

GALWAY PTSA NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2021

Groundhog Day (again)

I can't be the only one who feels like I'm in the movie *Groundhog Day*. During the last 11 months, we've spent a lot of time at home, living in a virtual world. The changing seasons give some indication time is moving on, but there are many days life seems to be on repeat. I'm sure that's not the case for our students, particularly the Seniors. This is not what they envisaged for their last year of school and we all wish it were different. We are still talking to the High School about plans for an After Prom. This is a huge event in the PTSA calendar and takes a lot of organizing. We know it can't go ahead in the same format as previous years, but we will support whatever way our students can safely celebrate this milestone.

With this in mind, we launched our 2nd Annual Fundraising Raffle in January. Tickets are \$10 each. One prize will be given away every day in April. The winning ticket number will be the same as the Evening Lottery NUMBERS. 1/3 of the prizes will be purchased from local businesses, many of whom have supported PTSA. The money raised from this fundraiser will be split between After Prom and our General Fund.

Recently we had a request from the school nurses for more water and Gatorade. These are for students who find themselves in the nurses' office, injured or dehydrated. We always include supplies for the Health Office in our budget, and thanks to our volunteers we were able to do same-day delivery! We are grateful to have trained medical staff in school to take care of our children. This year with all the increased concerns about COVID on top of the regular cuts, bruises, and stomach aches, we appreciate them even more.

We will soon be launching our Spring Fundraiser. I know, it's definitely Winter out there, but the fundraising products will all be delivered in the Spring. We really appreciate everyone's support, both financially and in volunteer hours. PTSA cannot function without either of those things. If you would prefer to make a direct donation instead of purchasing items, you can. We will be sending out information with the fundraisers. If you'd like to volunteer, contact us or attend our next meeting. Many of our biggest financial commitments to the district and annual events, take place in the coming months.

Something exciting in the Elementary School: On February 11, our 5th grade students will get a virtual visit from New York Times Best Selling author Tui T. Sutherland. This should have taken place last May to coincide with our Spring 2020 Book Fair. The visit, and a signed copy of Tui's latest *Wings Of Fire* book for every 5th grader, was made possible with prize money from our Fall 2019 Book Fair. (Our 5th consecutive Book Fair to win a National Award.) Tui was only offering six talks to Scholastic Book Fairs throughout the country. So, we are very excited Galway PTSA could give our students this opportunity.

Emma

Emma Obern, Galway PTSA President.

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<https://www.facebook.com/galwaynyptsa>

Visit our PTSA pages on the Galway School District website:

<https://www.galwaycsd.org/community/galwayptsa>

FEBRUARY MEETING: Thursday February 4, 6:30pm

<https://meet.google.com/kju-apqd-azr>

WHAT HAS PTSA DONE IN THE LAST MONTH?

- Launched our Annual Raffle
- Applied to the Stewart's Holiday Match fund to support a new virtual event
- Organized Spring Fundraiser
- Water and Gatorade to the school nurses
- Delivered additional books to 5th grade in preparation for their Virtual Author Visit

UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- After Prom planning (TBC by Galway CSD)
- PTSA Elementary Virtual Scavenger Hunt

Are you interested in helping to organize events this year and beyond? Is there something you think PTSA should be doing? We are always looking for volunteers and ideas. Contact us at galwayptsa@gmail.com

REASONS TO BECOME A MEMBER AND WAYS TO SUPPORT PTSA

- **You do not have to come to a meeting – ever!** But we will keep you informed about our events and volunteer opportunities.
- \$2 of your \$6 membership fees stays with Galway PTSA. The rest goes to the NYS PTA. We are part of their organization. We get our insurance and our 501c3 status through NYS PTA.
- The NYS PTA website is <https://nyspta.org/>. Your membership to Galway PTSA makes you a member of the State PTA. You can find information about their programs, events, and advocacy efforts, as well as member benefits available through the National PTA from this website.
- Designate us as the beneficiary of your Amazon Smile account and 0.5% of eligible purchases will come to Galway PTSA. It's just the same as regular amazon shopping, but you need to go through <https://smile.amazon.com/> . When asked to choose the beneficiary for your purchases, search for Galway PTSA. Our official title is: PTA New York Congress 12-070 Galway PTSA. Once this is set up, you do not have to do anything more. Amazon smile is now available through the mobile app.

To become a Galway PTSA member, go to:

<https://2020-2021-ptsa-membership.cheddarup.com>



Why I joined the PTSA - real talk from a parent.

My daughter started Kindergarten at JHE a few years ago. I knew when she started that I wanted to volunteer at school, but I wasn't sure how to get involved. During Kindergarten orientation I told one of the volunteers I was interested in helping out at school and she mentioned the PTSA. She said it was a great way to get involved. So, I joined! A few weeks after joining I started receiving emails about various volunteer opportunities at school.

The first time I volunteered was at the Fall Book Fair. Everyone was so welcoming, kind and genuinely excited to have additional help. I met so many wonderful people that week. One of the volunteers was kind enough to walk me from the High School Library to the Elementary Cafeteria (which was a surprisingly long and twisty trip), she taught me how to navigate the cafeteria line and introduced me to cheesy bread sticks.

Over the past few years, I have tried to stay involved in as many activities as I could. I found that being in school gave me the opportunity to meet so many of the wonderful GCSD teachers, aides, and staff. Being in the PTSA has also allowed me to meet so many other wonderful volunteers, Moms, and members of the community. It has also been a great way to stay informed on what is happening at school. The best part however is seeing how happy my daughter is when she sees me at school. I know this happiness won't last long, so I have to take advantage of it while I can.

Each year now, not only do I become a member of the PTSA, but my daughter and husband also join. My daughter loves to volunteer at any of the events that happen after school or before school. Even though my husband is unable to volunteer, his membership dues help fund the many programs the Galway PTSA provide to the students throughout the year.

If anyone has been thinking about joining the PTSA or attending a meeting, this is the year to try! The meetings, which are held monthly, are all virtual this year. So, come check it out from the comfort of your own home!

Trisha Hopper

PTSA Member & Elementary School Mom

SPIRIT WEAR IS AVAILABLE TO ORDER

We offer a range of Galway Eagle clothing for all the family. This can be shipped to your home or we will arrange a local pick up. PTSA makes a minimal amount on each order to cover some (but not all) expenses. We do not use this as a fundraiser. Please understand these orders are not immediately dispatched to our vendor when you place them. Our volunteer coordinator waits until she has several, because we are asking for custom orders, in small quantities, year-round. The vendor has also experienced delays to their supply of garments because of COVID. Once completed, our volunteer collects the orders and arranges deliveries to suit you. She has also taken a lot of time to set up the website to make ordering easier for everyone. Please be patient.

Online Store <https://my.cheddarup.com/c/galwayptsaspiritwear>

Galway
PTSA[®] 2nd Annual Raffle Fundraiser
everychild.onevoice.[®] Benefiting both the High School After Prom Party and our General Fund

30 Prizes - ONE for each day of April 2021
(1/3 of prizes from local businesses)

Winning numbers from Lottery Daily Evening NUMBERS
(Winning Numbers will be posted daily on our Facebook Page @galwaynptsa)


\$10 per ticket (1000 Available Tickets)

Prizes per day as follows:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (1) Cock N Bull GC | (2) Great Escape Season Pass | (3) Maroon 5 ~ 9/13 SPAC |
| (4) Laptop | (5) Photography Session | (6) Vicki's Pizza GC |
| (7) Grill | (8) Village Home/Garden GC | (9) Portable Gym |
| (10) Watch | (11) Milburt Farm GC | (12) 50" TV |
| (13) Village Pizza GC | (14) Gaming Console | (15) Amazon GC |
| (16) Lake George Boat Cruise | (17) Mystery Gift #1 | (18) C&R Restaurant GC |
| (19) Sweet Briar Flower Shop GC | (20) Camera | (21) 43" TV |
| (22) Family Movie Night | (23) Bob's Trees GC | (24) Camping Gear |
| (25) Leisuretime Greenhouses GC | (26) Gym Membership | (27) Tablet |
| (28) Air Fryer | (29) Mystery Gift #2 | (30) Waterwheel GC |

Tickets can be purchased online: <https://ptsaraffle.cheddarup.com>

For tickets purchased online, stubs will be mailed to your home.

Questions? Contact Galway PTSA  @galwaynptsa
Email: galwayptsa@gmail.com ~ Phone: 518.369.8661 (*text only*)

Tickets may win multiple days. Prize substitutions may be made with similar item/value.

Minimum Prize value is \$100. Winner need not be present to win.

******MUST BE AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS******