



Upcoming Events

January 21 -
MLK Holiday, no classes

January 22 -
Student Holiday, Staff
Development Day

January 23 -
Spring Semester begins,
4th six weeks

January 26 -
SAT testing at GHS,
Winter Ball @ Hella
Temple, 6 - 10 pm

January 29 -
Choice of School opens
for secondary schools

January 30 - March of
Dimes Youth Rally

January 31 - NHS
Blood Drive, pennies for
Leukemia Campagin due

Feb. 5 - 9th/10th grade
IB Parent meeting, 7 pm
Generation Online
meeting, 7pm (Plano)

Feb. 6 - Signing Day
Ceremony, Athletics

Feb. 7 - Class Officers
meeting for TWIRP
Week, 2:45 pm

Feb 9 - ACT testing day
(off-campus)

Feb. 11 - March of Dimes
t-shirt sales begin

Feb. 14-15 - All-State
Performing Arts
students to TMEA

Feb. 15-16 -
30-hour Famine Event

Feb. 21 - Celebration
Assembly, B2

Garland High School PTSA

Sherry Orman, PTSA President

January, 2008

Diana Cooley, Newsletter Editor

GHS PTSA Newsletter

WINTER BALL - JANUARY 26TH

"MEDIEVAL MIDNIGHT: A KNIGHT FOR A PRINCESS"

Winter Ball is a formal event sponsored by the Student Council where students are honored by their peers and the GHS Faculty. This year, Winter Ball will be held at the Hella Shrine Temple, 2121 Rowlett Road, on January 26th, with the theme "Medieval Midnight: A Knight for a Princess." Student nominees were notified in December and awards will be announced and presented at a special ceremony prior to the dance. Nominees will be seated near the stage and will be introduced by grade level with their escorts beginning at 6:00 pm. There will be seats along the side and back of the ballroom for students and parents during the ceremony.

The formal dance is scheduled from 7 - 10 pm following the ceremony. Students must purchase a ticket to attend and bring their student ID. Tickets are \$15 each and are available during lunch. Faculty, StuCo parents, and Administrators assist in chaperoning the event. Parents should be at the Hella Shrine Temple between 9:45 and 10:00 pm to pick up students.

Students are asked to dress tastefully and appropriately for the event. Security will be available, but personal belongings such as phones, cameras, purses, etc. should not be left unattended at tables during the event. Food, drink, music and a place to take pictures will be provided for the students. A professional photographer will also be available for an additional cost. The no re-entry policy prohibits students from leaving the Hella Shrine Temple once admitted. Dance policies are printed on each ticket. For more information, contact StuCo office, 972-494-8402 ext 60050.



REMEMBER: GHS PTSA members receive a **20% discount** at Al's Formal Wear in Firewheel Mall. Bring your PTSA card!



FROM THE PRINCIPAL - JOHN MORRIS

We have had a great first half of the school year and now final exams are completed. With holidays for students on Monday and Tuesday, students will report to their first semester A1 class on Wednesday, January 23, to pickup their schedules for the second semester.

Congratulations to Andrea Torske for being named to the All-State Cross Country team and also the All-State Academic Cross Country Team.

Good luck to our Academic Decathlon team as they compete Friday and Saturday, January 18th and 19th, in the Regional Ac/Dec competition at Rockwall High School. Our Academic Decathlon teams have qualified for State for the last 17 years. We do not expect anything less this year from this outstanding group of students and sponsors.

GHS LEADS THE WAY IN MARCH OF DIMES

from Melanie Hensleigh - Parsons, Student Activities Director

Garland ISD is the top school district in the nation in raising funds for the March of Dimes, and Garland HS has led the way now among GISD high schools for 12 years straight. January 30th is the 2nd GISD Youth Rally for March of Dimes at the Special Events Center, and GHS will have students in attendance, including two seniors who are helping to present the program. Last year, GHS raised \$11,656 passing the \$200,000 mark for total fundraising since we began involvement with the campaign in 1996. This year's goal is to again exceed \$10,000 between February and April. We have some great ideas for raising money and welcome volunteers in our effort. The campaign timeline will be posted on the GHS website and will include information about TWIRP Week, Donkey Basketball, Spring Beanbag Babies sales, Faculty Chili Cookoff, GHS Dessert Auction, and the T-shirt sales, all leading up to the culminating GISD Walk for Babies at White Rock Lake on April 19th.

To bring more attention to the mission of the March of Dimes, the name and logos have been changed. This year the National Campaign is changing to March of Dimes/March for Babies, and the big event will no longer be called WalkAmerica. The new color is purple; pink and blue have combined. The T-shirt sales will feature the new March of Dimes color and logo. In support of the new emphasis, GHS will sponsor a "Beautiful Babies of GHS" contest between the faculty members and student organizations. Check the website for more details and plan to form a Family Team for the walker campaign.

NHS SPONSORS BLOOD DRIVE - JANUARY 31ST

The GHS National Honor Society is sponsoring a blood drive to support the needs of Carter Bloodcare in North Texas. The blood drive will take place on Thursday, January 31st, from 7:30 am - 2:30 pm in the AD Gym at GHS. Students must sign-up in advance with Ms. Gillilan in Room 406, but parents and other interested donors may be "walk-ins."

Potential donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in good general health. Most medications do not effect donor eligibility, even those with well-managed diabetes can be donors. Donors who have received tattoos or body piercing are **no longer disqualified** from donating blood. Thanks to new Texas licensing laws, tattoo and piercing facilities have strict guidelines requiring sterile and single-use equipment and are inspected regularly. These added safety measures allow for tattoo and piercing recipients to avoid the possible blood exposure that would prevent them from being eligible to give blood. For more information about donor eligibility, call Carter BloodCare at 1-800-DONATE-4, or visit carterbloodcare.org.

Many modern medical treatments rely on transfusions and would be impossible without a reliable blood supply. Every day, someone in our community will need a blood transfusion for an unexpected accident, a much-needed surgery or regular medical treatment. Blood cannot be stockpiled; it is perishable and the supply must be constantly replenished. Red blood cells have a shelf life of 42 days, and platelets only have five.



In addition to the blood drive, GHS students are collecting "Pennies for Pasta" during the month of January to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Campaign. Donations are collected in A3 classes. The class with the most donations receives a catered lunch from Olive Garden.

FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT - SHERRY ORMAN

Another year begins, but some things never change. Garland High School is leading the pack in awards for Reflections entries at the high school level. Last year, two of our students (congratulations again to Allyson Yank and Jayci Van Cleave) achieved national recognition for their work and we hope to do as well or better this year. For a full list of this year's district winners, visit <http://sites.garlandowls.com/PTSA/initiatives.asp>.

Looking back at our first semester, PTSA has been busy and productive. We've organized and conducted meetings, teacher breakfasts, student incentives, and a successful fundraiser, as well as awarding teacher scholarships, supporting the efforts of FOR (Friends of Rachel) and helping to form the new Environmental Club. In November, we received the Outstanding PTA monthly award from the district PTA Council.

This semester, we're looking forward to a full slate of activities that includes scholarships for seniors, Donkey Ball, and a very cool community service project (more details next month). Membership has increased from last year, but it's still not too late to join. The PTSA welcomes our newest board member, Johnny McCoy, as the Safety Awareness chair. Coach McCoy comes to us with several innovative ideas that will benefit our school and the surrounding community.



Next month brings our first association meeting of the year on Monday, February 18, and the election of a Nominating Committee who will bring us a slate of board nominees for next year. If you have interest in serving on this committee or would like to be considered for a position on the board, please contact me or any current board member.

Remember, it's never too late to join and students must be PTSA members to participate in Donkey Ball this spring. Membership forms are available on our website. Thank you for your support of the biggest booster club at GHS.



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

PTSA is conducting an ongoing recycling fundraiser. Help 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.

CLASS NEWS

Class of 2008 - Senior /Baby pictures for the Prom Slideshow need to be delivered to Melanie Hensleigh-Parson's office or e-mailed to GHSOwls2008@gmail.com. Parents interested in purchasing Senior Congratulatory Ad's for this year's Owl Nest Yearbook need to contact Mr. Forester in room 206 or at pforeste@garlandisd.net.

Class of 2009 - Mark your calendars for the **2nd Chance Prom** and help raise money for next year's prom! If you missed your own Prom, have a different date you would like to take to a Prom, enjoyed your first Prom so much you want to go to a Second Prom, or just enjoy dancing and want a night out, plan to attend the "Paris Nights" on **Saturday, February 23rd**, from 7-11 pm in the GHS cafeteria. Cost is \$45 per couple or \$25 per individual. Contact Naomi Kennedy at nlalk1103@verizon.net.

Class of 2011 - Check our new class website for information on upcoming activities at <http://www.garlandowls.com>.

NOTE: State TAKS testing for ELA has been changed from March 4 to March 5. GISD Choice of School period for secondary schools opens January 29.

GENERATION ONLINE

As students get ready to begin college or a career, how they represent themselves in all aspects of their lives, including on the Web, is crucial to their success. That's why Monster's Making it Count and Axia College of University of Phoenix invite students and their parents to "Generation Online," an evening event providing information about how the latest technology can provide students access to opportunities, or unfortunate experiences. Parents in attendance will also receive information on how to finance a college education.

- Find out how to define, build and protect your personal "brand"
- Learn about the latest trends in online education
- Get a flash drive
- Get a chance to win a laptop computer
- Have dinner on us and network with other students in the area.
- Receive a copy of "Making College Count" and "FastWeb College Gold."

WHEN: Tuesday, Feb. 5th, 7-8:30
Registration and dinner begin at 6:15

WHERE: Univeristy of Phoenix
Resource Center at Granite Park
5670 State Hw 121, Suite 250
Plano, TX 75024

RSVP: Trinette.James@monster.com

DISCOVER CARD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 1/31/08

*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*

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Garland High School's 2007-2008 Parent · Teacher · Student · Association (PTSA) will be offering 5 student scholarships for \$250 each to be used toward tuition or expenses at a college or technical school. Please go to the PTSA Website or the Counselor's Office to get an application form and eligibility rules. If you have any questions, contact Jacki Hulm at jhulm@msn.com. The deadline for submitting applications is April 18, 2008.

VISIT PTSA WEBSITE:

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

SCHOLARSHIP SEMINAR - FEB. 9

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.

Early registration deadline is January 31st. For registration information, visit www.gapagt.org or contact Diana Cooley at gapagt@gapagt.org.

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