

# GFS PTA NEWS

Learning Together | Working Together | Playing Together

## Halloween Fun!

**October 31** will be a big day at GFS. The day will kick off with the Halloween Parade, a tradition for Foothill School and GFS. On Halloween, students and teachers dress in costume, then enjoy a parade on the blacktop. Afterwards, everyone changes back into normal clothes.

Later in the morning, GFS will hold its annual **Move-a-thon**. A major fundraiser for GFS, Move-a-thon is also a lot of fun for the kids. This year, the theme the 6th grade students have chosen is **Haunted Olympics**. Stations will include Volley-BOO, PUMPK-ey, Witchnastic Dance, Zombie Run, the Flaming Torch of Fire Relay, Monster vs Student Tug of War, Franken-sled, and more! The **Outreach Tribe** leads this event.

The final event of an active and fun filled morning will be a delicious **burrito bar** lunch for all GFS students, teachers, and volunteers, prepared and served by members of the **Homies Tribe**.



## Staying on Track

Seven years ago, on the very first day of school for my older daughter, as I stood misty eyed in the garden, a parent of a sixth grader smiled sympathetically then offered some advice. “Pace yourself,” she said. “It’s easy to get caught up in trying to do everything, but if you do, you’ll burn out.” The fact that I haven’t always been able to heed the advice doesn’t make it less good, so I share it here. But what does it look like in practice?

It means being in a PTA Tribe that meshes so well with your interests that it doesn’t feel like work....but still being able to say “No,” when you really have to. We all have family and work obligations, and sometimes those aren’t predictable.

It means helping each other. If I can’t fulfill a responsibility in the Arts Tribe, I know that if I ask, someone else will step up and help. I do the same for others.

It means recognizing that not all fundraising opportunities are



## Calling All Crafters!

**Winter Marketplace** is coming! If you like to make things and have always wondered if they'd sell, **December 8** is your chance to try it out. More information will come from the Treasure Tribe. Info: [<sophiespier@gmail.com>](mailto:sophiespier@gmail.com)

## Yogurtland

On Thursday, October 20th we'll be eating **Yogurtland** fro-yo, hanging out with our GFS buddies, and raising money for our school. Valid at either the Goleta or State Street stores. **Bring your flier! GFS earns 20% of all the proceeds.** Info: [<dina.clapinski@gmail.com>](mailto:dina.clapinski@gmail.com)

## Mom's Night Out

The **Unity Tribe** is organizing a Mom's Night Out get together for Oct. 22 @ 6 PM, Willow Springs Clubhouse, Goleta. Plan to attend for a fun, relaxing evening with other moms.

## Cardboard Needed....

For **Move-A-Thon** stations. Lots of it! Please leave clean empty boxes next to Natasha's classroom. The **Outreach Tribe** will pick up each day.

created equal. I love Move-a-thon. Axxess Book sales are hard for my family. I know for a fact that for some families, it's exactly the opposite....looks like it balances out!

It means recognizing that one of the glues that holds this place together is clear, honest, respectful, timely communication. I say that like it's easy....it's not always easy, but it is essential.

Thank you to everyone for your efforts on behalf of all of our children, whether in the classroom or in a PTA Tribe. Everything is functioning beautifully right now. That said, the year is young and things are about to get even busier. Take care of your family, keep the lines of communication open, and pace yourself!

Leslie Hogan

## PTA Appreciations

Thank you to the **Unity Tribe**, for bringing back family profiles and for thinking of ways to bring us together outside of school hours. - **Thank you to everyone who participated in Axxess Book sales.** We exceeded our sales goal! - Thank you to the **Outreach Tribe**, for working with teachers and students to plan Move-a-thon.

**The Earthlings appreciate everyone who came to the Fall Garden Work Day last month.** It was a long to-do list we put together, but the old adage that many hands make light work proved especially true because we finished just after lunch time. The garden looks great and it reflects so well on our community that we can come together and accomplish so much in just one day. A special appreciation goes out to **Dan Gaffney** for all his hard work maintaining the garden over the summer and giving us a great foundation to build on this fall. Special thanks, too, to the **Arts Tribe** members and the **Hospitality Tribe** members who were there all day with the Earthlings working on crafts projects with the children and keeping the food table well stocked for both breakfast and lunch. It was a fun and rewarding day! - Brian Thompson



# Upcoming Events, October 16-November 30

*Thursday, October 20*

**Student Minimum Day - Pick-up all students at 12:00 PM**

**Yogurtland Fundraiser - Bring your flier!**

*Monday, October 31*

**Halloween Parade, 8:30 AM**

**Haunted Move-a-thon, 10:30 AM**

**Homies Lunch, Noon**

*Tuesday, November 1*

**All School Restoration Day, during school hours.**

*Monday, November 7*

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

Location TBD

*Friday, November 11*

**No School, Veteran's Day Holiday**

*Monday, November 14 - Friday, November 18*

**Parent Teacher Conferences - Pick-up all students at 12:00 PM**

Teachers will individually send out conference schedule sign-ups. The fall Parent Teacher Conferences are utilized for collaborative goal-setting. Students in Room 19 and Room 8 do NOT attend. Students in Room 7 DO attend.

*Friday, November 18*

**Turkey Trot, 8:30 - 11:30 AM**

This event is facilitated by the PE Specialists, for all Foothill and GFS students. In most years, the Turkey Trot is the culmination of a food drive. More information will follow via Parent Square.

*Monday, November 21 - Friday, November 25*

**Thanksgiving Holiday**

## *Did you know?*

Volunteer hours are collected and reported to maintain PTA's federal tax exemption status. As a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, PTA must receive 1/3 (one-third) of its support from the general public. The recorded hours from volunteers are proof of this. They are also used in advocating on behalf of children and as information in grant writing. **Please keep track of the time you spend in PTA Tribes Activities!**

# Restoration Site

Six years, hundreds of native plants, dozens of walks to Calle Barquero and hundreds of children learning the value of taking care of our environment. These are the hallmarks of GFS's 6 years as Ocean Guardians. What began with a dream and a grant from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration turned into a sustainable, service-learning project where GFS has adopted a local creek area and worked to restore it to a native habitat. Teri and her class spear-headed the project. This past week they were honored by NOAA by being invited to honor retiring U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps for her contributions to supporting environmental efforts in Santa Barbara County.



NOAA asked Teri's class to design a mural for Lois Capps since GFS is the only school that has ever been a 5 year Ocean Guardian grant recipient and because we are in her district. The mural was a spectacular collaborative effort. With Natasha's inspiration and the children's creativity, they were able to create a mural of our watershed in the style of Eric Carle. The children were in groups painting the background and then each child created several paper creations for the scenery. Rui taught both classes how to make origami houses, inspiring children to learn more origami. This was a project where children were intrinsically motivated to step up their skills to a new level. Parents from Teri's class and Natasha's class helped to glue the mural together. Once it was finished, it was carefully rolled and sent to San Francisco, where the pictured banner was produced.

For the October 13 event honoring Lois Capps, sixth grade students collaboratively developed a presentation that summarized what GFS students have accomplished over the last 6 years, hopefully inspiring other students in Ocean Guardian Schools to do the same. The students worked hard to bring awareness to other students in attendance about what they can do

to make a difference.

This year, GFS teachers have committed to taking to all students, K - 6th, to the site at least four times. Our first visit in September was a basic introduction to the area and to learning outdoors. Multiage tribes worked together to water the plants, identify plants and make 'potions' with natural materials. The trip was possible with your volunteer efforts...thank you! - Elizabeth, Natasha, and Teri

# Final Notes

## *GFS PTA Financial Summary*

**September 1- 30, 2016**

Beginning balance, 9/1/16 -	\$37,686.39
Ending balance, 9/30/16 -	\$51,717.10
Revenue:	\$14,737.54
Expenses:	\$ 598.39
Dividends:	\$ 3.86



## *Move-A-Thon Volunteers*

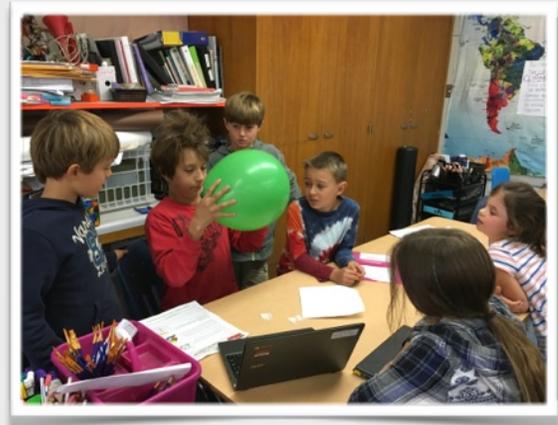
If you'd like to help with Move-a-Thon, please contact **Dianna Garner** <[garnerfamilie@yahoo.com](mailto:garnerfamilie@yahoo.com)> or **Wenda Pagliaro** <[wendaandgino@cox.net](mailto:wendaandgino@cox.net)>. The Outreach Tribe has it pretty well covered, but Dianna and Wenda know that sometimes parents who come to watch like to be involved.

## *PTA Elections*

As Adrienne Demboski indicated in a message sent out on Parent Square, she is leading the formation of a nominating committee for this year's PTA elections. Our goal is to have a slate of officers in February and hold elections in March.

## *Room Parents*

This year's Room Parents are **Katie Joiner** (room 19), **Adrienne Demboski** (room 8) and **Noelle Gambill** (room 7). Room Parents help welcome and orient new families, and coordinate teacher birthday celebrations, pet care, and end of year teacher gifts. They assist the teachers by shopping for supplies and sometimes by making preliminary contacts for field trips and special events. They're your go-to contact for non-academic, non-sensitive questions concerning your classroom.



**Katie Joiner** <[flykatie@gmail.com](mailto:flykatie@gmail.com)>

**Adrienne Demboski** <[adrienedemboski@gmail.com](mailto:adrienedemboski@gmail.com)>

**Noelle Gambill** <[noelle@noellegambill.com](mailto:noelle@noellegambill.com)>