



***PTSA Monday Message
February 24, 2014***

1. Upcoming dates:

Feb 24 – “B” Day

Feb 24-27 – Vinny’s 2 Fundraiser

Mar 1 – Bazaar Craft and Vendor Show

Mar 6 – ASVAB Interpretation

Mar 8 – SAT Exam

Mar 13 – Outback Dinner

Mar 13 – After Prom Meeting

2. Administrative/School Counseling News:

- Parents: an excellent Scholarship search web site:
http://www.scholarshipguidance.com/all_scholarships.php
Also, don't forget the GHS website has scholarship information listed by the month they are due! <http://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS/Guidance/Scholarships>
- ASVAB Interpretation - March 6. Students who took the ASVAB test Feb. 13 will meet at 7:30 am on March 6 in room 404. The next ASVAB at GHS will be in the fall.
- Mariner’s Museum needs assistance March 7-9th with greeting the public, working craft tables, helping with lunches for the re-enactors, etc. Anyone needing additional information can email lfurey@marinersmuseum.org or go to www.battleofhamptonroads.com.
- Greetings from **Jefferson Lab!** Just spreading the news that the High School Summer Honors Program deadline is fast approaching. Completed applications must be postmarked by Monday, 24 February 2014. Selected students will work with a staff scientist or engineer on a real lab project during this paid, six week internship. Requirements are that the students live locally, be at least 16 years of age and maintain a 3.3 GPA. You can find more information on our website <http://education.jlab.org/hsapplication/index.html> Contact Brita R. Hampton, Jefferson Lab Science Education Administrator, if you have any questions (Office: 757-269-7633 hampton@jlab.org)

3. PTSA News:

- Message from the President

Let Your Voice Be Heard! The York County School Board will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, February 24th at 7pm at York Hall. A public hearing on the FY15 Operating Budget will also be held during this meeting, and public comment is welcomed. I have attached School Board Member Cindy Kirschke's general overview of the budget status. Recommend you also check out full details of current budget on York County website. It's not pretty, and will require great commitment on behalf of our Board of Supervisors as budget negotiations continue. Please come out in support of the measures Dr.

Williams has drafted in support of our schools and teachers, but also encourage plans to modernize our growing commitment on technology that will drive costs down.

Meanwhile, the General Assembly in Richmond is just past the half-way point, and has yet to release actual budget numbers for your Board of Supervisors and School Board to work with. But they have been successful in introducing bills to reduce SOLs and delay implementation of A-F School Report Cards. There has also been good discussions in support of better mental health awareness and support measures, as well as training standards for SROs. One bill you may be interested in is HB 63 (Bell), also known as the 2014 Tebow Bill. This bill makes it illegal for schools to join organizations (such as the VHSL) that do not allow home instructed students to participate in public school athletics. It passed the House 60-39 and will be debated in Senate Education and Health committee. VAPTA opposes this bill and will send an action alert when it is assigned to a docket.

As the Olympics close, get out and support our Men's and Woman's Varsity Basketball Teams in the Regional Playoffs! On the road again to the State Tourney. Go Clippers!!

Chuck Cooper, President
GHS PTSA 2013-2014
coopcasa@cox.net
(757) 272-4617

- Final February Fundraising Feast:
 - **Vinny's 2** - Grafton location - Monday February 24th through Thursday the 27th - all day. You do not need a flyer, but you do need to let your server know that you are there to support GHS After Prom.
- Are you Ready to DYE???
- **Color Me Red & Blue 5k Fun Run/Walk** on April 19, 2014. This awesome event is being held at Grafton High School and all proceeds are to help fund After Prom. The cost is only \$35.00 and you get an event t-shirt if you are one of the first 300 to register. You can register on-line at www.graftonafterprom.com anytime from now until the day before the race or you can mail it in to Grafton High School, PTSA After Prom 5k Fun Run/Walk, 403 Grafton Drive, Yorktown, VA 23692. Registration information is also found on the After Prom website. Get a group together and come have some fun.

The fun run needs volunteers to make it a success! If you're not running/walking, please consider volunteering! Visit <http://mysignup.com/graftonafterprom-5k> to sign up for a slot that fits into your busy schedule!

- A huge **THANK YOU** from the After Prom Committee to all the students and parents who turned out yesterday at One Stop Auto to help with the car wash fundraiser. You were AWESOME!! The fundraiser was very successful, we raised over \$1000 for After Prom. Put the 22nd March on your calendar for the next car wash fundraiser and let's see if we can raise even more.
- After-prom's Annual Fundraiser, **Mr. Grafton**, will be held on Saturday, March 29th at 7:00 pm. We are hoping to have 3/4 contestants from each grade level this year. There will be a few practices prior and a mandatory dress rehearsal on Friday, March 28th. If your son is interested, please have him stop by the front office and sign up ASAP! Please email Sandy Cherry at RSAAGcherry@cox.net if you have any questions!
- Order your **graduation flag and yard sign** and show your school spirit! The order form is attached, so please fill it out and send it to the main office to be put in the PTSA box. Proceeds for this fundraiser goes to support the GHS after prom. The flags are \$20 and the garden signs are \$25. We only have 3 garden signs left, so order yours today! Thank you for supporting the after prom! Any questions, please call Deanne Wagner at 757-951-3085.
- Attention Grafton Parents: The After Prom Committee is selling "Grafton Parent" t-shirts and t-shirts for parents of Seniors that say "I'm having a SENIOR Moment, My child is Graduating." Shirts are \$10 each.

Pictures of the shirts and an order form are attached to this email. All money raised will go to After Prom. Please feel free to contact Courtney Engel at JGRacn24@aol.com if you have any questions! Thank you for supporting After Prom!

4. Clubs/Activities News:

- Grafton High School Band presents The **2nd Annual Bazaar Craft and Vendor Show**
March 1st 9:00am-2:30pm Grafton High School Cafeteria
Come support this wonderful community event showcasing a variety of goods; Greek pastries, a variety of jewelry, cosmetics, bags, handmade crafts, kitchenware and much more.
Please direct any additional questions to Claudia Hoyes @ 652-8922 or claudiahoyes@gmail.com
- **Study Abroad Opportunity: July 2014:** The William and Mary Confucius Institute offers a summer study opportunity for students who would like to go to China for two weeks. More information is available on the WMCI website:
<http://www.wm.edu/sites/confuciusinstitute/communityprogramming/summercamp/index.php>.

The purpose of the trip is "to promote exchange between the youth of China and the United States and enhance the understanding of American high school students of Chinese language and culture, thus to stimulate their interest in Chinese learning." It is an amazing opportunity for 2,500 dollars.

I am planning to serve as a chaperone for the 2014 trip. I also accompanied the 2012 group to Jilin and Beijing, China. I can say that the trip was eye-opening and life-altering for the 22 students who made the trip. They were able to form genuine friendships with Chinese students and to understand important components of culture and the human experience. (This was also true for me.) There are photographs from our trip on the website.

The fee covers international flights, visa fee, and registration fee. The students are responsible for the flights to the meeting point, Richmond or Washington, DC and travel insurance throughout the journey. Hanban/Confucius Institute will provide accommodations, local transportation, and all group activities and sightseeing for students and chaperones during their stay in China. Students will tour major sites in China. Also, they will need to bring spending money with them.

Finally, the trip is very safe as well as enriching. Students are with American chaperones and Chinese educators, and we set up procedures for the safety and enjoyment of all students throughout the two-week period.

Registration must be submitted by February 28. If you or students have any questions, please email me at mnoobile@ycsd.york.va.us . Thanks! Mary Flaherty-Nobile, GHS Teacher

5. Athletic News:

- York County High School Sailing Team: Are you interested in joining your local Sail Team? We are having an information meeting on Wed, Feb 26th @ 6:00 p.m. Surfider (Whitehouse Cove Marina, 105 Rens Road, Poquoson, VA). See flyer for more information or contact Rhonda Morris at Rhonda214@cox.net. Hope to see you there!!
- **CONGRATULATIONS** to:
 - Boys State Swimming Team Champions
 - Girls State Swimming Team – 2nd place
 - Boys Basketball Conference Champions
 - Girls Basketball Conference Champions

6. Helpful Websites:

The following is a list of useful links regarding guidance, calendars, and school board meetings:

1. Grafton High: <https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS>
2. GHS Faculty & Staff Listing: <https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS> (*Teachers/Staff link*)
3. Guidance: <https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS/Guidance>
4. Clinic: <http://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS/Clinic>
5. Band: www.graftonband.com
6. Athletics: <https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS/Students/Athletics>
7. Clubs & Activities: <https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS> (*Clubs/Activities link*)
8. YCSD Calendar: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/docs/studentCalendar.pdf>
9. School hours: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/schools/schoolHours.aspx>
10. Attendance Requirements: https://www.edline.net/pages/GraftonHS/School_Info/Attendance
11. School Board Meetings & Dates: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/aboutUs/schoolBoard/meetings.aspx>
12. Lunch Prices: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/studentInfo/lunchMenu.aspx>
13. Curriculum Info: <http://yorkcountyschools.org/parents/parentResources/curriculumGuides.aspx>
14. YCSD website: <http://yorkcountyschools.org>
15. Videos on math topics: <http://www.khanacademy.org/>
16. Step-by-Step homework problems review: <http://hotmath.com/> ** – Username: Clippers123 – Login, then search for your book
17. Explanations & examples for math topics: <http://www.sosmath.com/algebra/algebra.html>
18. Free graph paper: <http://www.printfreegraphpaper.com/>

7. Closing Thought:

1. “Keep on going and the chances are you will stumble on something, perhaps when you are least expecting it. I have never heard of anyone stumbling on something sitting down.”
- Charles F. Kettering, *Engineer and Inventor*

Have a comment for the GHS PTSA or the school? Want something added? Reply and let us know! Input remains confidential.

Monday Message: themondaymessage13-14@cox.net

GHS PTSA website: <http://ghsptsa.digitalpto.com/>

PTSA Board:

GHS PTSA Board 2013-2014

President – Chuck Cooper
Vice President – Helen Dennie
Treasurer – Linda Anderson
Recording Secretary – Mary Catherine Fralich
Corresponding Secretary – Heba Elkobaitry

GHS PTSA Committee Chairs 2013-2014

After Prom – Courtney Engel & Sandra DiGangi
Baccalaureate – Val Fendrick
Hospitality – Carol Caraballo & Cindy Howard
Membership – Courtney Engel & Sandra DiGangi