



Upcoming Events

Nov. 16 - End of 2nd Six-Weeks Grading

Nov. 20 - "Ben E. Fits" Assembly, Early Dismissal, 12:30 pm

Nov. 21 - 25 - Thanksgiving Holiday

Nov. 30 - Performing Arts Holiday Gala Assembly (B2)

Dec. 1 - Construction Building 8 am - 1 pm

Dec 3 - Donations deadline for Council PTA service project; Choice of School Town Hall Meeting, 7 pm at Special Events Center.

Dec. 20 - Early Dismissal, 12:30 pm

Dec. 20- Jan. 4 - Winter Break

Remember to visit the school website often for current information and to view the daily powerpoint announcements at www.garlandisd.schools.net/GarlandHighSchool/index.asp

Garland High School PTSA

Sherry Orman, PTSA President

November, 2007

Diana Cooley, Newsletter Editor

GHS PTSA Newsletter

CHANGES COMING FOR CHOICE OF SCHOOL

GISD employs a "Choice of School" program, allowing parents to select the campus they would like for their children to attend. For the past several years, various factors have played into the final outcome of matching students with campuses. Some of these factors are being adjusted for the 2008-09 school year to make the process of choosing a school easier for GISD families. Some of the changes include separate forms for elementary and secondary schools, and separate enrollment periods.

- Secondary School Choice Period (Grades 5-11)
January 29 – February 29
- Elementary School Choice Period (Grades PreK-4)
February 28 – March 28

For complete details, visit www.garlandisd.net or attend one of the Town Hall meetings beginning December 3 at 7 pm at the Special Events Center (see website for second language meeting dates).

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

You may have heard in recent media about the increase in Staph infections. GHS has reported no cases so far, but please be vigilant in looking for signs and symptoms. If any family members exhibit symptoms, contact your private physician and school nurse. It is very important that the physician culture any wounds so that a correct diagnosis can be made.

In December, letters will be sent home regarding AP exam registrations. Be sure to watch for this information and contact the school office if you have questions.

Recent media attention has focused on the low number of high school graduates prepared for college. In reviewing GHS statistics, 63.5% of our graduates meet the scoring requirements on college entrance exams.

BEN E. FITS ASSEMBLY - NOV. 20TH

Tuesday, November 20, is an early release day, and the faculty will present a benefit show during A2 as a fundraiser for the Student Activities Leadership and Service projects. Tickets are available during lunch through Monday. See your teachers sing, dance, or play music and enjoy the show before leaving for the Thanksgiving break.

OWLS "CAN" DO IT!

CAN-STRUCTION!

It's more than a canned food drive, it's creative! Several student organizations are collecting cans through November to create holiday and seasonal-themed creations. All the cans will be donated to the North Texas Food Bank after December 4th. Students can bring cans to their class sponsor's rooms or the main office. Class officers are combining to collect Campbell's soup cans with the original red and white labels in any variety of soup. Other organizations may need different cans, so check with your student. Everyone is invited to come help build on December 1st from 8 am - 1 pm. The creations will be on display in the cafeteria Dec. 3 - 4. For inspiration and ideas, visit www.canstruction.org.

PARENT SPONSORS NEEDED

We are continuing the chain reaction begun by "Rachel's Challenge" (www.rachelschallenge.com), and need additional parent sponsors to assist the student group during weekly meetings each Tuesday morning at 6:45 am in the school library. Please contact MRHensle@garlandisd.net.



TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT

KEEP YOUR DRIVE ALIVE!

About 6,000 teens die in car wrecks each year, some 500 in Texas, according to the Texas Transportation Institute. Research shows the fatalities are attributed to inexperience plus these five overriding risks:

- nighttime driving
- distractions like cell phones
- speeding
- ignoring seat belts
- alcohol.

Surprisingly, fewer than 1 percent of the students surveyed said they understood driving at night is unsafe. At the same time, almost half said they routinely drive after 10 pm. Nearly two-thirds of teen crashes happen between 6 pm and 6 am. For more information, visit t-driver.com or join us on 2nd/4th Thursdays at 3:00 in "Our Place."

Albertson's had replaced the Preferred Cards with new Community Partners key chain cards. The cards are barcoded to link rewards to individual schools. Pick up a new card in the school office to support GHS!

IT PAYS TO BE A PTSA MEMBER!

Starting November 1st through the end of the school year, show your PTSA membership card at Al's Formal Wear (Firewheel location only) and get a 20% discount for all occasions - that means Winter Ball and Prom! (Just show them your membership cards!)

Haven't joined yet? We're over 600 members now, but we're still looking for more. Members received free treats during lunch on October 30, and teachers got to wear jeans for a day! More to come! Print a form from the website and give it to a friend!

FORMS ON PTSA WEBSITE:

<http://sites.garlandowls.com/PTSA/docs/dnlds.asp>

STUCK ON HOMEWORK!

A useful website to help you get unstuck is [tutor.com](http://www.tutor.com). Tutoring sessions are all online and cover all subjects with over 1,800 tutors, who will work with students to help each student understand the concepts. Visit www.tutor.com or call 800-411-1970. See Ms. Hensleigh for a free trial card.

GARLAND ISD COUNCIL OF PTAS SERVICE PROJECT

Garland ISD Council of PTAs is asking for our help in collecting new teddy bears and gift certificates/gift cards for fast food restaurants for the Ronald McDonald House families. Also, consider helping out GHS Choir or GHS Band by ordering your gift cards/certificates through a choir or band student (for this purpose or for your personal use). Please bring your donations of new teddy bears and/or gift cards to the Student Activities Office (Melanie Hensleigh-Parsons) at Garland High School **NO LATER THAN MONDAY, December 3rd**. If you have any questions, please call your GHS PTSA Council Delegates Sharron Smith (972-530-3873) or Debbie Hard (972-272-2420).

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEST

THEME: "WHAT CAN I DO?"

Can you identify an environmental concern?
Do you have an idea of what action to take?
Express your thoughts and ideas by...

1. A written newspaper article (an editorial or factual info)
2. Design a newsletter (pictures optional)
3. Draw media art
4. Design a print advertisement
5. A Photograph
6. Produce a 30 second public service announcement in Audio or Video format

Articles and drawings may be no larger than letter size paper. Deadline for entries is **January 15, 2008**.

Entry forms, rules and the location to turn in your entries will be posted on the PTSA website or contact EnviroGHS@aol.com for more information.



**Save the environment. Help our school.
Donate your used consumer electronics!**

PTSA is conducting a recycling fundraiser. Please help to protect the environment by donating your used **PALM-SIZE Ink Jets, DVDs, Cell Phones, Laptops, MP3 Players, Digital Cameras, Portable DVD Players, Video Game Consoles & GPS Devices**

VISIT PTSA WEBSITE:

<http://sites.garlandowls.com/PTSA/initiatives.asp>

TEACHER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

Congratulations to **Terri Doggett, Amy Anderson, and Craig Taylor** who submitted teacher scholarship requests, and will each be awarded \$250 from the PTSA to pursue continuing education studies.



We had a terrific response to the Reflections program this year, and are still judging all the entries. Winners will be announced after November 30 and will be sent on to represent our school at the district level of judging by Council PTA. Thank you to everyone who took the time to enter. We have some very creative and talented students!

Drop off your recyclables in the office.
We greatly appreciate your support!

EnviroGHS@aol.com

DON'T LET THEM LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THESE TRAITS!

by Pat Mullins, GISD Family Enrichment Coordinator

Recently, the GISD's Family Engagement department hosted guest speaker, Milton Creagh. "Big Milt" discussed the current state of families and helped each campus team adopt a plan of action relating to families for the coming school year. Did you know that 50% of the young adults who graduate from college end up living with their parent or a family member? And did you know that one out of every four of them will live with their parent until their thirties? Mr. Creagh left us with 5 things that children need to leave home with so they don't live with parents forever.

- 1. Financial Savvy-** They need to be fired up about the future so they won't get fired. They need to understand money, how to save it, donate it and spend it. Check out www.prosperity4kids.com for ways in which you can do this.
- 2. Intellectual Capital-** They need to continue to learn and add to their intellectual bank account. They need to know that if they don't want the bottom level, labor intensive jobs, then they must increase their intellectual capital to compete for the better jobs.
- 3. Realistic Perspective-** They need to have a realistic perspective of themselves and life. Life is not fair and yes it is sometimes hard. It's critical for parents, teachers, coaches, and other adults to help young people look at their lives more realistically. If they want to pursue their dreams then they must be willing to push themselves much harder. If they aren't willing to work harder, they may have to lower their goals.
- 4. Ethical Approach to Work-** This means we must approach work in a morally correct and honorable way. Basically, "Give a man an honest day's work for an honest dollar." If you agree to work for someone, then you give that person your all.
- 5. Disciplined Lifestyle-** Teaching our kids to be self-disciplined. We need to establish and enforce boundaries and routines in our student's lives. We should let them participate in this and allow them to police themselves, but we must be observant and step in when they don't control themselves properly. Self-discipline is an important trait for long-term success.

If you are interested in hearing more from Milton L. Creagh, consider purchasing his book, *Nobody Wants Your Child*. You can find it at most bookstore or online.

CHOKING IS NOT A GAME!

Have you heard of a game called Knock Out, Airplaning, or Space Monkey? It has also been called Fainting-Passout Game, Black Out Game, Gasp, and American Dream. It is risky behavior that is killing children, frequently between the ages of 9 - 16, but also older and younger students. The Choking Game achieves a brief high or euphoric state by stopping the flow of blood containing oxygen to the brain. Sometimes children choke each other until the person being choked passes out. The pressure on the arteries is then released and blood flow to the brain resumes causing a "rush" as consciousness returns. Playing the game in any form causes the permanent and cumulative death of large numbers of brain cells. The variation in blood pressure may also cause strokes and retinal damage. Some students try it to be considered cool and risky, and some become addicted. Most were well liked, active, intelligent, stable children who wanted nothing to do with drugs or alcohol. This was an activity they felt was safe. You can get more information at www.ChokingGameInformation.com, www.DeadlyGamesChildrenPlay.com, or www.stop-the-choking-game.com.