planning Meeting

Get involved right at the start! **Meet our new Tricky Tray Chair, Elizabeth Efremov**, as well as many subcommittee Chairs who will work together to make sure this year's Tricky Tray is a fun and lucrative night. **Tuesday, November 29 at 6:30pm.**

Community Events

Blair Academy students are hosting **Melanie's Miles 5K trail run/walk on Sun, Nov 13**, to raise money for the Melanie Humphrey Breath of Life Fund, which supports families affected by lung cancer. Melanie Humphrey, mom of two current Blair students, fought courageously against the disease but passed away in 2012. One of her sons established the fund in partnership with the Pocono Health Foundation in her honor. 9am - Kids Fun Run, \$10. 9:30am - 5K run/walk on the cross country course, ages 7+, \$25. Register at active.com - search Melanie's Miles. More info fortue@blair.edu.

As we head into November, there is much that we should be proud of. The clothing drive made \$274.20 from clothing and toy donations given by parents, teachers and staff for our children: what a wonderful show of community. A big thank you to Ursula Leo who organized this successful clothing drive and to everyone who donated their clothes and their time. The book fair was run by a new chair this year, Priscilla McCarthy, who did an amazing job. I know my kids could not stop talking about what books they wanted and how awesome the room looked. Another event that deserves much attention is the Penny Auction. An enthusiastic and dedicated crew worked tirelessly right up to the last minute to plan the final details and manage the event on October 21st. It was a fun night attended by more than 200 people! The Penny Auction is a fun event created for the children of our school. With more than 100 prizes to win, the atmosphere of the night is all about fun and games. A big thank you to the 8th grade students and parents who sold refreshments for the evening, making a dent in the funds needed for their 8th grade trip.

We have much still happening this year, with our Veteran's Day program in November sure to be wonderfully teary as always; if you have not seen this program you are in for a great presentation. We are also in full swing with planning this spring's Tricky Tray. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Elizabeth Efremov, who has agreed to be the new chair of this event. The Tricky Tray is the largest fundraiser that we have here at GHS and would not be possible without the countless parents, teachers, and staff who help. If you are interested in volunteering to help in any capacity for the Tricky Tray, please let me know. We need many volunteers to make this event successful - from collecting prizes to wrapping prizes, to running them to the winners the night of event. The more the merrier!

I hope that you are stocking up on hot cocoa and preparing for the holidays with your families. May they be wonderful and filled with memories!

PLAYGROUND UPDATE We will conclude fundraising by Thanksgiving and build a great playground in the spring! **There's still time to donate, sponsor, and purchase bricks**, which will count towards the brick competition through November 18th. THANK YOU to all of our donors, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters. Listed below are our Premier and Component sponsors to date. Without our sponsors, we wouldn't be building a playground!

PREMIER SPONSORS:

Diamond Sponsor - Green Township PTA

Silver Sponsor - Anonymous

Silver Sponsor - First Hope Bank

Bronze Sponsor - Rhys & Ryn

Family Sponsor - The Morris Family

COMPONENT SPONSORS:

The Eisenmenger Family - Climbing Wall

The Fortunato Family - Low Monkey Bars

Jeff Lake Camp - Tightrope Wire

Q Kettlebell - Rope Climb

Roger and Suzanne West - School Bus

Roof 4 Roof - 3 benches

The Rose Family - Buddy Bench

BOXTOPS: EARNING MONEY FOR GHS - JOIN US!

The Riley family's grandmother Mary Washkau won \$2,500 for GHS by signing up online at shopriteformyschool.com. She automatically earns eBoxTops each time she shops. Sign up now! It is free, fast (60 seconds) and all you need is your ShopRite Price Plus card number.

And, congratulations to the Degraw, Geisinger, and Vallorosi families for winning our family BoxTop competition. Each family received a gift certificate to the fall Scholastic Book Fair. Combined, these 3 families submitted nearly 5,500 points. Thank you for your efforts and keep on clipping!

PTA Chairs and Co-Chairs are thankful for...With

Thanksgiving approaching, it is a great time to focus on what we're thankful for. Below, some of our PTA Committee Chairs share what they're thankful for this year.

Dawn Geisinger, Assemblies Chair and Meet the Candidates Chair

- I am thankful for all the teachers, staff, administration, volunteers, and children who make Green Hills an amazing place for my children to attend.

PTA MEMBERSHIP

UPDATE: We are close to reaching our goal of having more than 200 members by November!!! If you have not signed up this year, please join us! 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

Priscilla McCarthy, Book Fair Chair - I'm thankful not only for the wonderful volunteers who stepped up to help during the book fair week, but also for my husband who makes it possible for me to spend more time with our kids and be available to help with activities like the school book fair. Time goes by so fast and it's a wonderful opportunity to cherish these moments in our children's lives.

Stephanie Strangeway, Trick Tray Grand Raffle Chair - I am thankful for the good health of my family and getting together for another year of our Thanksgiving Friend Feast, something I look forward to every year. Oh, and also the awesome Black Friday sales so that we have amazing prizes to raffle off for our Tricky Tray!!!!

Nicole Vidal, Hospitality Chair - I am thankful for the friends I have made at GHS and for my family. Healthy and Happy!!

<https://static.secure.website/wscfus/9630406/3975759/membership-form-2016-2017.pdf>. Send the form and a \$10 check made out to Green Township PTA to school with your child in an envelope labeled Attention - PTA Membership.

The NJ state PTA holds monthly membership drives, where our school has the chance to win prizes from \$100-\$500 throughout the year. Please contact April Orozco, membership chair orozco6.ao@gmail.com, with any questions.

NEW TO GHS THIS YEAR?

This section is for you! Here we share details on something coming up this month. This year's **Veterans Day Assembly** will take place on **Tuesday, November 15th at 9am**. It is a beautiful, moving event that families are welcome to attend and you won't want to miss! The school sent out a flyer with information on how to RSVP to bring a family member or friend who is a veteran or still actively serving, so they can be a part of the "Salute to Veterans." Even if you don't have a veteran guest to bring, consider attending this heartwarming assembly that includes guest speakers and songs performed by GHS's youngest students.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT - This month, we shine our volunteer spotlight on

"the playground guy" who wants to do his share - Playground Committee Chair Scott Guzzo.

Scott, a sales manager for a fire protection company, moved back to Green Township two years ago with his wife Lisa, son Ty who is now in 4th grade, and daughter Bella who is now in 2nd grade. He attended his first back-to-school night as a GHS dad in 2014 and was immediately drawn to the Playground Project. He recalls talking with Membership Co-Chair April Orozco at the PTA table that night. "April asked me if there were any committees I would be interested in and Playground caught my

eye. I was excited to be back in Green Township with such a wonderful community and a great school for my kids. The existing playground at GHS was the only thing that I was disappointed in. It doesn't match the quality of the school overall." As he got involved in the Playground Project, Scott learned how much the PTA does for the school. "Until two years ago, I never really thought about what a PTA does for a community. I assumed that everything at school was supplied by taxpayers through the school's budget. I quickly realized how much the PTA gives back to the community through projects, supplies, and fundraisers. I want to do my share."

Scott, who has been involved with the Playground Committee since its inception, is looking forward to two events this month - a fun fundraiser and a competition. On November 15th, there will be a Skyzone/Panera playground fundraiser, where he will be jumping and having fun. He encourages everyone to come out and jump with Mr. Nittolo and some favorite teachers. Also, he's excited about the Playground Committee brick competition, which will conclude on November 18th. Buying and selling bricks, Scott explains, are great opportunities for kids, families, teachers and anyone in the community to be a part of the playground and to help raise funds for the project.

The PTA Playground Committee has raised over \$70,000, and they plan to continue fundraising through Thanksgiving. "Raising funds has been challenging. But, the community involvement and enthusiasm at the events we've held for the playground have been outstanding, and we're very grateful for the individuals, families, and businesses who are supporting us. We're in the homestretch, and we'll take the money we raise by Thanksgiving and build the best playground we can in the spring." When asked what he enjoys most about his involvement with the Playground Project, Scott says "It is kind of cool that when I walk down the halls at school, all the kids call me 'the playground guy'."

When he isn't working or volunteering with the PTA, he makes time for long distance running and triathlons. And, you can often catch him at his kids' sporting events as a spectator, coach, or announcing the football games - occasionally sporting a "PTA Dad" shirt. Thank you Scott for all you do for GHS!

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

Our volunteers are the heart of the PTA. Thank you to our PTA Members who volunteered at PTA events and activities during October! ***If your name should be included here and isn't, please let us know and we'll be sure to thank you next month.

Fall Clothing Drive - Jennie Eisenmenger, Claudia Ernst, Jodi Finn, Candy Groth, Yvonne Kamphausen, Freida Lewis, April Orozco, Cindy Pierson, Megan Riley, Jessica Slattery, and Mary Walker. And, thank you to everyone who helped load the truck on the last day of the week in record time. With help from

everyone from grandparents to younger siblings, we had the truck loaded in no time!

Book Fair - Michelle Alter, Laura Battaglia, Debbie Chomow, Jennie Eisenmenger, Elizabeth Efremov, Erin Fortunato, Valerie Gagnon, Tania Gallucci, Nicole Humphries, Tara Jones, Ursula Leo, Priscilla McCarthy, Colleen McClean, Talia Metzgar, Sharon Mills, Kristin Post, Jessica Quinn, Jessi Slattery, Stephanie Strangeway, and Allyson Tudda.

BoxTops - For all the cutting, peeling and sorting, the Box Top Committee would like to extend a big THANK YOU to Monika Weissensee and Allyson Tudda.

Playground Brick Selling Competition - Marie Agnoli, Jennie Eisenmenger, Erin Fortunato, Dawn Geisinger, Sharon Mills, and Jessica Quinn.

Meet the candidates - Jennie Eisenmenger, Dawn Geisinger, Denise Kelly-Jones, and Nicole Vidal.

Teacher's Tea at Book Fair - April Orozco and Nicole Vidal. A special note of thanks from Chair Nicole Vidal - I want to acknowledge April Orozco (mom of 2 current GHS students and 2 future GHS students, Co-Chair Membership Committee). Without her I don't know how the Book Fair Teachers Tea would have happened. She did an outstanding job!

Penny Auction - Kathy Argobright, Jennifer Cinotti, Yvette Costa, Laura Dellamo, Ed Dicklich, Jennie Eisenmenger, Claudia Ernst, Dawn Geisinger, Scott Guzzo, Nicole Humphries, Tara Jones, Colleen McLean, Sharon Mills, Kate Mull, April Orozco, Jessica Quin, and Nicole Vidal. We'd like to extend a special thanks to Mr. Cohen and Dave Miller and his full staff for their help and support.

NOTES FROM PTA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Cathy Grosche, Holiday Shop Chair - The Holiday Gift Shop will be December 5-9! This fun event allows students to shop for holiday gifts at school. Volunteers are welcome and needed for all aspects of the Shop, including helping children shop and cleaning-up, which will start at 10am on December 9th. If volunteers are available, we may have an evening shopping session on a weeknight from 6pm-8pm.

Scott Guzzo, Playground Committee Chair - We have two special events this month:

1. **Get your bricks now!** The brick competition ends November 18th. Buy now and be a part of the playground forever. The homeroom that receives credit for the highest dollar value of brick orders will win a pizza party during their holiday party. The family that brings in the highest dollar value of brick orders will win a \$100 Amazon gift card, donated by my family. Order online at www.polarengraving.com/GreenHillsSchoolPlayground .
2. **SkyZone & Panera Playground Fundraiser, November 15th, 4-9pm** - Join us for fun and good food to raise money for the playground! **Mr. Nittolo** and some of your favorite teachers will be

there. Come jump with them! Flyers, to be shown at the registers at both venues, will be distributed in advance of the event and the PTA Playground Committee will earn a portion of the proceeds.

Dawn Geisinger, Meet the Candidates Chair - A big thank you to all who attended our "Meet the Candidates" event October 24th. We are lucky to have such passionate, involved, dedicated, and well educated Board of Education Members who are running again for their current seats. It was nice to learn more about them and see how much they all love Green Hills School, the teachers, staff and every student. If you couldn't make it, watch for this event again next October. It really is the best way to make an educated vote and learn more about the people who are helping to make the hard decisions for our school.

Ursula Leo, Clothing Drive Chair - Together we raised \$274.20 for the PTA from the fall clothing drive and saved many items from landfills! We'll collect items again in the spring. Thank you to everyone who donated and volunteered. And, special thanks to Janice in the GHS Main Office and the helpful GHS custodians who let us in everyday and pitched in. Thank you!

Priscilla McCarthy, Book Fair Chair - We had a great fall book fair and it was my first! With wide community support, we earned almost \$2,000 in Scholastic dollars for future use, we used almost \$900 in Scholastic dollars to obtain books on teacher wish lists, and we donated almost \$50 worth of books to the Dennis Library through our *All for Books* fund. Thank you to everyone who made it possible. I'd like to thank all my volunteers (listed in the Volunteer Recognition section), our hospitality team of Nicole Vidal and April Orozco for the wonderful Teacher's Tea, Ms. Minervini for the use of the Performing Arts classroom for the week, and former Book Fair Chair Laurie O'Gorman and former Co-Chair Melissa Lewandowski for the help they provided so that I was well informed about the book fair process - I really appreciated all the help!

Nicole Vidal, Hospitality Chair - Last month, we kicked off the Book Fair at the Teacher's Tea with treats for GHS faculty and staff. From fish & chips to "Peg Legs" and seaweed dip, there was something for everyone. Our next event will be the Veterans Day assembly on Tuesday, November 15. If you'd like to help with Hospitality Committee, please email me at ndegeso1999@yahoo.com.