

# GFS PTA NEWS

Learning Together | Working Together | Playing Together

## \$327

Is the amount of money raised on Friday, September 1, via Ice Cream Sales, to help a school in Texas get back on their feet in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. The money went to buy books.

## Mandy Burgess

Has indicated her willingness to be the GFS PTA Treasurer beginning in 2018-19. She will spend this year in training with current treasurer Rebekah Bardakos, and will be formally elected in March, when we hold PTA elections.

## PTA Tribes

Are hard at work and it's a wonderful thing! The Earthlings spent a day tidying up the garden, the Unity Tribe is planning opportunities for us to bond; Outreach Tribe members are hard at work on Move-a-Thon, and Treasure and Gala Tribes are already looking ahead to events in December and beyond.

## September 19

I have a lot of warm and fuzzy feelings this morning, all due to a really fantastically productive PTA Meeting last night. I appreciate every person who came, and every person who let me know they couldn't come (because that also shows a commitment to the process).

Our 2017-18 Budget has been adopted. It has been carefully and thoroughly discussed, in not one, but two meetings, with a different group of people in each meeting. It's a realistic budget, with estimates of fundraising carefully calculated against the estimated expenses of our programs. Two other pieces of official business, the adoption of the audit of our 2016-17 books and the adoption of updated bylaws, also passed. Our auditor, former GFS PTA treasurer Cara O'Callaghan, found Rebekah Bardakos's records to be entirely correct. In our bylaws, we eliminated the offices of Historian and Parliamentarian, reassigning those duties to the Secretary/President and to the Vice-President, respectively. PTA dues were increased from \$10 per year per son to \$11 per year per person in order to cover increases in assessments from the Council, District, State, and National organization.

Because the best place to put the all-school play was the night of Winter Sing/Winter Marketplace, that evening will have a different shape this year. There will still be a fundraising aspect to it, but the main emphasis will be on the play. Tradition is a wonderful thing; occasional departures from tradition provide an added value, not just a new experience, but a means of refreshing the tradition when it returns....

*Leslie*



## Contacts

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## Move-a-thon - October 31

You've probably all heard of **Jog-a-thons**. In a Jog-a-thon fundraiser, participants run (or jog) laps around a field or a track. Money is raised via sponsorship: participants ask friends, neighbors, family and even total strangers to contribute either a flat amount or an amount per lap.

A **Move-a-Thon** is a riff on the Jog-a-Thon concept, a fundraiser where participants MOVE for an entire hour. Why limit ourselves to just one thing? At GFS, the sixth grade students plan active games and then all the kids rotate through those stations. Past activities have included dancing, yoga, obstacle courses, hula hoops, volley ball, limbo, and relay races. It's a ton of fun and it is traditionally a highly successful fundraiser for GFS.

What makes it a success is the effort on the part of parents and students to get people to sponsor, asking friends, family, and neighbors to support our program. A very important part of that sponsorship drive—not to mention a real-world application of writing skills—is having the children write letters asking for support. Very soon, all students at GFS will be given the homework assignment of writing Move-A-Thon letters.

**The expectation for the way the letters are written is age appropriate:** older kids are expected to use the skills they have to write independently, while younger students are given the option of templates or dictation. The letter describes what the Move-a-Thon is and gives examples of the kinds of activities it supports. As a general fundraiser for GFS, that's pretty much anything. For example:



School Supplies, Technology, Outdoor School Days, Fall Campout, Cachuma Lake Campout, Science Camp, Curriculum, Field Trips, All-School Plays, Class Plays, Ceramics, Specialists in Computer Science, Music, PE, Art, and Science, Zoo Campout, Assemblies, Playground Equipment, Pets, Garden, Graduation Dance Party, Professional Development for teachers, and more.

Our kids' own words are the best selling point for GFS. Let them shine, but help them get those letters in on time. Move-A-Thon falls under the **Outreach Tribe's** responsibilities, so if you have any questions, be sure to ask **Dianna Garner** <[garnerfamilee@yahoo.com](mailto:garnerfamilee@yahoo.com)> or **Wenda Pagliaro** <[wendaandgino@cox.net](mailto:wendaandgino@cox.net)>. Watch Parent Square and the Friday Folder for details.

## Appreciations

For spending a Sunday afternoon putting up and evaluating all GFS tents, in preparation for the Fall Campout: Mark, Benjamin, and Gabriel Casselman; Clara Rickey; Eric, Rebekah, Katherine, and Athena Bardakos.

For working long and hard on the GFS directory: Katie and Michael Joiner.

For patiently working with us to make Parent Square a good experience for GFS families: Wendy Mirbod, Parent Square Director of Customer Success.

For coordinating the Tribes assignments, gathering paperwork, and collecting parent contributions: Mike Clapinski.

For agreeing to serve as Tribe Leaders in 2017-18: Sophie Spier (Gala), Julia Fraas (Treasure), Stacy Rebich-Hespanha (Rummage), Dianna Garner and Wenda Pagliaro (Outreach), Leslie Hogan (Arts), Tanis Thust (Unity), Dan Gaffney (Earthlings), Rosa Martinez (Hospitality).

For organizing dinner for Back to School Night: Rosa Martinez, with a shout out to Christi Westerhouse for donating some delicious fruit.

For organizing childcare for Back to School Night: Wenda Pagliaro and Dianna Garner.

For preparing nametags for Back to School Night: Sandrine Thompson.

For making the snack roster for the year: Christi Westerhouse and David Court.

For taking time from work and family responsibilities to chaperone the Fall Campout, for any length of time: John Linthicum, Dale Nickel, Adrienne Demboski, Eric Bardakos, Rebekah Bardakos, Leslie Hogan, Julie Meinhart, Deb Lux, Jonathan Klamkin, Dan Gaffney, Apple Gaffney, Aurora Santillan, Sophie Spier, Michael Leary, Gloria Arreola, Diana Garcia, Silke Werth, Julia Fraas, Greg Wilson, Amber Vanderwarker, Ben Sample, Jennie Evans, Wencit Hersh, Douglas Hersh, Adam Druckman, Anastasia Stone, Dustin Stone.

And gratitude to all of the kindergarten families who were not able to stay the night, for making the drive out to Refugio each day, so that their kids can experience the All School Campout.

For welcoming families to the Community Meal at Fall Campout, providing name tags and an ice-breaker: Tanis Thust and the rest of the Unity Tribe.

Everyone who attended the September PTA meeting AND all of the parents, partners, and others who made it possible by being on kid duty for the evening.

Anastasia Stone and Sophie Spier for volunteering to be Parent Representatives on the Foothill/GFS School Site Council.

Beth Casselman for serving as our representative to the District Advisory Council and Mandy Burgess for serving as our representative to the District Gifted Education Services.



# AXXESS Books on Sale Now through September 29

Key information to know about Axxess this year:

#1 Your kids are actually very excited about all the discount opportunities there are inside.

#2 Price change! Schools keep \$13 on every \$40 membership sold. It's been \$30 for 19 years, so no one's that surprised :)

#3 Technology upgrade: Once activated, memberships are accessible through both the card and its linked phone app. Cards are now scanned with the QR code on the back. Memberships can be shared through the app. Lots more upgrades - look inside the directory!

#4 There is overlap with last year's memberships, which expire Dec. 2017: 2018 memberships can be activated immediately upon receipt.

#5 Our selling period ends Friday, Sept. 29. Please let me know if you have an exceptional circumstance. Also note that to qualify for any of the gifts, our order forms and money should be in by that date.



-Take a look through the directory! There are so many businesses participating with appreciable incentives that make me (total homebody) want to get out and about. And, like you, I often forget to use the card when we do go out. Remind yourself by perusing the directory every now and then.

Questions? email Lauré Brecher, <[laurebre@gmail.com](mailto:laurebre@gmail.com)>

# Financial Status Report

If you have questions, contact Rebekah Bardakos, <[ripeake@hotmail.com](mailto:ripeake@hotmail.com)>

<b>GFS PTA Financial Summary</b>	<b>August-17</b>	
<b>As reported at the September 18, 2017 PTA Meeting</b>		
<b>Beginning Balance (as of July 1, 2017):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>58,567.65</b>
<b>Ending Balance (as of August 31, 2017):</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>69,152.80</b>
<b>Revenue Received:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,520.57</b>
<b>Expenditures Incurred:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>3,945.40</b>
<b>dividends earned</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>9.98</b>
<b>Check numbers processed (12 checks):</b>		
	3635	\$ 20.36
	3642	\$ 17.28
	3649	\$ 82.00
	3651	\$ 150.00
	3652	\$ 1,966.60
	3653	\$ 73.39
	3654	\$ 31.14
	3655	\$ 66.31
	3656	\$ 140.00
	3657	\$ 73.68
<b>Total dollar amount of checks processed:</b>		<b>\$ 2,620.76</b>
<b>Voided Check numbers:</b>	-	

# Upcoming Events, September 20-October 31

All images in this issue are of past GFS Move-a-Thons.

*September 15 - 29*

**Axxess Book Sales!**

*Friday, September 22*

**Summer Reading Assembly, 1:00 PM**



*Friday, September 29*

**AXXESS Book orders and money due**

*Monday, October 9*

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



*Saturday, October 21*

**GFS Garden Work Day**

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM: All families participate!

*Tuesday, October 31*

**Costume Parade, 9 AM:**

All Foothill and GFS students wear costumes to school and participate in a parade on the blacktop.

**GFS Haunted Move-a-thon - 11 AM:**

Annual fundraiser. Students **MOVE** for an hour, in active games planned by the sixth grade students.



**GFS Community Lunch - Noon**