

## News for GCS Families from the Board of Directors



### On Board Newsletter, Winter 2017

**Happy New Year!** I hope everyone had a wonderful time with family and friends over the holiday break. We have some exciting announcements and updates from the Board of Directors to share in this issue. Be sure to have your calendars ready!

The fall was fun, eventful and filled with a number of successful endeavors both at GCS and around town. We kicked off autumn with our Parent Social/Annual General Meeting, spent time with family and friends at the Fall Fix-Up, and continued to work hard at accomplishing fundraising goals, especially with the 12th Annual Groton Community Home Tour. As you may know, the Home Tour is the school's biggest fundraiser and is led by the GCS Board of Directors. ***This year, we raised nearly \$24,000 for the school.*** Every year, I am amazed by the way so many people join together to create such a fun, traditional day in our community. It would not be possible without the help and devotion of the GCS staff and families, as well as so many members of our community. Thank you to everyone! We are already looking forward to preparations for the 13th Annual Home Tour this November.

I would also like to thank everyone who has participated in the [GCS Annual Fund](#) for the 2016-2017 school year. This endeavor is critical to maintaining the exceptional quality of our programs. In so many special ways, GCS is one of a kind. Contributions can easily be made [online](#) or at the front desk; remember, all donations are tax-deductible. Thank you so much for your generosity and ongoing support. Every bit makes a difference for our school!

**Stay warm and have a fun-filled winter season!**

**Jenn Greenwood**

President, GCS Board of Directors

[boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org)



## Do You Want to Become More Involved in Your Child's School?

Please consider joining a great team of parent volunteers, the GCS Board of Directors! We would love to share more about how the Board functions and what it accomplishes for the school. Please join us for a **Board of Directors Informational Night** on **Thursday, February 16th at 7:30**. Stay tuned for further details!

Can't make it on February 16th? You can find out more about the Board by contacting Sarah Belcher, Board Vice President, at [boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org](mailto:boardofdirectors@grotoncommunityschool.org) or any other Board member.

Parents are always welcome to attend one of our Board meetings, which are held on the second Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Big Room at GCS.

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## Parent Representatives Update

We hope everyone is having a wonderful school year! We would like to extend a big thank you to our room parents for all of their hard work this fall. Our 2016-2017 room parents have been busy organizing classroom play dates, decorating the school's front door each month, and helping create beautiful Chance Baskets for the Home Tour. Their volunteer help at the Home Tour was also very appreciated!

We would also like to thank all of the volunteer bakers who have contributed delicious treats to many school events.

Keep your eyes out for more play date opportunities this spring as the weather gets warmer. Families had some fun during Fall/Winter play dates at BB Kidz Klub, Leda Lanes in Nashua, Harvard Bowling Lanes and local libraries.

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## Buildings and Grounds Update

The Fall Fix-up was a tremendous success this year thanks to the many dedicated volunteer parents and high school students from Lawrence Academy and GDRHS! We

were able to complete many important safety-related repairs and finally spread what we affectionately call "Mt. Mulch." Finishing touches were also put on the new greenhouse. We are so grateful to all of our volunteers, including our parent bakers who provided wonderful refreshments that day.

However, there is always more to do! Please mark your calendars for our **Spring Spruce-Up on Saturday, April 29th from 9 AM - 2 PM (rain date is Sunday, April 30 from 12 PM - 5 PM)**. We look forward to seeing many returning volunteers and hope to welcome some new ones!

## Another Successful Home Tour is In the Books!

It was another strong year for the Groton Community Home Tour, with almost 500 attendees and just under \$24,000 raised for GCS! This includes over \$10,000 from Home Tour ticket sales, more than \$1,400 from the Bake Sale, and just under \$10,000 from our advertisers and sponsors!

Please continue to support those local companies and vendors that back our largest fundraiser. **A full list of participating sponsors and advertisers can be seen [here](#)** or viewed in this year's Home Tour Program Guide, extras of which are now in the GCS lobby.

We could not achieve such amazing results without our volunteers. As one evaluation respondent stated, the Annual Home Tour is "a great program and service to the community." Please consider joining us again or as a new volunteer next year!



*This Year's Bake Sale*

We want to express our sincere appreciation to all of the individuals and business who contributed to the Home Tour Chance Table. This year we raised almost \$5,000 from our Chance Drawings. **[Check out the list of lucky Chance winners here!](#)**

We would also like to thank all of the local businesses who generously donated goods and services - we couldn't do it without you!

## Fundraising

### **Fall Results**

In addition to a fantastic Home Tour, we want to thank our families and volunteers for contributing to all of our fall fundraisers. From September through December, we raised \$618.23 from **Scripts Gift Cards** and \$270 from **Box Tops for Education!**



*Apparel Sales were also a huge success this fall, boosted by the addition of GCS water bottles!*

### **Winter and Spring Opportunities**

Some of our family-favorite fundraisers are returning again this spring! Please be on the look-out in your child's backpack, mailbox or in our weekly email updates for information on the following opportunities to help GCS:

- **Square 1 Art (March)** - Your child is creating his or her masterpiece now! Personalized catalogs will be out to you the first week of March - **orders will be due March 14**. Purchase a wide variety of items, including coffee mugs, backpacks, and magnets with your child's artwork printed on them. These keepsakes make wonderful gifts (especially for grandparents on Mother's and Father's Day!).
- **Box Tops for Education (February)** - Keep clipping! **Please drop off box tops through Feb. 27 for our next submission.** All Box Tops can be placed in the collection box in the GCS lobby. If you miss this deadline, don't worry. We collect Box Tops all year long!
- **GCS Spring Apparel Sale (April)** - Get our little ones outfitted in GCS apparel for our school spirit days and school support every day!
- **Family Photography Session (April)** - Back by popular demand, we will once again be offering treasured family photo opportunities with professional photographer and GCS parent Erin Chapman.
- **Scripts Gift Card Fundraiser (May)** - Purchase gift cards in time for end-of-year teacher gifts, graduation presents, and Father's Day gifts. It's costs nothing extra, but supports GCS!

### **Upcoming Events at GCS**

**Friday, Jan. 27:** No School,  
Parent/Teacher Conferences (snow date  
2/3)

**Thursday, February 16 at 7:30 p.m.:**  
Board Informational Night

**Thursday, Feb. 2:** Kindergarten and Pre-K  
Information Night in the Big Room

**Monday, Feb. 20 - Friday, Feb. 24:** No  
School, Winter Recess

**Sunday, March 5, 1-3 PM:** Open House (children welcome!)

**Friday, March 24:** My Grown-Up and Me Spring Session Begins

**Monday, April 17 - Friday, April 21:** No School, Spring Recess

**Saturday April 29:** Spring Spruce-Up (rain date 4/30)

**Thursday, March 9:** No School, Curriculum Day

**April 14:** No School, Good Friday Holiday

**Monday, April 24 - Friday, April 28:** Week of the Young Child

**February 13, March 13 & April 10:** Upcoming Board of Director Meetings. All are Welcome!

[View the Full School Calendar Here.](#)

### 2016-2017 Board of Directors

Jenn Greenwood, [President](#)

Sarah Belcher, [Vice-President](#)

Linda Kosinski, [Director](#)

Lisa Stafford, [Assistant Director](#)

Terri Martin, [Full Day Coordinator and Summer Camp Director](#)

Christine Emma, [Treasurer](#)

Shannon Baxevanis, [Secretary](#)

Kate Ferriola and Cathy Pauly, [Public Relations](#)

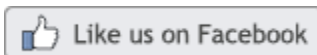
Heather Spinney-Laidlaw and Jeremy Chapman, [Buildings and Grounds](#)

Kristyn MacInnis and Trisha Winroth, [Fundraising](#)

Jennifer Burke and Shagufta Rahman, [Parent Representatives](#)

Dan Quinn, [Member-at-Large](#)

### Stay Connected with GCS on Facebook



Check out [Groton Community School, Inc.](#) on Facebook to stay up-to-date on all the fun and exciting activities that are happening every day at GCS. We welcome your feedback and invite you to review our [Social Media Etiquette Policy](#) under the About section on our Facebook page.