

How Are We Doing?—6/18/10  
PTA Survey Results

Number of families and teachers who participated: 121 of 197

**Response percentage: 62%**

Teachers: 16 of 27=59%  
Kindergarten: 16 of 27=59%  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade: 20 of 22=**91%**  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade: 24 of 38=63%  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade: 10 of 16=63%  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade: 32 of 40=80%  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade: 22 of 28=71%  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade: 13 of 31=42%  
7<sup>th</sup> Grade: 19 of 32=60%  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade: 8 of 28=29%

**Ranking of PTA programs:**

**Top Five**

1. Student Directory
2. Assemblies, Workshops, and Other Presentations
3. Science Fair
4. PARP (Parents as Reading Partners)
5. Field Day

**See the rest**

6. Playground Upgrades
7. Scholarships for GUFS Grads
8. Afterschool Specials
9. Teacher Mini Grants
10. Teacher/Staff Appreciation
11. Pre-Puberty Workshops
12. Differences Day
13. Operation Thank-you
14. Meet the Candidates Forum
15. 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Fund Donation
16. Sunshine Fund for Bereaved GUFS Families
17. Ice Cream Social
18. Bear Mountain Ice Skating
19. Welcome Back to School Decorations
20. PTA Movie Night
21. Trunk or Treat
22. Holiday Gift Bazaar

**Ranking of PTA fundraising:**

1. Hot Lunch
2. Scholastic Book Fair
3. School Concert Refreshment Sales
4. Box Tops for Education
5. Kids' Art Stationery
6. Garrison Gear T-Shirts
7. Sally Foster Gift Wrap
8. Tag Sale

Would you prefer an up-front PTA donation of \$100/family?

Yes 63%

No 37%

**Ranking of reasons for Hot Lunch program:**

1. It raises funds for other PTA programs.
2. It is a service to the students that makes them feel special.
3. It saves me from having to pack a lunch for my child.
4. It can teach/model good nutrition to students.

Majority said Hot Lunch should continue as the PTA's primary fundraiser, or it should continue to raise funds on a smaller scale with more of the money going toward the food itself.

If hot lunch were no longer tied to fundraising, would you donate to offset the loss in PTA revenue?

Yes 53%

No 47%

**A sampling of suggestions for how GUFFS PTA can improve:**

"Hold monthly family nights, parents vs. students Olympics, create a family atmosphere on a more regular basis. PTA is currently doing great with that—only looking for more."

"The need for a strong PTA in terms of fundraising and program support is increasingly vital to the continued success of the Garrison School and will have even greater effects in the coming years on the quality of the educational experience we can provide our children as the budget gets even tighter."

"\$100 is an awful lot of money for me when my kids will not be using hot lunch and we can never afford the PTA afterschool programs. So what's the pay off for my family if it's set so high?"

"Consider holding an evening PTA meeting—last year the meetings were all during the day, which is not convenient for working parents. Send an email following the meetings to let parents who could not attend know what's going on."

"Connect parents with skills to teachers for enrichment."

"The primary function of the PTA should be to support and advocate education and to have greater interaction and influence over high education standards between administration and faculty. The PTA should become more influential within the school."

"More assemblies please (especially when they teach listening and respect)."

"I think the PTA volunteers at this school are fantastic. I wish I could give time, but I simply do not have it."

"The PTA needs to do a better job of welcoming families who are new to the school."

"I would like to see more education on the topic of bullying for students: recognizing it and dealing with it appropriately. It is important to help our youth nurture their self esteem and to promote kindness toward self and others, as well as learning self-responsibility."

"How about incorporating learning another language sooner rather than later?"

"It would be great if there were more teacher involvement in PTA."

"I think the PTA could take a more active role as an information and advocacy resource for parents on topics related to school age kids."

"Orient PTA fundraising more towards the community than just the parents all the time. Bring in speakers on school issues in partnership with school and GCEF [Garrison Children's Education Fund]. Sponsor cultural arts offerings."

"PTA needs to provide a forum for parents and teachers to effectively communicate and work together to create a more inspired and creative atmosphere for the students to grow and learn more effectively."