

GFS PTA NEWS

Learning Together | Working Together | Playing Together

Garden Day



September 17

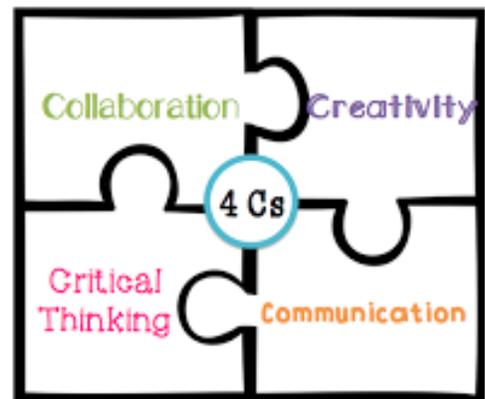


9 AM - 2 PM



Education Resources

Over the last several years, I've discovered some really excellent resources for talking and thinking about education. Some of them are specific to elementary and secondary school; others are much more universal; others are oriented toward issues in education policy. Here are a couple of resources that have caught my attention recently:



www.p21.org - Partnership for 21st-century Learning

<http://www.ed.gov/teaching/teachers-edition-archive> - archive for the US Department of Education e-newsletter, "The Teachers Edition". The newsletter is structured as a round-up of articles and information.

The opinions expressed in any articles or web pages do not necessarily reflect the positions or policies of the U.S. Department of Education, and including these resources or any others does not constitute endorsement by the GFS PTA.

In other news, **Axxess Books** go on sale September 16, ending September 30. You'll receive information, a sample book, and an order form in the Friday Folder. This is a BIG fundraiser for GFS. It's also a big fundraiser for a lot of other organizations, so corral your buyers early!

Leslie Hogan



PTA Appreciations

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Christi Westerhouse, Fearless Snack Coordinator - **Brian Thompson**, Earthlings Tribe leader, for jumping in and organizing Garden Day, even before Back to School Night - **Felicia Roggero**, for answering questions about assessment - **Mark Casselman**, for offering to see if the kiln can be repaired, and on that topic, **Felicia Roggero** for working with us to see what the options are for kiln repair or replacement - **Sophie Spier**, for working with Parent Square admins - The **Tech Squad** (Mark Casselman, Ted Cabeen, John Rickey, and Soeren Thust), for updating the website and the computers and for beginning work on some long term strategies for things tech related - **Adrienne Demboski**, for organizing the PTA Tribes - **Dimitrii Calzago**, for offering to take care of Room 19's aquarium - The **Hospitality Tribe**, for providing food on Back to School Night - **Heather Stevenson**, for continuing as the first point of contact for prospective families, and for leading the campus tours - **Tanis Thust** for coordinating crafts for Garden Day - The **Gaffney Family**, for taking care of the garden over the summer.

GFS Photo Archive

Some years ago, the GFS PTA made the decision to archive event photos on the smugmug website. Prior to that, photos were stored on various personal Picasa or Flickr accounts, or passed around on CDs. The archive is administered by a member of the Arts Tribe, and only Arts Tribe members are provided administrative login information, which makes it possible to upload photos into galleries, re-organize, etc. Everyone else is provided a password to view. Thomas Weimbs, the parent who did the original research for the PTA, set up the site, and administered it until his last child left GFS just last June, dug through various sources to find photos going back to 2005-2006. It's wonderful to explore the ways that GFS has evolved....and sometimes you can see much younger versions of familiar faces!

Ted Cabeen has taken over administration of the archive. If you have photos to contribute, please contact him and he'll let you know the best way to proceed—email, thumb drive, CD, etc. To view photos, go to www.goletafamilyschool.smugmug.com (or access the link through the GFS website, under photo storage). The password is gfs2013.



GFS
Garden,
2007-08
school
year.

Sample Snack Menu

Monday: Cost: \$58.53

Organic Cinnamon apples (about 10 lbs.)
 Sugar snap peas (about 2-1/2 lbs.)
 Whole wheat bagels w/ cream cheese (3 packs
 cut into quarters)

Tuesday: Cost: \$38.90

Bananas (24 cut into thirds)
 Cucumbers (3)
 Pita chips (5 bags)
 Hummus (three containers)

Wednesday: Cost: \$35.95

Watermelon (1 large cut into cubes)
 Carrots (2 lbs cut into sticks)
 White cheddar & Monterey Jack Cheese cubes
 (about 1-1/2 lbs)
 Crackers (3 boxes)

Thursday: Cost: \$31.86

Tangerine oranges (8 lbs / one for each child)
 Red bell pepper (3 large peppers sliced)
 TJ's Honey Pretzel sticks (4 bags)
 Sliced salami (2 lbs.)

Friday: Cost: \$50.49

Organic red grapes (about 7 lbs)
 Cheddar & Monterey Jack Cheese cubes
 (about 1-1/2 lbs)
 Carrots (2 lbs. cut into sticks)
 Pirates Booty (5 bags)

Total cost for the week: \$215.73

Courtesy of Christi Westerhouse.

Some Notes for the Menu

In determining how much food to buy, it's useful to look at serving sizes. Servings for snack can be calculated differently than for a meal, since 1) it's a snack, 2) there are multiple elements, and 3) the kids won't all eat everything. For example:

- If a bag of pretzels says it has 30 servings, it will probably feed 60 people. Another brand or size of pretzels might have 35 servings, so it pays to look—you'd only need one bag of the second.
- A single apple cut into slices can feed 3 or 4 kids.
- One 2.5 pound jar of almonds or cashews, with 40 servings, is enough for the entire group.

By committing to bringing healthy foods for Tribes' Treats, we're ensuring that the energy they get from it will carry them through to lunchtime, without the energy spike and drop they'd get from a high sugar snack. Having several different choices on the plates not only reinforces the healthy habit of eating a balanced diet, but also helps ensure that the kids who are picky eaters will find *something* to like.

As our Snack Coordinator **Christi Westerhouse** remarked, the kids can really tell you not only what they like, but how they like it. And, if you want to take advantage of a real world opportunity, you can, of course, have your child help you do the math involved in figuring out much food to buy.

If you ever have questions about anything snack-related, whether it's menu ideas or quantity, be sure to contact Christi.

<cmwesterhouse@gmail.com>

Telephone: 805 280 5901

Upcoming events, September 16 - October 31

September 16-30

AXXESS BOOKS ON SALE !!

\$10 of every sale goes directly to GFS

Saturday, September 17

Garden Work Day, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Let's all join together in getting the GFS garden in shape for the fall. It is a valuable outdoor classroom space, not only for gardening but for many other kinds of learning. There will be activities for all ages and abilities.

Friday, September 23

All School Restoration Day, during school hours

For the past several years, GFS students have been working to restore native plants and habitats to the park and creek located at the corner of Ribera and University. This is the first of several all-school restoration site days scheduled for 2016-17. Students and teachers will walk to the site, then weed, water, plant—whatever needs to be done. Not only will they continue important restoration work, but will develop relationships and trust that cut across the classrooms. Watch Parent Square communications for more detailed information, including any parent participation needs.

Thursday, October 6

Cultural Festival - to be rescheduled

October 7-9

Family Campout, Sage Hill Campground

This year's family campout is not an official school event; nonetheless, some 30 families are participating! info: <dina.clapinski@gmail.com>

Monday, October 10

PTA Meeting, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Location TBD

Thursday, October 20

Student Minimum Day

Pick up all students at 12:00 PM

Monday, October 31

Halloween Parade, 8:30 AM

Come to school in costume!

Haunted Move-a-thon, 10:30 AM

Now out of costume, students and teachers move their bodies for a full hour, rotating between a variety of stations created by the 6th grade students with the assistance of the **Outreach Tribe**. Yes, it's also a fundraiser. Watch Parent Square for more detailed information.

Homies Lunch, Noon

No need to pack a lunch today! After all of the activity of the morning, students, teachers, and parent volunteers relax with a delicious, healthy lunch organized and served by members of the Homies Tribe.

Treasurer's Report

Rebekah Bardakos, <rripeake@hotmail.com>

The year is off to a good start financially, with the following news:

A good number of parent contributions have come in, and we are looking forward to more. As one of our three biggest sources of revenue, which include our fundraising events and Gala, Parent Contributions support many of our school endeavors and make GFS the unique place that it is, full of opportunities to learn in creative, invigorating ways. So please support our school, and if you haven't yet, please drop your check off in the GFS PTA file box in the Foothill main office copy room...it's on the counter to the right of the back door, beneath the mail boxes. If you are having any concerns about making your contribution, or need to discuss a payment plan, please give me a call, I'm happy to discuss privately. While our goal is for a majority of families to make the full requested contribution, bear in mind that we also have a participation goal, for *all* families to make a contribution in some amount.

Last school year 2015-16's budget was approved and the current school year 2016-17's budget was discussed at the first PTA meeting of the year on Monday, September 12th. There were great questions asked, very valuable input provided, and we all had a good opportunity to ensure our budget is calibrated to our vision: we are looking forward to a year of field trips, great specialists, thriving outdoor spaces both in our own garden and at the restoration site, expressing our learning creatively, and enthusiastic fundraising. Our proposed budget will have some modifications made before the next PTA meeting, at which point we hope to have it approved and then posted to our website.

The reimbursement form will soon be uploaded to our website as a convenient fillable pdf. How easy is that?

Please feel free to use this form, but if you'd rather just grab a blank copy from the GFS PTA file box, that's fine too! Just put your form with the receipt(s) attached in the Treasurer's file in the file box, and I'll replace it with a reimbursement check within one week.

Lastly, do you shop on Amazon? GFS has an Amazon Smile account by which Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of qualifying purchases to GFS! For easy access to Amazon Smile, go to the GFS website, www.goletafamilyschool.com, and click through from the Amazon Smile icon on the home page.

GFS PTA Financial Summary

June 30 - August 31, 2016

Beginning balance, 6/30/16 -	\$37,252.55
Ending balance, 8/31/16 -	\$37,686.39
Revenue:	\$3,270.03
Expenses:	\$2,867.00
Dividends:	\$30.81

Did you know? The GFS website and the GFS SmugMug photo archive can both be accessed from Goleta Family School's Parent Square page. Links are in the right hand column.

Project Club

Project Club can be simultaneously one of the most rewarding and one of the most frustrating aspects of having a student at GFS. It's helpful to remember that while we as parents can tend to focus on the end result—the PROJECT—for our children, the PROCESS is just as important. In working on a project incrementally over the course of a week, children are developing the important skill of being able to stick with a task until it's finished. For all kids, particularly in science based projects, the act of “failing” at something—i.e. not getting the results they expected and having to regroup and try another strategy—leads to a valuable lesson, that “failure” can be an amazing opportunity to discover new things.

One of the philosophical goals of GFS is to instill a love of learning that will stay with students throughout their lives. Project Club contributes to this goal in enabling them to follow their own interests: to ask questions and learn how to find the answers. Project Club can be a means of helping students learn how to problem solve: How can you find answers on your own if you don't read yet? How can a big project be broken down into several smaller ones? Finally, sharing projects in a Project Club group helps students develop better communication skills, both as presenters and as listeners. All that said, here are some pointers—and be sure to ask your teacher or big buddy family if you need ideas:

What Makes a Good Project?

A good project does not have to be complicated! For some of the younger students, learning to skip count to 100 by twos or fives could be a project shared in Project Club.

It is Developmentally Appropriate. Take a straightforward book report project, for example:

- Room 19: The student reads the same book each night (or has it read aloud to him) and can share something about the book with his Project Club group. The process of reading improves fluency.
- Room 8: The student reads the book. For the project, she creates a piece of art based on it, or does a storyboard of the main ideas.
- Room 7: The student reads the book, then in a written report or multi-media presentation (Google Slides) compares it with another book from the same genre. Or if the book is also a movie (*Harry Potter*, anyone?) the student could compare the book to the movie.

It is Child Centered, that is, it comes from the child's own interests. If your child wants to learn about polar bears, then go with it! If the next week, she wants to learn more about polar bears, make sure she comes up with a new set of questions. She could also share in a different way, perhaps with art or a multi media presentation. Week 3...is there fiction about polar bears? Polar bears in the news?

It's scaled so that the student can do a good job in the time provided. If your child has a really ambitious idea, help him to break it down into multiple projects and work on them over several weeks.

The student has an opportunity to practice sharing, by talking about the project with family members, and responding to questions and/or comments. This is particularly important for younger children, so that they get used to using their own words and know what they want to say. Older kids with complex projects need to practice summarizing so that they stay within their share of the time allowed.