

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GUILFORD PTA HOLDS 7TH ANNUAL MEETING AND OFFICER ELECTIONS

GUILFORD, CT JUNE 15, 2010: The 7th Annual Guilford PTA Meeting and Election of Officers was held on June 15th at Whitfield's and the Greene Art Gallery. Newly elected officers are, Kim Beckett and Jennifer Ryan, Co-presidents; Thatcher Zuse, Vice President; Michelle Raiti, Secretary; and Melissa Lamoreaux, Treasurer.

Kim Beckett reviewed several accomplishments of the Guilford PTA for the 2009-2010 year which included the Board of Education Political Candidate Forum, Reflections Art Program with a record 93 participants, several workshops for parents of children with special needs, the Anti-Bullying Workshop held in April and the Bullying Committee's online parent survey, Destination Imagination's state champions, and "JA in a Day", Junior Achievement's one day financial literacy program that reached

567 students in grades 1 to 4 at Guilford Lakes and Calvin Leete Elementary Schools.

Jennifer Ryan discussed continued and new initiatives for the 2010-2011 year such as a membership drive, broadened publicity and continuation of programs such as the Bullying Committee's work, the Political Candidates Forum in October, Reflections Art Program and Junior Achievement. She also announced that the formation of a Curriculum Enrichment Committee is underway. This committee plans to seek opportunities and programs to enhance the curriculum of those GPS students seeking extra challenge in their course work.

Special recognition was given to Kira Moran, a Guilford Lakes School Kindergarten student who won the local Guilford, State of Connecticut and a National PTA Award of Excellence for her Reflections Art Contest submission, a photo entitled Horses in the Light.

Connecticut PTSA President, Marne Usher, Senator Ed Meyer and Guilford Board of Education Chairman Bill Bloss were in attendance.

Marne Usher reported she had just returned from the 3-day National PTSA Convention in Memphis, TN and said that they (National) are looking closely at PTA structures outside of the

typical school-based construct. She added, "the Guilford PTA is a great example of just such a new structure and exemplifies how parents can get involved and engaged in a Town-wide basis to advocate for their children. The Guilford PTA offers the chance for parents from all schools to learn from each other, and also to learn what is ahead for their students at the next school level. It is nice to see Thatcher Zuse elected Vice President as more men than ever are getting involved in PTA activities. Our National PTA President Chuck Saylor has made male involvement one of his top priorities because, and as he says, if I remember my high school biology correctly, 50% of parents are male. The networking of the Guilford PTA and its dissemination of information is exceptional".

Newly elected Vice President, Thatcher Zuse, said, "The level of discussion surrounding the Guilford Public Schools has never been greater than today. I credit the Guilford PTA for engaging parents and the community to continually strive to improve our school district. I'm excited for the upcoming year".

For more information about the Guilford PTA, its programs and initiatives and contacts, please visit www.GuilfordPTA.org.

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