

# GALWAY PTSA NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2020

At this time during a normal year, PTSA would be getting ready to open the Fall Book Fair and have a Family Fun Night. There would be contests, decorations and lots of excitement building in the Elementary School. As the person who organizes these events, I am not happy we had to cancel (again), but it was the right decision.

I was offered alternatives by Scholastic – the company we partner with for Book Fairs. They suggested a drive-thru Fair. So many reasons why that is not practical, including COVID protocols and Upstate NY weather. They suggested a Virtual Fair - basically online shopping. But to us, the Book Fair is not about selling books. It is about engaging our students with books, getting them excited about reading and bringing the community together for some fun. If we can't decorate, have free raffles and contests, the lollipop-pull, buy books for homerooms (which we usually do in the Fall), or a book for every student (in the Spring), if we can't let the students come and touch the books, we don't have a Book Fair. We would just be asking you to buy stuff, and we already do that with our fundraisers.

Our last five Book Fairs have all been recognized at Scholastic's National Awards and we have received \$4500 in prize money. 100% of the money PTSA makes from Book Fairs is put directly into our school to buy books and resources. This does not become part of our general budget. It is not a fundraiser for PTSA. Book Fairs and Family Fun Nights are an expense for the PTSA, supported by our fundraising.

So, at this time, I would encourage everyone to read. If available with COVID restrictions, homerooms have their own collection of books to borrow. We have two great libraries in the school. Our town has a beautiful new library. The Elementary teachers send out Scholastic Book Club flyers. If you want to buy a book, do it that way. Any profit stays with your homeroom teacher so they can buy books for their classroom. Scholastic also has a huge amount of free online resources, including a great website called Homebase. Once an adult sets up the account, students can interact with some of their favorite book characters. There are virtual author visits, sneak peaks at upcoming book releases and fun games. <https://kids.scholastic.com/kids/games/>

We hope to bring you a Spring Book Fair and Family Fun Night in May.

*Emma*

Emma Obern, PTSA President.

[galwayptsa@gmail.com](mailto:galwayptsa@gmail.com)

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

Visit our PTSA pages on the Galway School District website:

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

**PTSA Virtual Meeting. Tuesday, October 20, 2020.**

<https://meet.google.com/owq-cmia-iuz>

### WHAT HAS PTSA DONE IN THE LAST MONTH?

- Planners given to all faculty
- Dance classes resumed for Competition Dancers (Off-site)
- Aide Appreciation Day
- Custodian Appreciation Day
- First PTSA meeting of the school year
- Water, Gatorade and crackers delivered to the School Nurses
- Fundraising started
- Picture Day for in-person students (3 days)

### UPCOMING EVENTS AND VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- 'Thank you' card event – cards due October 23
- After Prom planning begins
- Holiday Craft Kits for the Elementary School – Volunteers needed to help put these together
- Galway Town Trick or Treat trail

We would like to take part in the town's Trick or Treat trail, planned for October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1 – 4pm at the Dockstader field. But we need donations of individually wrapped candy or treats. This is not in our budget and we do not have wiggle room to add new expenses. We will also need volunteers to help hand out candy at the event and decorate our booth. Anyone interested, please contact us.

Are you interested in helping to organize events next year and beyond?

We are always looking for volunteers and ideas. Contact us at [galwayptsa@gmail.com](mailto:galwayptsa@gmail.com). We need help with Fundraising, Spirit Wear, After Prom, Book Fair, Family Fun Nights, K Screening, Holiday Gift Shop, Dances. We may not have something for you to do immediately but getting familiar with our programs and planning for future events is vital.

### ALL FUNDRAISING ORDERS ARE DUE OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>.

Please return paper order forms and payment to the PTSA mailbox in the Elementary School.

To place online orders, go to: [www.profit-raisers.com](http://www.profit-raisers.com)

Elementary School ID: PR2143    High School ID: PR2144



There are a lot of community fundraisers going on right now and no one's made of money. We really do appreciate any orders you can place. This is how PTSA funds all its activities and commitments to our school and students. But we understand if it is not an option for you. Maybe you can give us some of your time instead?

## REASONS TO BECOME A MEMBER AND WAYS TO SUPPORT PTSA

- Even if you never attend a meeting, 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>



## MEET OUR OFFICERS



**Amber Eaton**, is the **PTSA Treasurer**. She is also our IT person, organizes Spirit Wear and does a whole bunch of stuff behind the scenes to keep things running smoothly. When not working on PTSA business, Amber runs an alpaca sanctuary. Her love for these creatures stems from her childhood in Guatemala. In her spare time, Amber knits with the wool from her alpacas, and was recently inducted into the Guinness Book of World Records, for knitting the world's longest scarf. It was an impressive 34 miles long.

**Heather Shellenberger** is the **PTSA Secretary**. Formerly with the CIA. Unfortunately, that is all we can tell you about Heather, without breaking the Defense Secrets Act of 1911.

**TOP SECRET**

(Not all the above statements have been thoroughly fact checked, and it is possible they are fake news. Our Treasurer and Secretary are extremely busy people outside of PTSA and were unable to make our deadline.)

## 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 our expenses, we do not use this as a fundraiser.

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

## School Banking Update

The School Banking program is run by the Elementary Building Team (EBT). Many EBT members are also PTSA members, including all the banking ladies your children would usually see on Wednesday mornings. PTSA supports the School Banking Program. The following is a message from Barb Mead, PTSA VP and School Banking coordinator.



Hi All! As one of the school banking helpers I wanted to send everyone a short update about what is going on with school banking this year. Currently, we are not collecting school banking money envelopes at the school. Have no fear though! You are still able to keep saving for your children until we can get a plan together and organize a way to safely get banking back into the school. (I promise we will keep you posted as soon as we have any information.)

**If you already have an account, here are ways you can continue to bank with us, until we can get our 'new normal' set up:**

- \*Bring your deposits to a local branch
- \*Mail your deposit to a local branch. Be sure to clearly write your child's full name and account number
- \*You can complete transfers using Popmoney or Account-to-Account transfers

### \*\*\*REWARDS (the fun stuff)\*\*\*

- \*Your child will get a prize every 5th deposit
- \*Your child will receive a grand prize every 15th deposit
- \*There are many opportunities to enter contests and win prizes (follow the bank on social media)
- \*Bring in your child's report cards (the grades don't matter) and the bank will deposit \$5 in their account just for showing it! (Max \$20 per year)

### **If you would like to sign up for banking:**

Every single banker who signs up, helps our school. The more bankers we have, the more money we can earn. Last school year we received \$500 from the bank, which was used to buy school supplies for our students this year. If you would like to sign up, please contact the Banking Contact or send an email to the PTSA with subject line 'School Banking'. We will send any new banking information home with your child, as it comes in.

A huge thank you to Christine Gauss for setting up school banking for Galway CSD and being the main coordinator for this program.

**Banking Contact: Lindsay Phillips**  
**First New York Federal Credit Union**  
**School Banking Outreach and Social Media Coordinator**  
**(518)393-1326 Ext. 1803      [lindsay.phillips@firstnewyork.org](mailto:lindsay.phillips@firstnewyork.org)**