



March/April, 2017 PTA Newsletter

SPECIAL TRICKY TRAY EDITION

Prepared by PTA Corresponding Secretary Erin Fortunato

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

March Save the Date

3: Last day to buy Playground Bricks and be part of the playground forever!

7: Exec Board mtg, 8:30am, Green Municipal Building

13-17: Teacher Appreciation Week!

15: Board of Ed mtg, 7:30pm

15-17: Teacher Conferences, early dismissal 12:50pm

17: *SPIRIT DAY* Wear green!

21: Tricky Tray mtg, 6:30pm
General Membership mtg, 7:30pm

24: Faculty vs 8th grade bball game, 7pm

April Save the Date

8: Tricky Tray!!!

10: Exec Board mtg, 6:30pm

13: Spring break begins - early dismissal 12:50pm

14-21: Spring break - school closed

19-23: Playground build scheduled!

24-28: Spring clothing drive

26: Board of Ed mtg, 7:30pm

28: *SPIRIT DAY* Mismatch Socks

NOTE FROM A PTA EXECUTIVE OFFICER: Hello! My name is Erin Fortunato and I am the Corresponding Secretary for the PTA, which means I write this newsletter. I am happy to have a chance to introduce myself. I grew up in Massachusetts, where I returned after college and worked in health education and public health. My family and I relocated to New Jersey almost four years ago for my husband's job. Our son Matty is in 4th grade with Mr. Martin and our daughter Katie is in 1st grade with Ms. Lavalley. *(continued, next page)*

We live in Blairstown and joined the GHS community two years ago through the School Choice program. We love GHS!

There are three things I'd like to highlight here. **First, I'd like to encourage PTA members to get involved with the PTA Executive Board.** As you'll see below, we have several opportunities for new folks to join us in Executive Officer positions. For a variety of reasons that I could not have predicted when my oldest started school, GHS is his 3rd (and hopefully last!) elementary school. I am happy to share that the GHS PTA is by far the most welcoming, productive, professional and effective PTA of the three I've been involved with. If you're curious about what it might mean to become an Executive Officer, reach out to any of the current Officers (greenptanj@gmail.com) or to Jodi Finn, who Chairs our Nominating Committee (jodiwfinn@ptd.net).

Second, I'd like to encourage you to take a look at our special newsletter Tricky Tray section. You'll find all the info you need to enjoy the night and have fun helping out before, during, or afterwards. You'll find info on exciting prizes you could win, as well as a contest for Family Basket donations. If you're new to Tricky Tray, there's a section for you with tips from experienced Tricky Trayers. Before moving to NJ, I had never even heard of a Tricky Tray and had no idea what everyone was talking about. I attended for the first time last year, had a great time, and won SkyZone passes and NYC theater tickets.

Third, I'd like to point out that this combined March/April special Tricky Tray edition of the newsletter is a bit unusual in that it covers two months. To make room for all of the exciting Tricky Tray information, we're not including our usual Volunteer Spotlight. That section will return in our next edition. I hope you enjoy this special edition!

Exciting Playground News!

The Playground build is scheduled for April 19-23! Keep your eyes out for a volunteer sign-up sheet. Don't miss out on a chance to be part of the playground forever - last Day to buy bricks is March 3rd.

Get involved with the PTA...now or starting on July 1st!

The PTA has 4 positions available on our Executive Board for active, involved members. Join our experienced Treasurer and Corresponding Secretary and be part of something great for our children!

Available Immediately! 2nd Vice President - Complete a partial term through 7/1/2018.

Because this position is available mid-term, the current Executive Officers will vote to appoint an interested candidate. If you'd like to learn more, please contact Jodi Finn at jodiwfinn@ptd.net.

Available July 1st. President, 1st Vice President, and Recording Secretary - Join the Executive Board for a 2-year term (7/1/17-7/1/19). Elections will be held during the May General Membership Meeting. For more information on the responsibilities for each position, please see the PTA bylaws article VII at www.gtpta.com. Please email Jodiwfinn@ptd.net with letters of intent to run and contact information. If you have any questions, please phone Jodi at 908-914-2316. Submit all letters by May 8, 2017.

Thank you for volunteering and considering a position on the PTA Executive Board!

The Spring Book Fair is here! Support and enjoy this great event that allows students to select books they love while also helping our school earn books. Students will visit the book fair with their classes during the **week of March 6th**. Families are welcome to visit and shop on Saturday the 4th, 9am-noon and on Tuesday the 7th, 6pm-8pm. If you'd like to volunteer, contact Chair Priscilla McCarthy at priscilla.vincecruz@gmail.com.

Show the staff and teachers how much you care!

Staff Appreciation Week will start **March 13th** with events all week. We need volunteers to donate bottled water and soft drinks as well as desserts for the luncheon on Monday, 3/13. It is a carnival theme! Donations should be labeled "staff appreciation" and dropped off at the Main Office by 9:30am on 3/13. For more info, please contact Cheryl Rhine at chrhine@ptd.net.

Donate toys and clothes during the week of April 24th - GHS will earn cash for every pound donated during the **Spring Clothing Drive**. Donations in plastic bags can be left at outside the door of the stage (on the right side of the front walkway of the school).

PTA Offsetting Costs of Field Trip Transportation

Through a vote of our general membership in January, the PTA voted to allocate funds towards the cost of transportation for field trips. The PTA will allocate up to \$750 for each grade level for trip transportation, offsetting the cost of trips for families. The amount spent on transportation varies by grade due to a number of factors, including the type of trip and number of students. This is one of many ways the PTA uses funds to directly support our students and families. Thank you to everyone who supports the PTA!

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.

Valentine's Family Dance - PTA volunteers Jennie Eisenmenger, Denise Kelly Jones, Kate Mull, Chair, and Nicole Vidal were assisted by student volunteers Alex Jones, Kassandra Mull and Jacob Spina.

Reflections Contest - Ms. Lederhass, Ms. Minervini, Gina Trish and Annemarie Vena, Chair.



**Sponsored by the Green Township PTA.
GHS families make it happen!**

Below, you'll find info on:

- ★ Exciting prizes you could win
- ★ How you can help
- ★ What to expect if you're new to Tricky Tray

Tricky Tray is April 8th!

3pm Doors open, pre-paid tix holders	4pm Doors open, all	6pm Calling begins
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"Tricky Tray is a great way of getting to know the people of Green Township, the Green Hills Teachers

and Staff as well as other PTA members. There is a great sense of community at this event and a wonderful sense of accomplishment after it's all done. It's amazing what we can do when we work together!" Laurie O'Gorman, Chair Runners and Shakers

"If you haven't experienced a Tricky Tray before, Green Hills is definitely the one to go to. It's amazing how many people attend from all over. I suggest you buy some pre-sale tickets and reserve a table or seats. They take credit cards so no worries if you don't bring enough cash to buy extra tickets. There is usually food sold the night of the event but feel free to bring in some as well. Make sure you take time to organize your tickets and get there early for good seats and parking. Most importantly Good Luck!"

Nicole Vidal, Tricky Tray Solicitation

Get excited for AMAZING PRIZES!

Here are just a few ways to win that we're really excited about!

The **Grand Raffle** prizes are huge, including a \$1,000 Valley National Visa gift card, a 65" Vizio E Series Smart TV 4K Ultra HD, and an Apple Watch, 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.

The **Money Tree** has hundreds of dollars worth of gift cards for gas, iTunes, Dunkin Donuts, and more.

A few of the **baskets** we're really excited about this year include **Disney Park Hopper** passes and **Broadway comedy club** tickets!

Get involved and have fun!

“I think we need to let people know how much fun it is to help work at the event. I have sold tickets, done hospitality and been a runner and shaker. I love them all, especially the hospitality part. It's exciting to be apart of such a huge event for the school.” Nicole Vidal, Tricky Tray Solicitation

Volunteers have been working all year to make Tricky Tray fun and successful. We need more help and our helpers have more fun!

- **SELL GRAND RAFFLE TICKETS:** Winner doesn't need to be present, so sell to everyone!
- **ADVERTISE:** Please pick up a Tricky Tray sign for your yard and flyers to post around town.
- **HELP US GET BASKETS:** Ask local businesses for donations or help with donation pick ups. Contact Solicitation Chair Nicole Vidal at ndegeso1999@yahoo.com.
- **WRAP BASKETS:** Exact schedule TBD but shifts will likely be available Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays in March starting at 9:30am. Get to know other PTA volunteers while you wrap. No experience necessary! Contact Jennie Eisenmenger at Jeneisenmenger@gmail.com.
- **RUN AND SHAKE:** Runners bring prizes to the winners and shakers shake tickets before the tickets are picked. Come be part of the Tricky Tray excitement and donate a **little bit of time during our event!** Contact Laurie O'Gorman at laurieo11@msn.com.
- **SELL ONSITE TICKETS:** This is a fun way to get to connect with many attendees. Contact April Orozco at Orozco6.ao@gmail.com.
- **DONATE A FAMILY BASKET, MAYBE YOU'LL WIN A CONTEST!:** Bring in your family basket by **March 29th** and get a free sheet of tier one tickets **AND** be entered to win an ice pop party for your child's homeroom. The homeroom with the most family baskets wins the party! *Bring your donations to the main office or drop off during basket wrapping days.*

1st Tricky Tray?

Tips from experienced Tricky Trayers will help you have a great night!

What is the GHS Tricky Tray?

A fun night out that is also the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year.

How much do I have to spend?

Spend as much or as little as you like, depending on what works for your budget. There is **no fee to enter** so all (adults 18+) are welcome to join in the fun atmosphere with friends and neighbors. You can save some money, and enter the event early, by buying tickets in advance but tickets are also sold during the event. PRESALE TICKET PACKETS are available through **March 29th**. You can also reserve a table, which are available on a first come, first served basis. \$24 per 8 person table/\$12 per 4 person 1/2 table. A Prepay order form is sent out in the Friday GHS email and available at the Main Office.

What might I win?

The variety and quality is amazing! You might choose to put tickets on anything from sports equipment or baking supplies to fitness class gift cards or theater tickets!

What should I bring?

Many people like to bring refreshments to share with others. Some people reserve a table in advance (info on tables will go home soon) and bring a whole spread. Some just bring a few snacks. Cash and credit cards are accepted for ticket sales.

How can I have the most fun?

The most experienced Tricky Trayers seem to agree that when you help out with some aspect of the event and you'll have more fun. We don't know why - maybe it is the sense of accomplishment or being an active part of the community - but volunteers seem to have more fun! There are lots of different ways to get involved, whether you have a few minutes or several hours.

What do we do with the money raised?

Support GHS! Whether it is the playground project, curriculum support requests from teachers, or field day, all money raised goes directly to supporting the students, teachers, staff, and families of GHS.