

Galway PTSA Chartered in 1951 - serving Galway students for 70 years

GALWAY PTSA NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2021

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

As 2021 comes to a close there is much to celebrate. Since September, we have been able to return to school with more of our regular events such as the Book Fair and Holiday Gift Shop, as well as new activities like the coin drive. We have partnered with community groups to find alternative ways to give back while we're still working within COVID restrictions, and we love the results. Here are the highlights from the past month.

We were able to arrange the last of the Coin Drive pizza parties for the four classes who donated the most money to purchase books for their homeroom. PTSA delivered pizza, ice-cream, candy, and scratch-off rainbow bookmarks.

PTSA supported the National Honor Society Induction Ceremony by paying for take-home treats instead of the usual refreshments. Thank you to Mr. Levin and Mrs. O'Brien-Yetto for organizing this event.

I attended the NYS PTA 125th Annual Conference in Syracuse and it was amazing! Not just our NY State leaders, but the President and President elect of National PTA were in attendance all weekend. I had the opportunity to speak with all of them and many other Unit and Council Presidents about opportunities for Galway PTSA to advocate for our students. We also had keynote speeches from many State lawmakers, as well as multiple workshops, presentations, working breakfasts and General Sessions where we voted on Bylaws and Resolutions.

Following the success of our Fall Book Fair, we decided to let our students pick the theme for our Spring Book Fair. We sent out a survey to all the Elementary homerooms with several choices suggested by our Book Fair volunteers, along with space for student suggestions. The winner was "Underwater". We will be developing our plans more in the new year.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fall Fundraiser. You should have received most of your items by now, but there are a few on back-order; we will get them to you as soon as possible. It was a pleasure meeting many of you when you picked up your items. It made me realize how little we've seen parents in the last two years.

We had our first meeting with the Junior Class about After Prom planning. Given the current COVID situation, this event will take place in Galway next year, but it will still be a special evening with lots of fun activities for students. This event is always student-led; PTSA helps fundraise, facilitate, and offers support and chaperones if needed.

Picture Retake Day was December 7th. This was the last chance to get school pictures. If for some reason you missed it, please contact the portrait company directly. Adirondack School Portraits. 518 792 6955. We would like to thank Christine Gauss for organizing this, and the volunteers who helped make it all run smoothly.

Ahead of the Holiday Gift Shop, we ran an ornament making contest in the Elementary School. Different grades had either a snowflake, gingerbread man, or globe to decorate. We were very impressed by the creativity of the 184 entries, which were all displayed at the Holiday Gift Shop. Mrs. Semo and Mrs. Hartz from the Elementary Office were our judges. Grade level winners received a gingerbread house kit, snowman ornament and large candy cane. There were prizes for two runners up in each grade, and all the other participants received a gingerbread man ornament and swirly lollipop.

The Holiday Gift Shop itself was a big success. There are many COVID protocols to work around, which meant we cannot have individual crafters and our volunteer numbers were restricted. We partnered with our fundraising company, which is based in Northville. This allowed for a wonderful selection of products, quick restocks and less work for us setting up the shop. PTSA does not make any profit on this event, but we do make sure every student who wants to purchase gifts can do so and we hope you enjoy yours. The Gift Shop gives students some independence and autonomy. We did try to encourage them to pick appropriate gifts, but some were set on giving Grandma a squishy eyeball, sister a cat-toy, and there's at least one Dad getting a very sparkly necklace. That one is on me, believe me I tried to get you something that said, "World's Best Dad", or at least "Dad". Many thanks too for all the donated gifts bags and tissue paper. Everyone who wanted their gifts wrapped had it done free of charge by our awesome volunteers.

Following on from the Book Fair crafts last month, we once again partnered with the Galway Public Library to offer a free, Gift Making Workshop on Saturday, December 11. Over 60 pre-registered children took part in four, hour-long sessions. They crafted several different gifts and got to design their own gift wrap. Mrs. Kinne's Home and Careers students baked sugar cookies and provided frosting and sprinkles for take home cookie decorating kits. Thank you to Galway Public Library and Youth Services Coordinator Julie Pasieka for making this possible. And the familiar volunteer crew comprised of school aides and volunteers from our Holiday Gift Shop. You ladies are awesome!

This week our Dance Program has a recital. It will be smaller than usual, and the audience will be limited, but we're excited it's happening. It's a wonderful opportunity for our dancers to showcase all their hard work. Our fabulous Dance Committee are planning the next session which will start in January. Look for registration information coming out after the break.

One final thing for December, we launched Jingle-grams in the Elementary School. For a \$1 donation, we will deliver your message, along with a jingle bell on a ribbon and a candy cane. We have offered a message service at previous Book Fairs, but Holiday ones are a new thing and was suggested by two of our members at our November meeting. Because it's new, we have no idea the level of response. We will ensure every child receives at least one, and in the event there are multiple Jingle-grams for individuals, we might substitute the extra jingle bells and candy canes for something else.

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered, donated, supported, and helped Galway PTSA this year. We wish you all Happy Holidays (apologies for the ones we've already missed), and a peaceful start to the New Year. See you all in 2022.

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>

PTSA Meeting: Wednesday, January 12, 2022.

6:30pm, Elementary Library.

WHAT HAS PTSA DONE IN THE LAST MONTH?

- Coin Drive Pizza Parties
- Delivered Fall Fundraisers
- Supported NHS Induction Ceremony
- NYS PTA Annual Conference in Syracuse
- Spring Book Fair survey
- Book Fair crafts at Galway Public Library
- After Prom planning
- Picture Retake Day
- Ornament contest
- Holiday Gift Shop
- Gift Making Workshops at Galway Public Library
- Dance Recital
- Jingle-grams

UPCOMING EVENTS & VOLUNTEERING

- Elementary Student Council partnership
- Virtual Scavenger Hunt
- Continue After Prom support
- Raffle

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. \$1.75 goes to the NYS PTA. \$2.25 goes to National PTA. We are part of these organizations. 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 NYS 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: PTA New York Congress 12-070 Galway PTSA. Once this is set up, you do not have to do anything more. Amazon smile is also available through the mobile app.

To become a Galway PTSA member, go to:

<https://galwayptsamembership.cheddarup.com>



- There is also a paper membership form included in this newsletter. Fill it out and return to either of the school offices with your payment. Checks should be made payable to Galway PTSA.

Galway Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) Membership and Volunteer Opportunities!

Galway PTSA would like to give you this opportunity to become a new member or renew your membership of the PTSA. Benefits of membership include frequent email communications, voting rights concerning PTSA business, and showing support of our school, our students, and our teachers. Your support allows us to continue funding the programs and numerous events school wide for Grades K-12. **Since the 'S' in PTSA stands for 'Student', we encouraged Student memberships as well!**
Membership is only \$6 per person!

Complete the back this form and give to any PTSA officer at an event or mail to Galway PTSA 5317 Sacandaga Road, Galway, NY 12074. You can also drop off/send in with your child at the Elementary or High School office in an envelope marked "Attention PTSA Membership". Make checks payable to Galway PTSA.

You can also register online! Scan this barcode, or go to this web address:

<https://galwayptsamembership.cheddarup.com>



Get involved – we need your gifts and talents 😊

PTSA is a national organization placed in schools to help parents, students, teachers and communities succeed in all areas of their education and well-being. Please let us know if you can help us out with the many programs and events we have planned for the school year. Your participation really makes a difference!

Say **Yes!** I want to support and help with the many events PTSA holds for our school! Please **circle** all events below that you would like to help out with or would like more information about.

Because of COVID-19 this school year, there will be less events, but we still need volunteers to help with planning for any events that may happen this year, and for events for the following year!

**PTSA
Fundraising**

**School Picture
Days**

Virtual Events

**Kindergarten
Screening**

**Thank Your Bus
Driver Day**

Book Fairs

After Prom Party

**Holiday
Gift Shop**

Graduation

Family Fun Nights

School Picnics

Spirit Wear

Please Note: Any activity in which you handle money does require a paid membership.



Galway PTSA

Membership Application 2021-2022

Member #1 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Member #2 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Member #3 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Member #4 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Member #5 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Member #6 Information		
Name	Phone Number <input type="checkbox"/> Landline <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/> Text ok?	Membership Type <input type="checkbox"/> Standard <input type="checkbox"/> Student >> Grade
Email	Interested in Volunteering <input type="checkbox"/> YES! <input type="checkbox"/> No	Demographic Information for Awards <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> Community Member

Number of Memberships: _____ X \$6.00 = \$ _____ (Total Amount Due)

Please remit Cash or Check payable to "Galway PTSA"

PTSA Use Only:

Amount paid: \$ _____ Payment Method Cash Check # _____ Date _____ Initials _____

Number of cards Issued: _____ Entered into MemberHub Online Membership System Date _____ Initials _____

Entered into GroupVine Email System Date _____ Initials _____