



**Green Township**  
*School District*

*Second to None*

# February, 2017 PTA Newsletter

Prepared by PTA Corresponding Secretary Erin Fortunato

Comments, suggestions, corrections - please send to [greenptanj@gmail.com](mailto:greenptanj@gmail.com)

## FEBRUARY

### Save the Date

7: Exec Board mtg, 7pm  
(\*note 7pm start)

10: Valentine's Family  
Dance, 6pm-8pm

14: SPIRIT DAY Wear red for  
Valentine's Day!

15: Board of Ed mtg, 7:30pm

17: Snow Date - Valentine's  
Family Dance

20: Presidents Day - school  
closed

22: Tricky Tray mtg, 6:30pm

## NOTE FROM A PTA EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Hi my name is Nicole Vidal and my children are choice students here at Green. My oldest is Benjamin in 3rd grade and my middle guy is Noah who is in 1st grade. Our youngest is our daughter Ella. She will be joining her big brothers in the fall of 2018. We currently live in Andover and have been in the Sussex county area for 8 years now. I am the Recording Secretary for the PTA.

This month, we have the Valentine's Day Family Dance, scheduled for February 10th. We attended last year and it was a lot of fun for our whole family. I helped out with this event last year and I'm looking forward to helping out this year too! And, don't forget about our Tricky Tray meeting on February 22nd. Hope to see you all there.

I have been involved with the PTA for about 3 years. I have met great people and encourage you to get involved too! My roles were small until recently when I started to dive into the Tricky Tray. I am heading up our on-foot donation solicitation, but I can't do it alone. We are looking for volunteers to hand out flyers. It is easy to do at a few places that you frequently visit: hair salons, restaurants, boutiques you may shop at, etc. Please feel free to reach out to me directly or anyone on the PTA board to find out how you can help. Many hands make light work!

**Get involved with the PTA!** The PTA is looking for 3 active, involved members to fill Executive Board positions for the next 2-year term beginning 7/1/2017. Elections will be held during the May General Membership meeting for: **President, 1st Vice President & Recording Secretary**. If you would like to play a role in something great for the children, get involved. It is fun and rewarding! Responsibilities for each officer position can be found in the bylaws article VII at [www.gtpta.com](http://www.gtpta.com). Please email [Jodiwfinn@ptd.net](mailto:Jodiwfinn@ptd.net) with letters of intent to run and contact information. If you have any questions, please phone Jodi at 908-914-2316. Please submit all letters by May 8, 2017. Thank you for volunteering and considering a position on the PTA Executive Board.

### **Think Spring! Save these dates for two biannual spring events...**

The **Spring Book Fair** will be **March 2-10**. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Chair Priscilla McCarthy at [priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com](mailto:priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com).

The **Spring Clothing Drive** will be the **week of April 24th**. As you're cleaning out closets, put aside what you can so GHS will earn cash for your donations.

### **Show the teachers how much you care!**

Teachers Appreciation Week will start **March 13th**. If you're interested in helping out with the Hospitality Committee to show our wonderful teachers how much we appreciate them, contact Hospitality Chair Nicole Vidal at [ndegeso1999@yahoo.com](mailto:ndegeso1999@yahoo.com)

### **Membership Motivation**

During the month of February, the Membership Committee will be holding a Membership Drive!!! At the end of the month the class with the most new PTA members will receive a Class Pizza Party!!! Paper forms will go out the 1st week in February, but you can always sign up on [MY SCHOOL ANYWHERE!](#) Please keep in mind, in order to take part in PTA activities, such as Field Day and the Playground Project, you must be a current member. Sign up today!!!

### **Come to the Valentine's Family Dance!**

WHO: Grades K-8 and their families

WHERE: GHS gym

WHEN: Fri, Feb 10, 6-8pm (snow date Feb 17)

RSVP: By Feb 8th on the form that was sent home.

All students must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more info, contact Chair, Kate Mull at 973-786-5586 or [kathleenmull@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenmull@gmail.com).

## **In honor of Valentine's Day, this month some of our special subjects teachers share what they love about teaching at GHS:**

**Library- Mrs. Cozzarelli:** My favorite things about being an Associate School Library Media Specialist is promoting a love of reading in all students. Additionally I enjoy helping older students view research as a fun and challenging process by giving them the proper tools. I don't want students to be intimidated by research.

**Music - Mrs. Richardson:** What I love about teaching music at GHS is that I get to see the students' faces light up from joy when they play their instruments! I love sharing my passion and enjoyment for music with the students and hope to instill that love for music in them too!

**Health & Physical Education - Ms. Ronsini:** As a special area teacher, I see and get to know every single student in our school! I love the fact that I am helping the kids learn to love activity and a healthy lifestyle. In our classes, they are learning so many things they don't even realize they're learning, such as cooperation, teamwork, getting along with others, respecting others' differences, strengths and weaknesses and the qualities of good character. The best part is, that they are learning these things and more while having fun and getting exercise!

**Health & Physical Education - Mr. Scott:** I love interacting with all the different grade levels on a daily basis! By seeing each student year after year special area teachers can really see growth in the children compared to a teacher who might only have them one year. Not only in their athletic skills but in who they are becoming as young adults. I haven't seen a grade go all the way from Kindergarten to eighth yet, but my first class are now 4th graders and it is amazing to think back to who they were when I first met them and who they have already become!

## **Tricky Tray - April 8, 2017!!! Here's what you need to know!**

**Grand Raffle tickets and Pre-Sale ticket packages will be coming soon!**

The **Grand Raffle** prizes are huge, including a \$1,000 Visa gift card, so you won't want to miss out. Each ticket gives you 3 chances to win. Since Grand Raffle winners don't need to be present to win, GHS families are encouraged to share this opportunity to win big and support our school with family and friends who are near AND far by selling Grand Raffle tickets before the event. Two books of tickets will be sent home to each Green Hills family.

General **Tricky Tray Pre-sale ticket packages** will also be available soon. These pre-sale packages save you money by letting you buy ticket bundles at a discount and they let you purchase guaranteed table space. Plan your table seating arrangements and save money!

**VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:** This month, we shine our spotlight on a GHS mom who has been volunteering with the PTA for almost 15 years! Kate Mull got involved with the PTA before her oldest child enrolled in Kindergarten. “My husband and I got a little bit involved before our kids started at GHS. Our neighbors had kids at Green and asked us to go to the Tricky Tray. They needed help with runners and with the 50/50. That was the first time we volunteered with the PTA.” That was just the beginning for Kate. As the mom of Cassandra, who is in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, and three GHS graduates, Jocelyn is a freshman and Jackie is a junior at Newton High School and Devan is a freshman at Rowan University, Kate has attended more than a dozen Tricky Trays, taken on a variety of leadership roles, and is one of our most experienced volunteers.

Kate officially joined the PTA in 2003, when her oldest child was in Kindergarten. She was asked to help out with the Membership Committee, which she Chaired for about 11 years. In 2004, Kate was asked to coordinate the Room Parents, and she did that for about 9 years. At some point in her tenure as a PTA member, she has also served on the Executive Board as Corresponding Secretary.

About 3 years ago, the PTA President at the time, asked Kate to become the Bylaws Chairperson. Kate’s breadth of experience, calm approach, friendly personality, and attention to detail make her a perfect fit for this role, which involves becoming familiar with the rules and regulations that govern the PTA and helping to ensure we apply them appropriately. “Some of the rules are created by the NJ State PTA and some are put in place by the National PTA and some we write ourselves. We have the ability to make minor changes to some of the state and national bylaws. I find it very interesting. I think because I’ve been involved for so long, some of the bylaws come naturally to me and others I have to really read and try to understand.” Working on the bylaws is a great way to get to know exactly how the PTA functions and what the PTA can do to support the school. Kate would like to find someone to work with her next year to learn the ropes and then eventually take on the role.

In addition to her work as Bylaws Chair, Kate Chairs the Valentine’s Family dance, which she started several years ago with some other PTA volunteers as a way to bring families together for a fun, free event. Kate encourages families who have never attended to check it out. “It is a great family event. We have music and crafts and it is really great for the kids to get together and for the families to get to know each other. Personally, I enjoy meeting families who are new to the school who aren’t in my child’s grade.”

As a busy mom of four who works part-time as a bridal consultant at The Wedding Store in Andover, babysits one day per week, and volunteers with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, Kate knows that it can be challenging to find time for the PTA. She is excited to see so many new families

getting involved, and she encourages people to do what they can to give back to the school and their children. “Get as involved as you can. It is the best way to meet other families and you get to know the teachers.” Kate credits her volunteer work with the PTA with helping her to really understand how the school works. She stresses, “Any amount you can do is appreciated. One small effort makes a huge difference. For example, the Tricky Tray is a huge undertaking, but if you can volunteer just 1-2 hours to set up, clean up, or run prizes, it makes a big difference for the entire event.”

Kate and her husband, both natives of Sussex County, chose to live in Green when they returned to the area from New York City for his job teaching science at Newton High School. Kate’s deep connection and commitment to the school are evident when she talks about the prospect of moving on from GHS in a little over a year. While Kate acknowledges that it will be strange to leave, we may all find it strange to stay without her, given how much she knows and has done to support GHS and the PTA. Thank you Kate for all you’ve done and continue to do for GHS!

## **VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION**

Thank you to our PTA Members who volunteered at PTA events and activities last month! \*\*\*If your name should be included here and isn’t, please let us know and we’ll be sure to thank you next month.

**Holiday Shop** - December’s Holiday Shop was a special time for students, allowing them to select gifts for family and friends. We are very grateful to Chair Cathy Grosche for coordinating all of the details and to Clare Miller and Colleen McLean who helped out every day. Thank you to all of the holiday shop volunteers including: Kristin Blodnick, Jackie Chastain, Debbie Chomow, Elizabeth Efremov, Jennie Eisenmenger, Claudia Ernst, Erin Fortunato, Mia Gnecco, Candy Groth, JoAnn Makaus, Gina Trish and Priscilla McCarthy.