



**PTSA Monday Message  
February 3, 2014**

**1. Upcoming dates:**

- Feb 3** – 4A exams – “A” Day – see attached adjusted schedule
- Feb 4** – 4B exams – “B” Day – see attached adjusted schedule
- Feb 4** – After Prom Meeting 6:30
- Feb 4** – PTSA Meeting 7:00
- Feb 7** – **Red & Blue** Crew
- Feb 8** – ACT Exam
- Feb 11** - Chick-fil-a Fundraiser
- Feb 12** - Sweet Frog Fundraiser
- Feb 13** – ASVAB Career Exploration Program Exam (sign up in Guidance)
- Mar 6** – ASVAB Interpretation

**2. Administrative/School Counseling News:**

- **Information regarding the completion of 1<sup>st</sup> semester exams and the adjusted bell schedule listed below.**
- 4A exams will be Monday, February 3, 7:20-9:15 and 4B exams will be Tuesday, February 4, 7:20-9:15 with an adjusted bell schedule for the remainder of each day.
- Please note February 3 and February 4 are both full school days.
- Students who attend New Horizons will remain at Grafton both days.
- Outstanding assignments and projects for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter will be handled by teachers on an individual basis.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter will begin on February 3.

Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing students Monday morning.

**Royce Hart, Principal**

- **Attention All Seniors:** If you have applied to a school that requires a mid-year transcript you must bring an envelope with 1 stamp addressed to the college you want this sent to. The School Counseling office will start sending these out after February 10th!! The only exception to this is for those students that used the Common Application. Mid-year transcripts will be sent electronically by your school counselor!
- **AP Testing Information:** AP registration forms have been given out in AP classes. Only 1 form is need from students and the deadline is Friday, February 21. The cost is \$89 per exam, with checks payable to Grafton High School. Mrs. Huffines is collecting registration forms/money in her office (Rm 411) and during all lunches on Feb. 5-7 and Feb. 18-19<sup>th</sup>. Please email Mrs. Huffines [shuffines@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:shuffines@ycsd.york.va.us) or call her at 898-0419 if you have any questions.

**3. PTSA News:**

- **VA PTA Citizenship Essay Deadlines has been Extended to 5 February:** Due to recent weather induced school cancellations the VA PTA Citizenship Essay deadline has been extended to 5 February. So, if your student can please have their respective essay and entry form into the GHS front office by Monday, 3 Feb (Tuesday, 4 Feb at the latest); then we can be sure all entries get into District Chair on time.  
Some recent questions on the application concern Mr. Hart's e-mail address, which is [rhart@ycsd.york.va.us](mailto:rhart@ycsd.york.va.us), and what information to put down for the Local PTSA Unit, which is Grafton High School; York County Council; and Peninsula District. And Yes, we and you as a member are in "good standing." If you have any questions at all, please contact Chuck Cooper at [coopcasa@cox.net](mailto:coopcasa@cox.net); or via Cell at (757) 272-4617. Good Luck!
- Grafton Students and Staff our next **Red & Blue** Crew will be Friday 7th February in the cafeteria during all lunch blocks when we will be serving Valentine Cupcakes. PTSA members please visit the RBC table to pick up your cupcake. If you are not a member then it's not too late to join. Bring \$5 to the RBC table, complete a form and get your cupcake along with an incentive for joining the PTSA. Thanks for your continuing support.

- **After Prom Needs You!**

Did you know that the PTSA sponsors high school After Prom parties nation-wide? And research shows that if students stay to the end of the After Prom party, they are more likely to be alcohol and drug free? A safe and appealing celebration is critical on the night when our students attend Prom. The alternative is often a private after party which encourages drinking, drugs and dangerous teen behaviors, and none of us want that for our students. So what's the best way to have a party that our students will want to attend? Lots of activities, lots of food, lots of prizes....and lots of volunteers to make it all possible. This is where you come in. WE NEED YOU!  
We still need a food chair to coordinate food for the evening. We still need people to solicit businesses for donations. We still need help with our fundraisers. And we still need many hands to be the "worker bees" in all committees.

Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Cindy Howard [mrshtduck@cox.net](mailto:mrshtduck@cox.net) to volunteer your time for this worthwhile event.

And don't forget to come to our next After Prom meeting this Tuesday, February 4th at 6:30 in the Senior Atrium at the High School. We look forward to seeing you all there!

- **Hospitality Help**

The Hospitality committee will be hosting a Valentines event for the Grafton staff on February 14th. We're looking for cookie donations for a lunchtime treat. Valentine themed cookies are hoped for, but we'll take anything. If you can help us with a dozen or two, please contact Cindy Howard at [mrshtduck@cox.net](mailto:mrshtduck@cox.net) to get details. Thank you for your continued support!

- **\*\*\*NEW DATE - MARCH 29th!!!\*\*\*** After-prom's Annual Fundraiser, **Mr. Grafton**, will be held on Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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](mailto:RSAAGcherry@cox.net) if you have any questions!
- After Prom **Chick-Fil-A Night** Spirit Night was rescheduled due to the snow storm. Now **February 11<sup>th</sup>** from 5pm-8pm at the Victory Blvd location!! See attached flyer!
- February Fundraising Feasts are as follows:
  - **Sweet Frog** - Grafton location - Wednesday, February 12th - all day. You do not need to have a flyer to participate, just please tell them you are there to support GHS After Prom.
  - **Belgian Waffle & Steak House** - located at 14700 Warwick Blvd, Newport News - starting Friday February 21st and going through the weekend until Sunday the 23rd. You will need the attached flyer for After Prom to receive the donation from Belgian Waffle and Steak House.

- **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.
- 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](mailto:JGRacn24@aol.com) if you have any questions! Thank you for supporting After Prom!
- **Message from the President**

I spent this last Monday in Richmond observing our State Assembly in action and meeting with multiple members striving to make K-12 education top-notch in Virginia. While the Assembly is in session, I will be giving you weekly insights and talking points to address with our local representatives. It is SO important that we reach out to our state leaders now as the state funds make up almost half of the YCSD operating budget. Each year we encourage each of you to use your PTA platform to advocate for all students in a constructive way that brings attention to the issues. We have the amazing privilege in our role as PTA leaders to speak up for our kids and all the students in York County! Please take some time from your busy schedules to send an e-mail (or two!) to our elected officials. .

Here are the links to our VA State Senators:

John Miller [District01@sov.state.va.us](mailto:District01@sov.state.va.us)  
 Mamie Locke [District02@sov.state.va.us](mailto:District02@sov.state.va.us)  
 Thomas Norment [District03@sov.state.va.us](mailto:District03@sov.state.va.us)

Here are the links to our VA House of Delegates:

Gordon C. Helsel, Jr. [DelGHelsel@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelGHelsel@house.virginia.gov)  
 Montgomery T. Mason [DelMMason@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelMMason@house.virginia.gov)  
 Brenda L. Pogge [DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov](mailto:DelBPogge@house.virginia.gov) (Also Co-Chair of the House Education Committee)

**Our most important legislative priority at the state level is appropriate funding of K-12 education. Here are key points on this topic:**

\* The size of the state budget has grown in recent years, while the percentage of funds allocated to K-12 education has decreased. State direct aid to public education per pupil declined 8.7% from FY09 to FY14. We believe that K-12 education NEEDS to be a priority in the state budget!

\* The decline in state funding, coupled with significant state mandated increases in VRS retirement costs, has led to dramatic budget cuts within our school division, including a reduction of 143 positions, and a significant decrease in expenditures for instructional materials, technology, replacement buses and many other items that support student success.

\* The decline in state funding has hurt efforts to invest in compensation for teachers and other staff members. In order to sustain and build on the excellence of our school division, we want to improve compensation in order to attract and retain a staff that meets our highest expectations.

\* We encourage the General Assembly to amend the Governor's proposed budget in order to allocate more funds for K-12 education.

The General Assembly is also entertaining multiple proposals to lessen the number of SOLs. If you have opinions or personal stories regarding SOL's, please see the link below and feel free to express your opinion to state leaders as well. The York County School Board passed a resolution that calls on the General Assembly to reexamine the state accountability and assessment system. For example, reducing the number of SOLs and adopting a more balanced approach to assessment would better support student learning. Here is a link to this resolution:

[https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/yicsd/Board.nsf/files/9CLL9352408D/\\$file/TESTINGresolution.pdf](https://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/yicsd/Board.nsf/files/9CLL9352408D/$file/TESTINGresolution.pdf)

#### **4. Clubs/Activities News:**

- **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@yicsd.york.va.us](mailto:mnoobile@yicsd.york.va.us) . Thanks! Mary Flaherty-Nobile, GHS Teacher

- **FCA-** The date of the next meeting will be Monday, February 3rd.

The week of February 3-7, FCA will be sponsoring the **SOUPERBOWL of Caring** campaign. This is our 6th year participating in this community survive project. We need your help by donating money and non-perishable foods during that week. All money and food collected will be donated to a local food pantry. This campaign is scheduled close to the NFL Super Bowl to bring attention to food needed in our community. We need to step up and help restock the food bank pantries that have been depleted during the holiday season. Please help, by making food and or monetary donations Feb 3-6, 2014 and help GHS FCA TACKLE HUNGER!

If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Wright, Huddle Leader, at [dwright@yicsd.york.va.us](mailto:dwright@yicsd.york.va.us)

- **2nd Annual Craft and Spring Festival:** Please find in the attachments above, the contract for anyone who would like to participate in the Grafton H.S. Clipper Band Craft and Spring Festival held at GHS on Saturday, March 1st, 2014. If you or a friend would like to participate, please fill out a contract and return to Dr. Helen Dennie as listed on the contract. . The cost is \$30 per table rental. We will only have one vendor per specific product line ( such as only one Mary Kay or Pampered Chef), so be the first to get your contract and donation in! Funds raised from this event will go towards band instruments and repairs, band room supplies such as music stands, music, and uniforms. Thank you! Hope to see you in March!

## **5. Athletic News:**

- **Attention Grafton Lacrosse Boys and Girls Players:** Coaches will be conducting season kick-off meetings with players on **Monday, 3 February** at the Tabb Library (Large Meeting Room). This is the make-up date for the 29 Jan session that was cancelled due to snow.

Girls 6:30-7:30PM  
Boys 7:45-8:45PM

Purpose: Discuss practice schedule, expectations, equipment requirements, Q&A.  
For players/families who did not attend the 12 Dec registration night, we will also be collecting registration forms (see attachment) & checks for dues payments/uniform deposits. Please check our website ([www.graftonlax.com](http://www.graftonlax.com)) for the slides presented during registration night. Email questions to [ghslax@gmail.com](mailto:ghslax@gmail.com)

## **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](http://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](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. "It's not whether you get knocked down; it's whether you get back up.."
2. –*Vince Lombardi*

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](mailto: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  
Monday Message – Sue DeLong  
Reflections/Awards – **VACANT**  
Student Directory – Liz Hamilton  
Volunteers – Deanne Wagner  
Web Page – Jeff Satterfield