

GFS PTA NEWS

Learning Together | Working Together | Playing Together

Back to School Night

GFS Back to School Night is Tuesday, August 29, from 5:30 - 8:30 PM.

Attendance is mandatory for all parents; for that reason, childcare will be provided for those unable to make their own arrangements. MANDATORY is an authoritative word, but an accurate reflection of the importance of the evening to getting the year off to a good start. Back to School Night is packed with important information: First, we'll get an overview of the year. PTA Tribe Assignments will be announced and each group will meet briefly. You'll be able to pay your PTA dues, making you a voting member (everyone is always welcome at PTA meetings). Break-out meetings for each classroom will let us all know expectations and norms and provide a forum for questions.

Watch Parent Square for more information, including childcare sign-up.

See you there!

Communication

Good, clear, accurate communication is a driving force in my personal and professional life. As a composer and a teacher of composition, I communicate verbally and in symbols and teach others to do the same, mostly one-on-one. Board meetings, faculty meetings, and the PTA require a different kind of communication, if only because there are more people in the room. Of course, all attempts at good communication will fail without an attentive, responsive, respectful attitude on everyone's part.



Last year, we started a monthly newsletter designed to highlight current and upcoming events, provide resources for families, and generally make the operations of the PTA as transparent and engaging as possible. We will continue it this year. In the first issues, there was a lot of information designed to help new families transition into GFS. That will be true this year as well, so if you notice repetition, that's why.

I'm not making communication the topic of this newsletter because GFS parents and teachers are bad at it. Far from it! On the whole, this is one of the best environments I've been in, a cooperative learning environment in every sense of the word. But on the other hand, like so many other things—dog training, physical fitness, skill on an instrument—there is ideally an ongoing process of refinement and reinforcement. This month, that means putting a whole bunch of stuff in writing that we might sometimes take for granted.

I encourage new families to ask questions. If you don't know what's going on, email a PTA officer, a room parent, or just collar someone at drop-off or pick-up. We are all in this together, and all returning families know what it's like to be new and maybe feel a little confused or under informed. It's also a marvelous community to get to know, so jump right in! It's going to be a great year.

Leslie Hogan - 2017-18 PTA President

Tribes

You hear a lot about Tribes at Goleta Family School. The PTA has "tribes" instead of committees; the school shares parent provided "Tribes' Treats" each day at snack time; there are student tribes within classrooms and still other student tribes made up of children from each of the three classrooms.

What's this all about?

For many years, GFS has utilized the **Tribes Learning Community** curriculum to help foster a sense of community within the individual classrooms and the entire student body. The Tribes curriculum is designed to foster a positive school and classroom environment, with the goal of improving behavior and learning, and give students the tools to work collaboratively.

Four agreements are honored: attentive listening, appreciation/ no put downs, mutual respect, and the right to pass. If you hear a teacher say she's "waiting for attentive listening," that's what that's about.

Students also learn a set of collaborative skills for their group work. The focus there is on how to help each other work on tasks, set goals and solve problems, monitor and assess progress, and celebrate achievements.

For more information, explore <http://www.tribes.com>

Attentive Listening

As you can see in the sidebar, Attentive Listening is a concept and a practice that our children are taught at Goleta Family School. Attentive Listening, also called Active Listening, involves listening with all senses. The kids sometimes describe it as listening with Eyes, Ears, and Heart. In addition to practicing attentive listening when interacting with teachers and parents at GFS, there's another practical component we'd like everyone to be aware of and communicate: one's own best mode of communication.

Once you have your tribe assignment, please let your tribe leader know the best way to communicate with you. We have a lot of options these days, including email, text, video chat, phone calls, and in person meetings. We encourage everyone to be flexible and adaptable, but if you rarely respond to email but always respond to a text message, that's good information to share! It's also good information to share with your classroom teacher, and of course, you should set your parent square notifications to what works best for you so that you won't miss any important messages.

Contacts

Leslie Hogan, PTA President, <redduckmusic@earthlink.net>

Mike Clapinski, PTA Vice President, <mikec22@cox.net>

Katie Joiner, PTA Secretary, <flykatie@gmail.com>

Rebekah Bardakos, PTA Treasurer, <rjpeake@hotmail.com>

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John Rickey, Webmaster, <yogi_john@yahoo.com>

Beth Casselman, DAC Rep, <bethkannecasselman@gmail.com>

Silke Werth, Room 19 Room Parent,
<silke_werth@umail.ucsb.edu>

Sophie Spier, Room 8 Room Parent, <sophiespier@gmail.com>

Heather Stevenson, Room 7 Room Parent,
<heather@heatherstevenson.com>

Felicia Roggero, Foothill/GFS Principal,
<froggero@goleta.k12.ca.us>

Anne Gould, School Office Manager, <agould@goleta.k12.ca.us>

Who do I talk to?

If the question is about.....	Then talk to....
Your own child’s social, emotional, and academic performance/ well-being in the classroom	Your classroom teacher
Classroom participation	Your classroom teacher
Other classroom-related questions	Your room parent
How much money to spend on something requested by your classroom teacher	Your classroom teacher
How much money to spend on something requested by your Tribe Leader	Your Tribe Leader
Budget for a particular event your tribe is in charge of	Your Tribe Leader and/or PTA Treasurer Rebekah Bardakos
Parent Square: if you haven’t received a notification for a message that you can see in your online feed	Parent Square support. (Very often, switching temporarily to email+text or text notifications only will fix the problem.)
Parent Square: If you’re not receiving any messages at all or need to change your email address.	PTA Secretary Katie Joiner or PTA President Leslie Hogan can help trouble-shoot
An upcoming event.....	Depending on the question, you might just ask other parents. Otherwise ask the teacher or Tribe Leader in charge of the event.
General questions about Tribe Responsibilities,	Vice-President Mike Clapinski
Questions about your assigned Tribe’s activities, scheduling, etc.	Your Tribe Leader
Taking on a leadership role in the PTA, whether as an officer in 2018-19 or as a Tribe Leader	Vice-President Mike Clapinski
The GFS website (http://goletafamilyschool.com)	Webmaster John Rickey
Adding photos to the GFS Smugmug Photo Archive	Any Arts Tribe member or Leslie Hogan
Viewing photos in the Smugmug Photo Archive	Go to http://goletafamilyschool.smugmug.com and enter the password gfs2013
District Advisory Council meetings	Beth Kanne-Casselman
Tribes Treats (aka snack)	Christi Westerhouse
Address, phone number, or email changes for the GFS Directory	Katie Joiner
Volunteer Driver Form, paying for school lunches, and questions about anything required by the district.	Anne Gould
PTA Meetings and anything not covered here	Leslie Hogan

Daily Schedule

School begins at 8:20 AM

Pick-up for Kindergarten Students is at 1:35 PM

Pick-up for everyone else is at 2:55 PM

On Thursdays, Kindergarten pickup is at 1:35 PM, and all others are at 2:00 PM.

Volunteering

Most often, our teachers wait 1-2 weeks before starting Classroom Participation hours for parents. We're all eager to get in there—helping in the classroom is one of the great pleasures of Goleta Family School—but the teachers need to establish routines and expectations with the students before introducing parents into the mix.

Once your classroom participation is scheduled, before you come to the classroom, **be sure to sign in at the school office and get a volunteer badge.** Sign out when you're finished. There are many good reasons to do this: one I learned of last year is that the sign-in sheet would be used in case of an emergency, to make sure that all people on campus are accounted for.

So what is our role as parents in the first few weeks of school? Our role is to get our children to school on time, rested, and well fed.

Online Donations

You can make your parent contribution online!

<http://www.goletafamilyschool.com/donate>

While it's probably not strictly necessary, please indicate in the "Donation Note" that whatever amount you're giving is part of your annual voluntary contribution.

Website

The Goleta Family School website is located at

<http://www.goletafamilyschool.com>

Recent updates include a partial reorganization of the menus, the addition of a Newsletter Archive, and some general clean-up. We will continue to work on that so that it can be a resource for the existing community and for prospective parents.

Summer Packets

Summer packets are due now! Mike Clapinski needs the information so that he can set up the parent tribes before Back to School Night on the 29th.

Appreciations

Courtney Ewart, for starting the process of setting up Buddy Families for new families and **Katie Joiner** for continuing it.

Bryant Henson, Foothill PTA President, for being an energetic and positive collaborator, for the benefit of all students on campus.

Sandrine Thompson, Dina Clapinski, Mike Clapinski, Brian Thompson and **Tanis Thust** for doing the organizational heavy lifting (not to mention cooking!) for the summer picnic.

Former GFS PTA treasurer **Cara O'Callaghan** for auditing our books over the summer, a requirement of the state PTA.

Snack Schedule

Big thanks to **Christi Westerhouse** to taking on this task again this year. The first three weeks of snack are covered; she'll issue the schedule for the year at Back to School Night.

Transitions

from **Courtney Ewart**: "Today Max was offered a spot at Peabody for this fall, after being pretty far down the waiting list for the past couple years, so we are going to take it. Max has many friends who go to Peabody, and it just makes more logistical sense for our family. Max and I are definitely nervous to be leaving the kind, creative, enthusiastic and involved GFS community, and sad to be missing the fall campout and all the other fun activities like Project Friday that make GFS such a special school, but I hope we can keep in touch since we are in the neighborhood. I wish your kiddos all the best for a successful school year." We'll miss the Ewart-Fink family!!



Past Fall Campouts:
Clockwise from upper left - Line of luggage and equipment ready to be loaded into parent vehicles; Sunscreen is serious business!; Music workshop; Teri with kids on an impromptu beach exploration; lifeguards let kids know the rules, before entering the water. Next page: Morning circle in the campsite; parents serve breakfast.



Upcoming Events, August 21- September 18

Image credits: the photos in this issue are all of past All School Campouts at Refugio State Beach

Monday, August 21

PTA Budget Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

843 Via Campobello

Wednesday, August 23

First Day of School! School Starts 8:20 AM

Parent Meet and Greet, 8:20-9:00 AM

Paved area between the GFS garden and the area with the blue bars and dome.

Light refreshments provided.

Thursday, August 24

Early dismissal for grades 1-6: pick up at 2 PM

Kindergarten pickup at 1:35 PM

Tuesday, August 29

Back to School Night, 5:30 - 8:30 PM

Mandatory for all parents.

Childcare provided at a modest cost.

Watch Parent Square for details.

Thursday, August 31

Early dismissal for grades 1-6: pick up at 2 PM

Parent Meeting for All School Campout, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

Mandatory for prospective chaperones, all others welcome (there will be jobs to do even for people not attending).

RSVP on Parent Square.

Monday, September 4

Labor Day Holiday! No School.

Friday, September 8

Ursula's Birthday!

September 11-13

All School Campout, Refugio State Beach



Monday, September 11

Potluck Dinner, Refugio State Beach, 4-7 PM

Details to follow.

Wednesday, September 13

Community Lunch, GFS, NOON

Monday, September 18

PTA Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 PM, location TBD



Key Dates, October 2017- June 2018

PTA Meetings are adult only. Some dates/times are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, watch your Parent Square messages.

Monday, October 9 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

Saturday, October 21 - **GFS Garden Work Day**, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: All families participate!

Tuesday, October 31 - **Costume Parade**, 9 AM; **GFS Haunted Move-a-thon** - 11 AM; **GFS Community Lunch** - Noon

Monday, November 6 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

Friday, November 10 - **Veterans' Day** (observed) - No School

November 13 - November 17 - **Parent Teacher Conference Week**. Early dismissal every day.

November 20 - November 24 - **Thanksgiving Break**

Thursday, December 7 - **GFS Winter Marketplace and Winter Sing**: Festivities begin at 5:00; performance begins 6:00 PM

Monday, December 18 - Monday, January 1 - **Winter Break**

Tuesday, January 2 - **Classes resume**.

Monday, January 8 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

Friday, January 12 - **Teri's Birthday** celebrated with an all school trip to **Lizard's Mouth!**

Monday, January 15 - **MLK Day**, No School

Thursday, January 18 - **GFS Parent Education Night** - Mandatory for all parents; childcare will be available. This evening is an opportunity to come together as a community to learn more about how our children are being educated. Time TBD; date may change.

Thursday, January 25 - **Early Dismissal**

Tuesday, February 6 - All School **Restoration Site Day**

Thursday, February 8 - **Cultural Festival**, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Monday, February 12 - **NO PTA Meeting**

Wednesday, February 14 - **Valentine's Day** in the classrooms



Boundary Flags help kids at the Fall Campout know where they're supposed to be. All exploration beyond that is under adult supervision.

Thursday, February 15 - **Parent Appreciation Breakfast**, time TBA

February 16 & February 19 - **NO School**

Thursday, March 1 - **All School Restoration Site day**

Monday, March 5 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

Thursday, March 8 - **Mandatory Campout Meeting** for Teri's Science Camp chaperones, 6:00 PM

Saturday, March 10 - **GFS Gala** Fundraiser (tentative)

Friday, March 16 - Mandatory Project for Project Club: **Leprechaun Traps**

Wednesday, March 21 - **Campout Meeting** for Room 8 parents, 5:30 PM

March 26 - April 2 - **Spring Break**

April 9-13 - **Science Camp**, Teri's Class, Joshua Tree National Park

Monday, April 16 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

Thursday, April 19 - **GFS celebrates Natasha's 3/4 Birthday** with a trip to the Restoration Site!

Saturday, April 28 - GFS Reduce Reuse **Rummage Sale**, 8 AM - 2 PM

May 7-9 - **Cachuma Lake Campout**, Natasha's Class

May 9 - **Community Lunch**

May 14 - **PTA Meeting**, 6:30 PM

May 17-18 - **Zoo Campout**, Ursula's Class

May 18 - **Community Lunch**

May 23 - **Welcome Day**, 11 AM

May 31 - **Calendar Meeting**, 5:30 PM

June 3 (SUNDAY) - **Clean Up Day**, 1 - 4 PM

June 4 - **Restoration Site Day**

June 6 - **Graduation!**

June 7 - **Beach Day**

June 8 - **Last Day** of School



Exploring Owl Pellets. Fall Campout activities encompass science, art, music, drama, nature exploration, team building, and community building.



Budget to Actual

through June 30, 2017

% of year elapsed

100%

	Actuals 16-17	Annual Budget 16-17	Remaining Balance	% of budget recd/exp
INCOME				
120 · Donations	0.00	300.00	300.00	-
121 · Grants	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
122 · NOAA Grant	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
123 · Parent Contributions	16,100.00	19,000.00	2,900.00	85%
125 · Misc Donations	1,167.73	500.00	-667.73	234%
Total 120 · Donations	17,267.73	19,800.00	2,532.27	87%
127 · Community Building Donations				-
130 · Events Income				
130 · Winter Sing/Craft Fair	2,410.07	2,500.00	89.93	96%
131 · Gala event	14,473.82	12,000.00	-2,473.82	121%
132 · Misc Events/movies	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Total 130 · Events Income	16,883.89	14,500.00	-2,383.89	116%
160 · Fund Raising				
161 · Move-a-thon	4,336.00	5,500.00	1,164.00	79%
163 · Rummage Sale	3,054.85	2,500.00	-554.85	122%
164 · Axxess books	6,690.00	5,500.00	-1,190.00	122%
166 · Student Store	0.00	500.00	500.00	-
167 · Misc fundraisers	0.00	200.00	200.00	-
168 · Ice Cream Sales	4,270.87	2,000.00	-2,270.87	214%
Total 160 · Fund Raising	18,351.72	16,200.00	-2,151.72	113%
170 · Dividend Income	31.01	40.00	8.99	78%
171 · E-Scrip Income	116.71	400.00	283.29	29%
174 · T-Shirts	615.00	500.00	-115.00	123%
180 · PTA Dues	456.00	450.00	-6.00	101%
190 · Science Camp Income	3,800.00	3,475.00	-325.00	109%
192 · 2-3 grades event income	850.00	1,000.00	150.00	85%
193 · K-1 grades event income	1,010.00	900.00	-110.00	112%
195 · Teri's Class Play Income		0.00	0.00	-
196 · Misc Income/Credits	14.59	100.00	85.41	15%
250 · Yearbook Donations		700.00	700.00	-
	6,893.31	7,565.00	671.69	91%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 59,396.65	\$ 58,065.00	-1,331.65	102%



Budget to Actual

through June 30, 2017

% of year elapsed

100%

	Actuals 16-17	Annual Budget 16-17	Remaining Balance	% of budget recd/exp
EXPENSES				-
501 · Advertising		0.00	0.00	-
504 · Specialists/Foothill expenses	5,030.64	5,480.64	450.00	92%
507 · Cultural Arts		400.00	400.00	-
508 · NOAA Grant money out				-
525 · Educational Expenses				-
526 · All Classes	840.95	2,500.00	1,659.05	34%
527 · Playground		100.00	100.00	-
528 · School technology		1,000.00	1,000.00	-
529 · Room 8	1,588.01	2,000.00	411.99	79%
530 · Room 7	2,511.92	2,000.00	-511.92	126%
531 · Room 19	1,318.09	2,000.00	681.91	66%
531a Purchases - no receipts	52.03	0.00	-52.03	
532 · Teacher enrichment/Reader's work	163.86	3,000.00	2,836.14	5%
532a · Music curriculum		250.00	250.00	-
533 · Animals	478.83	1,000.00	521.17	48%
534 · Community Building	602.00	1,500.00	898.00	40%
535 · Events Expense			0.00	-
536 · Graduation	455.42	400.00	-55.42	114%
537 · Plays		500.00	500.00	-
537a · Katz stories	100.00	300.00	200.00	33%
538 · Outdoor School		100.00	100.00	-
539 · Winter Sing	426.86	550.00	123.14	78%
540 · Gala expenses	3,109.01	4,000.00	890.99	78%
541 · Miscellaneous Events	226.61	1,000.00	773.39	23%
550 - Field Trips - Expense	116.00	900.00	784.00	13%
560 · Fund Raising - Expense			0.00	-
561 · Move-a-thon	204.26	50.00	-154.26	409%
563 · Rummage Sale	490.00	250.00	-240.00	196%
564 · Axxess	4,440.00	3,900.00	-540.00	114%
566 · Student Store expense		400.00	400.00	-
567 - Ice Cream Sale Expense	2,427.36	1,000.00	-1,427.36	243%
570 · Garden	788.26	2,500.00	1,711.74	32%
575 · T-Shirts	568.00	400.00	-168.00	142%
590 · PTA Expenses		200.00	200.00	-
591 · Assessment & Dues	516.00	500.00	-16.00	103%
592 · Hospitality	150.00	200.00	50.00	75%
593 · Birthday boxes		0.00	0.00	-
595 · Jake Boysell Library		50.00	50.00	-
600 · Camp Expenses				-
601 All School Campout	708.00	0.00	-708.00	17-18 deposit
602 · Science Camp	7,602.16	6,000.00	-1,602.16	127%
603 · 2-3 Outdoor Activity	1,544.22	2,500.00	955.78	62%
604 · K-1 Class Activity	2,121.44	2,500.00	378.56	85%
620 · Campus Facilities		0.00	0.00	-
640 · Returned checks		0.00	0.00	-
645 · Science Night		0.00	0.00	-
650 · Yearbook Expense	727.58	800.00	72.42	91%
651 · Band scholarship	240.00	250.00	10.00	96%
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 39,547.51	\$ 50,480.64	10,933.13	78%
Net Income	\$ 19,849.14	\$ 7,584.36		