



## GFS/JWL PTO Newsletter

Welcome Issue  
September 2009

# WELCOME

**Welcome Back!** Hope you had a relaxing summer! It's hard to believe that school time is here again. The PTO would like to extend a warm welcome to all the new families and we look forward to seeing you around school.

We are online at <http://www.ledyard.net/schools/gfs/pto/gfspto.htm> or email us directly at [gfsjwlpto@yahoo.com](mailto:gfsjwlpto@yahoo.com)

## A new executive board was elected last spring...

### **President – Barbara Leandri**

Welcome to the 2009-2010 school year! My name is Barbara Leandri and I am PTO president this year. I have 3 children, Steven (14), Michael (11) and Anna (8). So I have been around a long time and appreciate the value of the PTO adds to our schools. My personal philosophy is that we all have a gift that can benefit the schools. The PTO provides a lot of valuable programs to students and need new members to help continue to grow. The PTO is working on ways to better communicate with the parents and staff. This year we would love to see more new faces. I am also very aware of individual time and work constraints but truly believe there is a way for most to be a part your child's school. I am always willing to discuss how you can be more involved with turning our school into community.

The PTO has worked hard to implement a lot of new ideas from the surveys distributed last spring. Please feel free to contact me at anytime, [babs3225@comcast.net](mailto:babs3225@comcast.net), 464-1919, or [gfsjwlpto@yahoo.com](mailto:gfsjwlpto@yahoo.com).

I look forward to a wonderful school year.  
Sunshine and Giggles

### **Vice President**

Hi, my name is Rebekah Maranzano and I've lived in Gales Ferry since Nov. 2006. I have 3 children, Jakob (9), Julia (7) and Logan (2). When we moved here I didn't know a soul, I found that joining the PTO was the best way to meet families from school and learn more about what the school and district had to offer our children. I'm looking forward to a great year and I can only hope to meet more families.

### **Secretary**

Hi, my name is Vita Congdon I have lived in Gales Ferry Connecticut since May of 2001. This is my second term on the PTO board as Secretary. I have 1 daughter Victoria that will be going into 5th grade at Juliet W. Long. I have volunteered and worked at our school in the past and just started subbing for Special Ed at Juliet W. Long. I look forward to a great year with the PTO, staff, children and the parents.

### **Treasurer**

Hi, My name is Maureen Brawner and I am serving as PTO treasurer for the 2009-2010 school year. I have three children Emily (17), a recent graduate of Ledyard High School, and twins Megan and Kevin (11) 6th graders at JWL. I have been a long time member of the PTO and have volunteered at many PTO sponsored events. I look forward to working with my other PTO board members and all new parents and returning parents this year! Volunteering.

## "The Giving Tree"

Dear Parents,

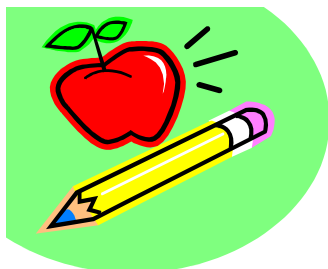
PTO is sponsoring something new this year. We are calling it a "Giving Tree". Many teachers spend a lot of their own money on items and we thought this would be a nice way to give back to the classroom when you may not know how to thank a teacher for all they do.

During Open House there will be a Giving Tree located by the PTO table. It will also be out during parent/teacher conferences. Each classroom will have it's own apple with that teacher's request. You may choose one or more apples and fill that request, then drop off your donation in the office or send it in with your child. Please attach the apple with your child's name on it.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact

Deb Schaufler at [schauflerdebbie@sbcglobal.net](mailto:schauflerdebbie@sbcglobal.net) or Dianne Correia at [rdcorreia@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rdcorreia@sbcglobal.net).

Thanks for your support!



## This Week's Highlights

### Monday

Today we are learning about dinosaurs.

### Tuesday

Today we are learning about pets.

### Wednesday

Today we are learning about the solar system.

### Thursday

Today we are going on a field trip to the zoo.

### Friday

Today we have a special guest from the fire department to tell us about fire safety.

## Upcoming Events

### Classroom Open House

Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 P.M.

### Ice Cream Social with the Faculty

Friday, September 9, 5 P.M.

### School Assembly

This week's school assembly is on storybook characters. Children may dress up like a character on Thursday. (You might want to bring a change of clothes for the rest of the day.) Costumes can be as simple as a hat or a small picture of your character pinned to your shirt. Have fun.

## Thank You Students!

Special thanks are due the following students:

**Jay Adams** for volunteering to clean up after the fall open house.

**Kari Hensien** for donating her checkers set to recess.

**Alan Shen** for baking us his grandmother's chocolate chip cookies last week.

Thank you also to **Ms. Brown** for bringing in the travel posters to decorate for open house.