



Upcoming Events

*Dec. 18-
Teens in the Driver Seat
Awareness Day*

*Dec. 19 -
Warm Hearts items due,
bring to A2*

*Dec. 20 - 12:30
Early Dismissal
(no lunches)*

*Dec. 21 -
Staff Development*

*Dec. 24 - Jan 4
Winter Break*

*January 7 -
CLASSES RESUME*

*January 9 - PSAT
meeting, 6-8 pm*

*January 15 -
A1 Final Exams
(regular schedule)*

*January 16 -
B1 Final Exams
(regular schedule)*

*January 17 -
A2 -3- 4 Final Exams
7:30 - 12:30 no lunches
Early Release*

*January 18 -
B2 -3- 4 Final Exams
7:30 - 12:30 no lunches
Early Release*

*January 21 -
MLK Holiday, no classes*

*January 22 -
Student Holiday, Staff
Development Day*

*January 23 -
Spring Semester begins,
4th six weeks*

*January 26 -
Winter Ball @ Hella
Temple, 6 - 10 pm*

Garland High School PTSA

Sherry Orman, PTSA President

December, 2007

Diana Cooley, Newsletter Editor

GHS PTSA Newsletter

OWLS "SPIRIT OF GIVING" - WARM YOUR



Donations of new or gently used children's and adult's hats, scarves, and mittens are being collected at GHS through December 19th in all A2 classes campus-wide. This is an all-GHS service project for local agencies. Members of the Leadership Council will take "Warm Your Heart" items to area shelters and groups in need at the end of the month.

Student Council is also collecting new and gently used coats, and Life classes are in need of black pants and white shirts/blouses. If you can help with either of these needs, please contact the school office for specific size information, 972-494-8492 or jsmorris@garlandisd.net.

During the month of January, GHS students will be collecting "Pennies for Pasta" to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Campaign in A3 classes.

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped with CAN-struction last month. Pictures of the 10 structures created with over 5000 cans are on the school website. The cans were then donated to area outreach groups supplying the needy in our communities.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL - JOHN MORRIS

I would like to congratulate the Garland High School PTSA for being named PTA of the month for November for secondary schools in the district. This is a great honor for our parents for the time and effort that is given for our student and teachers.

Cindy Mosteller and Jennifer Robertson, our Softball Coaches, have been named National Coaching Staff of the Year, for the South Central Region, by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association. This honor was presented to Cindy and Jennifer on December 1, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada, as they attended the national convention.

Carol Zembower, English Language Arts Department Chair, has been recognized by Stanford University for her teaching at GHS. Her dedication to the field of education has contributed greatly to the future of her students, Stanford University and her community. She was nominated by a former student who is attending the university this year.

Congratulations to all the parents and teachers that make Garland High School a nationally ranked secondary school.

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



DEC. 18 - TEENS IN THE DRIVER SEAT

from Melanie Hensleigh - Parsons, Student Activities Director

On Tuesday, December 18, we are setting up a table in the commons at lunches and students will be asked to stop and learn more about Teens in the Drivers Seat (TDS). This campaign started in GISD last spring and we are hoping to carry on the effort districtwide in 2007-2008, with peers educating peers about the high risks involved with teens driving. Surveys done at GHS and other high schools found that kids are really not aware of the biggest factors that cause accidents and fatalities involving autos with young drivers and passengers. They are familiar with the dangers of drugs and alcohol, but most do not realize the dangers of inexperience, particularly with night driving, distractions of cell phones and other teens in the car, speeding, and not wearing seat belts. These account for nearly 6000 teen fatalities each year (16 kids a day) across the nation. The lowest statistic, surprisingly, is alcohol related accidents.

We will have TDS displays and promotional items to get their attention during lunches and at the Varsity Basketball games **Tuesday night, December 18**. We are making a large colored paper number 6000 and asking them to sign with names of people they know between the ages of 16 and 20 that have been in a traffic accident. We hope to get parents and students to think about safer driving during the holiday season and the school year, which involves a tremendous amount of night driving for teens who participate in school activities. We are also handing out stop sign fans at the games to parents to help bring awareness to this cause, and we will give TDS key chains to students who can name the 5 factors that are the biggest risks for teens in cars.

State Farm has come on board to help sponsor this campaign and we have a banner posted in the GHS cafeteria. The website t-driver.com tells all about the program, and what high school students across the state of Texas are doing to try and impact their peers with education about the issue of auto safety and teen deaths behind the wheel. We are also working with the Texas Transportation Institute and parents of GISD students who lost their GHS students to auto accidents. Meetings will continue through the year, along with TDS awareness days, which are posted on the Daily Announcements. A Mock Wreck Assembly is planned for April 5 sponsored by LIGHT Brigade and TDS at Garland High, to be held along with the Garland Fire Dept, in front of the school during B2. Any students can participate. We need a lot more help to get students to pay attention and take this information seriously.

MODIFIED CLASS SCHEDULES AND FINAL EXAMS

Thursday, December 20th, is the last day of classes before the holiday break. GHS students will be released at 12:30, and **no lunches** will be served.

B1 - 7:30 - 8:38
 B2 - 8:45 - 10:00
 B3 - 10:07 - 11:17
 B4 - 11:24 - 12:30

Classes resume on January 7, 2008. Final exams will be the week of January 14 - 18. Students will be released early on January 17 and 18 following exams. There is no school on January 21 or 22. The new grading period will begin January 23.

January 15 - A1 exams, regular schedule
 January 16 - B1 exams, regular schedule
 January 17 - A2, A3, A4 exams, 7:30 - 12:30
early release, no lunches
 January 18 - B2, B3, B4 exams, 7:30 - 12:30
early release, no lunches
 January 21 - MLK Holiday, no classes
 January 22 - Student Holiday, Staff Development
 January 23 - Spring Semester begins, 4th Six Weeks



GHS STUDENTS TAKE HONORS AT COUNCIL PTA JUDGING

Congratulations to the following GHS students whose Reflection entries received honorable mention awards at the Council PTA judging.

VISUAL ARTS - Honorable Mention:

Bianca Balbuena (class of 2009)
 Daniela Briceno (class of 2010)
 Ashley Dicerson (class of 2010)
 Angelo Ko (class of 2011)
 Mary Kramer (class of 2010)
 Alison Ledbetter (class of 2010)

LITERATURE - Honorable Mention:

Maria Alfara (class of 2008)
 Noah Brown (class of 2008)

Congratulations to these GHS students whose Reflection entries won **Awards of Excellence** at the Council PTA judging and will advance to the Area 14 level of judging which will take place on January 12th.

LITERATURE - Advancing

Ashley Auzenne (class of 2008)
 Margauz Digiovanni (class of 2008)
 Caren Long (class of 2008)
 Renee Stevens (class of 2008)

PHOTOGRAPHY - Advancing

Leslie Applegate (class of 2008)
 Aaron Sopoco (class of 2009)

VISUAL ARTS - Advancing

Morgan Hallmark (class of 2010)
 Aaron Hernandez (class of 2009)
 Sun Paek (class of 2008)
 Gracie Quiroz (class of 2011)
 Erin Welker (class of 2008)
 Rita Yeung (class of 2008)

IT PAYS TO BE A PTSA MEMBER!



Don't leave home without your PTSA membership card on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19TH!** Bring it to the PTSA table in the commons and receive a **SPECIAL TREAT** just for being a member!

Not a member yet? It's never too late to join and it only costs \$3.50 for students and \$6.00 for adults. Remember, students who are members all four years can be eligible for a PTSA scholarship as a senior. Click here to access the membership form, <http://sites.garlandowls.com/PTSA/docsdnlds.asp>

ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEST - ENTRIES DUE 1/15/08

Take some time over the holidays to think about the environment and submit an entry by January 15th. The theme this year is "WHAT CAN I DO?" 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. Entry forms, rules and the location to turn in your entries are posted on the PTSA website or contact EnviroGHS@aol.com for more information. Be creative and enter!



Remember to reduce, reuse and recycle by donating your used consumer electronics!

PTSA is conducting an ongoing 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**. Drop off your recyclables in the office.



Each student's artwork has been posted on the PTSA website. Copy this link for a visual tour of our talented students! <http://sites.garlandowls.com/PTSA/2007-2008reflections.asp>

FRIENDS OF RACHEL

by Sherry Orman

Every Tuesday morning at 6:45 am (that's right, there is also a 6:45 in the morning), a faithful group of about 30 students, teachers, and parents meets in the library to discuss ways to spread kindness and unity through our school. This is not an exclusive group. In fact, one of its main goals is to be *inclusive*. Formed from the ideals of a young woman named Rachel Scott, who died during the shootings at Columbine High School, Friends of Rachel (FOR) strives to start chain reactions of kindness. So far, they've visited with groups of new students, welcoming them with goody bags and student directories; they've attended a conference at Yavneh Academy geared toward pointing out our similarities with others, rather than our differences; they've plastered the halls with posters reminding us of the commitment made in signing Rachel's Challenge; and are making plans for several proactive ways to speak out for compassion.

Want to know more about how you can make a difference at GHS? FOR is designed for growth and welcomes any and everyone to meetings. Our next meeting will feature hot chocolate and cookies (for those that can be bribed by food). So join us this Tuesday and go to class with a smile on your face.

DISCOVER CARD SCHOLARSHIP

*The Discover Scholarship Program awards up to \$300,000 in scholarship annually to high school juniors nationwide to support continued education and training beyond high school. **Applications are due January 31.** For more information visit: www.discoverfinancial.com/community/scholarship.shtml*

WANT TO KNOW HOW YOU DID ON THE PSAT?

The GHS Counseling office will be presenting "How to Read PSAT Scores" on January 9, 2008, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm in the school cafeteria. PSAT scores will be distributed immediately following the presentation. Parents and students are encouraged to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP SEMINAR

Whether you are looking to finance a college education or for help attending summer camps, there are some resources available to help you. The Garland Area Parent Association for Gifted and Talented (GAPAGT) is sponsoring a seminar for area parents on Saturday, February 9th, from 9:30 - 11:30 am to bring three guest speakers together on the topic. Marilyn Swanson will present information from the Texas Association for Gifted and Talented on summer and college options specifically for GT students. Ruby Armstrong will review the college scholarship application process, including information about the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form, as well as pre-planning choices you should know long before your child's senior year. Sharing experiences as a GT parent who has been through the scholarship application process, Sandy Ceniseros will offer tips for parents on navigating the options with your student. For registration information, visit www.gapagt.org or contact Jacki Hulm at jhulm@gapagt.org.

CONGRATULATIONS GHS PTSA
for winning Outstanding PTA of the
month from Garland Council of PTAs!
VISIT PTSA WEBSITE:

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