

# *The GPJHS Gazette!*

*The Official Newsletter of Gregory-Portland Junior High School: Home of the World's Greatest Students!*

Available online at: [www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school](http://www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school)

August 17, 2017

## **Welcome from Our Principal**



Dear Gregory-Portland Junior High School Students, Parents, and Community Members:

On behalf of the entire faculty and staff of Gregory-Portland Junior High School, it is my pleasure to welcome you back for another exciting school year. We have worked very hard this summer preparing for your arrival. We simply cannot wait to help our students reach their full potential. Our ultimate goal is to create well-rounded students who are prepared for the rigors of a high school curriculum.

With that in mind, we do offer a wide variety of programs and activities for our students while they are here at GPJHS. We hope that your child chooses to participate in some type of extra or co-curricular activity in order to facilitate that well-rounded education. Whether it is band, choir, theatre arts, art, UIL Academics, Robotics, NJHS, or athletics, all of our programs strive to help our students grow as individuals and help them maximize their potential.

Academically, we provide every child a rigorous researched-based curriculum that is designed to prepare them for high school. Our teachers spend hours planning and attending professional development in order to best serve the needs of our students. They are all well versed in creating dynamic and interesting lessons and activities that engage our students in order to maximize learning. Our teachers make every effort to ensure that our students are successful. Should they require additional assistance, please do not hesitate to contact them so that tutorial arrangements can be made.

We hope that all of you will also utilize our campus website. It can be very informative, and it contains many useful and helpful links. Our campus calendar will help you keep up-to-date on what is occurring at our school. It is also the best place to find contact information for our teachers and staff.

In closing, we are honored that you have entrusted us with your child's education. We look forward to working with you this upcoming school year. GO WILDCATS!!!

Respectfully,

Alcario Gabriel Alvarado

Principal, Gregory-Portland Junior High School



## **Open House on August 23**



Mark your calendar!

Our next Open House is Wednesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. We hope to see you then!



## **Cat's Club**

Cat's Club is a reward for students who meet or exceed the criteria for good behavior and academic excellence. For each 9-week grading period, students who meet the criteria will be able to participate in this reward program. This can include but is not limited to; field trips in town or to a nearby area or an on campus activity such as movies, karaoke, and games. The criteria set forth by the campus is shown below.

By the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> progress report within each 9-week grading period, students should have:



- Maintained an 80 or above in every class,
- no more than 2 unexcused absences,
- no ISS referrals, no suspensions, no DAEP placements,
- and no more than 3 tardies.

Some of the field trips may include costs, such as: entrance fees, food, and travel. Students who qualify for Cat's Club will be given a permission slip with the information for the event, a lunch order form, and any other necessary paperwork. The paperwork must be completed and signed by the parent, and forms and money must be turned in by the deadline.

Students who do not qualify for Cat's Club will not be punished, but will remain on campus and continue with their regular class schedule. If a student qualifies but chooses not to participate in the event, the student will remain on campus and will follow the regular class schedule.

The dates set for the Cat's Club events may be subject to change due to availability of venues, number of students participating, and programs and other events scheduled throughout the year. Students and parents will be notified in advance of the dates and locations of the events.

Information about our next Cat's Club field trip will be in a future GPJHS Gazette!



## **STAAR – Don't Be Scared; Be Prepared!**



Prepare for the future by learning from the past. Visit this website for actual STAAR materials from previous school years:

[http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/STAAR Released Test Questions](http://tea.texas.gov/student.assessment/STAAR_Released_Test_Questions)



## **NJHS - National Junior Honor Society**

National Junior Honor Society students for 2017-18 were inducted in the spring and began their service to the community with a beach clean-up in April at Sunset Lake Park, followed by helping teachers pack up their classrooms in May. These students must maintain an overall average of 90 or higher for each nine-week grading period. Members will be held accountable for completing 10 hours of community service and earning five activity credits by participating in NJHS chapter projects scheduled throughout the year. They also will be required to attend one after-school meeting each month. (The five officers will attend two monthly meetings.)

Aug.: Back-to-School help

Sept. 23: Adopt-a-Beach at Sunset Lake Park

Oct.: Breast Cancer Awareness fundraising

Nov.: Food Drive for Portland Food Pantry

Dec.: Toy Drive

Jan.-Feb.: Pennies for Patients benefitting the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Feb.-March: Identify candidates for induction and issue invitations to approved candidates

April: 2018-19 Induction Ceremony, Adopt-a-Beach at Sunset Lake Park

May: 2017-18 NJHS Field Trip, Elections for 2018-19 officers

For more information about NJHS, please contact Mrs. Hayward [khayward@g-pisd.org](mailto:khayward@g-pisd.org)



### **Meet Coach Cox**



**Name/Title:** Coach Cox

**What do you do at GPJHS?** Social Studies Inclusion, Football and Track

**Education/experience:** Graduated from UTSA/Taught for 7 years

**Hobbies:** running/hauling my kids to games and practices

**Favorite Book(s):** A Song of Ice and Fire Series (Game of Thrones), Wool Series

**Favorite Game(s):** Football

**Favorite music, artist or genre:** Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit, Tool

**Something about me that might surprise people:** I am also an aircraft electrician.



## **Volleyball Tryouts**

When: Mon-Wed. Aug. 21-23, 2017

Where: Blue Gym

Times: 8th grade - 6:30-7:30 am, 7th grade - 3:45-5:00 pm

Participants must be on time and ready to work, must have a physical on file by the first tryout session, and must attend all tryout sessions.

Tryout sessions are closed (Participants & Coaches only).

Teams will be announced at the end of the final tryout session on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017.

For more information, please contact Coach Wilson.

[lwilson2@g-pisd.org](mailto:lwilson2@g-pisd.org)



## **Meet Our Librarian**



**Name/Title:** Ms. Costilla

**What do you do at GPJHS?** Library Media Specialist

**Education/experience:** Bachelor's in Education from TAMUCC and Master's in Library and Information Science from UNT

**Hobbies:** Floating the Frio

**Favorite Book(s):** *The Giving Tree* and *Hunger Games*

**Favorite Game(s):** Baseball and Football

**Favorite music, artist or genre:** Texas Country

**Something about me that might surprise people:** I taught 2nd grade for 10 years!



## **Halloween Dance**

Mark your calendar for our next annual Halloween Dance:

**Saturday, October 28, 7pm-11pm.**

Faculty & parent volunteers welcome!



We will have costumes (students & adults!), snacks, drinks, music, and of course...

The Haunted Hallway!



## Theatre Arts

Mark your calendar for these *dramatic* upcoming events:

Sept 5-7 Auditions for *Charlotte's Web* (rehearsals will be 4-6pm, until performances)

Oct 5 & 6 GPJH Theatre 7 & 8 In-Class Productions

Oct 19-24 GPJH Theatre Tech Week

*Charlotte's Web* performances in the GPJHS Auditorium:

OCTOBER 25 & 26 at 9:30 a.m. (\$2 for Elementary and Intermediate students)

OCTOBER 26 & 27 at 7:00 p.m. (\$5 for the public)

All GPISD employees – Always FREE!!



Upcoming UIL/TFA tournaments (6 local, 3 out-of-town):

Sept 16 Tuloso-Midway

Sept 30 Harlingen

Oct 14 PSJA Southwest

Oct 28 GPHS

For more information about Theatre events, please contact Mrs. Leisher. [sleisher@g-pisd.org](mailto:sleisher@g-pisd.org)



## Meet Coach K

**Name/Title:** Mrs. Kilmartin, Mrs. K, or Coach K

**What do you do at GPJHS?** 8th Science (and HS Tennis)

**Education/experience:** Graduated from Oklahoma Baptist, have taught 3 years in Kerrville as a 5th grade science teacher

**Hobbies:** Surfing, scuba diving/snorkeling, anything ocean, strength and conditioning, SOCCER, Brazilian Jiu Jitsu, and SCIENCE

**Favorite Book(s):** *The Bible*, *Fearless*

**Favorite Game(s):** Apples to Apples, sports, the occasional video game

**Favorite music, artist or genre:** My top 3 are NEEDTOBREATHE, Wolves at the Gate, and soundtracks (Wonder Woman, Avengers, Justice League, Pacific Rim, etc.), but I like many, many, many more!

**Something about me that might surprise people:** I enjoy Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and my husband is exactly 1 foot taller than I am!



## **Box Tops for Education**

Turn your trash into cash for our school! Please clip, collect and bring your Box Tops coupons to school. Money raised will support our school library! Box Tops collection bins are located in the front office, the library, and several teachers' classrooms. For more information about the program and/or to register as a supporter of our school, please visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com)



## **Meet Our School Nurse**



**Name/Title:** Mrs. Stone or Nurse Kaylee

**What do you do at GPJHS?** Registered Nurse

**Education/experience:** 2007 Graduate from TAMUCC with my BSN/ 10 years nursing experience with the last seven in pediatrics.

**Hobbies:** Church events, Wake boarding, spending time with family, dining

**Favorite Book(s):** At the moment, our church group is tackling *The One-Year Chronological Bible* and I am loving it!! So I would say that is my favorite at the moment, but I LOVE James Patterson's *Where the Wind Blows*.

**Favorite Game(s):** Washers, outdoor games, Apples to Apples, and "Jumping Monkeys" with my 4-year-old little girl.

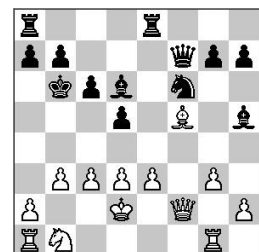
**Favorite music, artist or genre:** Prime Country and Texas Country; not a huge fan of Modern Country (rap does not belong in a country song) ☺ and Contemporary Christian. A few of my very favorite Christian groups and singers include: Mercy Me, Tenth Avenue North, Third Day, and Francesca Battistelli.

**Something about me that might surprise people:** My husband and I are foodies and we plan our vacations related to food; we want to try and find great diners, drive-ins, and dives. ☺



## **Chess Team**

If you like to play chess, and/or if you're interested in learning and/or improving your game, then join the U.I.L. (University Interscholastic League) GPJHS Chess Team! For information, please e-mail Mr. Thomas: [tthomas@g-pisd.org](mailto:tthomas@g-pisd.org)



## Meet Mr. Roussel



**Name/Title:** Greg Roussel

**What do you do at GPJHS?** Social Studies 8 Teacher

**Education/experience:** TAMUK - Kinesiology with Minor in Biology; 4 years at TMHS as a Social Studies Teacher and Coach at TMHS. 2 years Varsity O-Line, 2 years Head Freshman Football Coach, 4 years as Boys & Girls Powerlifting Coach.

**Hobbies:** Play Video Games

**Favorite Book(s):** Any book on Sports Science, *Lord of the Rings*, *Harry Potter* Series

**Favorite Game(s):** Final Fantasy Series, Madden Football, Mass Effect Series

**Favorite music, artist or genre:** Metallica, System of a Down, Disturbed.

**Something about me that might surprise people:** That I can actually Adult. (I think that's how the kids say it now-a-days)



## Academic U.I.L.

UIL Academic Competition is a great way for your child to master and use his or her skills in a friendly, yet competitive day-long meet. Students have the opportunity to train with eager teachers and form friendships with other students from different districts. Events your child could compete in are: Art, Calculator Application, Chess, Dictionary Skills, Editorial Writing, Impromptu Speaking, Listening Skills, Maps, Charts, and Graphs, General Math, Modern Oratory, Number Sense, Oral Reading, Ready Writing, Science, Social Studies, and Spelling. We look forward to this new school year and expanding your child's educational experience. For further information about sponsors and descriptions of events, please:



- \* check the school's website
- \* read future issues of the Gazette
- \* or contact Ms. Young, our U.I.L. Campus Coordinator, Writing & Editorial Writing coach:

[jyoung@g-pisd.org](mailto:jyoung@g-pisd.org)



## Tennis Anyone?



Are you interested in trying out for the tennis team? We will be having tryouts August 28, 29, and 30. In order to try out, you **MUST** first have a physical.

You must plan to be there all 3 days, unless I know in advance your situation.

7<sup>th</sup> grade will be from 6:30 AM until the end of 1<sup>st</sup> period. If you have a 1<sup>st</sup> period class we will work something out with you, but you must be there at 6:30 AM.

8<sup>th</sup> grade will be from 7<sup>th</sup> period until 4:30. If you have a 7<sup>th</sup> period class we will work something out with you, but you must come right after school to try out.

You will need your own racquet preferably, bring a towel if needed, sunscreen, a hat, court shoes or a good pair of athletic shoes, a great attitude and the willingness to learn and work hard.

For more information, please contact Coach Loyd [jloyd@g-pisd.org](mailto:jloyd@g-pisd.org)



## Meet Coach Loyd



**Name/Title:** Coach Loyd

**What do you do at GPJHS?** Tennis Coach & ISS Supervisor

**Hobbies:** My hobbies are tennis, cooking, watching DIY projects and reading.

**Favorite Book(s):** I like John Grisham, and anything to do with lawyers and history.

I like spending time with my family and going to church.

**Favorite music, artist or genre:** I like just about anything Christian. Newsboys, Steven Curtis Chapman.

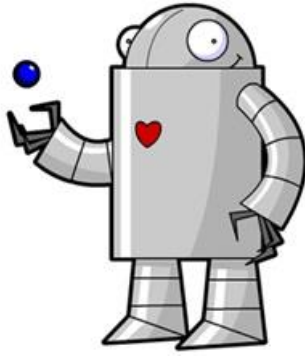


## Parent Volunteers Wanted

Please apply at the school's front office to join the ranks of our amazing parent volunteers!



## **Robotics**



The GPJH Robotics program is headed up by Mrs. Barnard, the Intensive Science teacher, and Mr. Wooten, the Algebra 1 teacher. We focus on a team-based project: building a robot using the Lego Mindstorms classroom sets. A custom table will be setup with tasks you program your robot to complete! Come explore, build, and have a little bit of goofy fun!

For more information, please contact Mrs. Barnard or Mr. Wooten.

[nbarnard@g-pisd.org](mailto:nbarnard@g-pisd.org) or [bwooten@g-pisd.org](mailto:bwooten@g-pisd.org)



## **FYI & Reminders**

Wed, Aug 23 – Open House 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Thr, Sep 7 - Volleyball Game 5:00 pm

Fri, Sep 8 – UIL Grade Check

Mon, Sep 11 - Volleyball Game 5:00 pm

Tue, Sep 12 – Progress Reports

Tue, Sep 12 – Football Games (7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>) both start at 4:30 pm

For more details, and a calendar of exciting events, please visit:

[www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school/calendar/happening-now-event-calendar](http://www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school/calendar/happening-now-event-calendar)



## **Thank You!**

Thanks for reading our first issue of the *GPJHS Gazette*!

To save paper, future issues of the *Gazette* will be available for you to download and/or print from the school's website: [www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school](http://www.g-pisd.org/gregory-portland-junior-high-school)

If there's something you'd like to see in the next issue, please e-mail [tthomas@g-pisd.org](mailto:tthomas@g-pisd.org) and put “Gazette” in the subject line. We would love for future issues to include articles written by students!

See you next month!

- Mr. Thomas

GPJHS External Communications Coordinator & GPJHS Gazette Editor

