

**Counselor's  
Corner** 😊

**Laura McGrath,  
School Counselor  
610-889-1978 X 61109  
[lmcgrath@gvsd.org](mailto:lmcgrath@gvsd.org)**

**Welcome Back to School and Welcome New Families!** General Wayne Elementary School is a great place to be. If I can be of any assistance in helping your child have a successful transition back to school as well as a successful school experience, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Classroom Visits:** I visited all of the classrooms in grades 2-5 the first week of school to introduce myself and make sure the students know where and how to find me. Kindergarten and First Grade will receive an introduction/re-introduction to me and the role of the school counselor during their first guidance lesson.

**New Students:** A special welcome will be given to our new students. I will be checking in and/or meeting with all new students and their teachers to make sure the transition is going smoothly. Please contact me if there is any information you feel would be helpful for me to know.

**Guidance Lessons:** All classrooms receive guidance lessons throughout the year. Please see my website for more information.

**Groups in Guidance:** Guidance Groups will be offered throughout the school year. The purpose of these groups is to offer additional opportunity for building social and/or coping skills. Please use the Group Permission form found on my teacher page if you would like to sign your child up for a guidance group. Forms will also be out at Back to School Night.

**Therapy Dog, Lily:** After a long, relaxing summer, Lily will return to "work" at GWES again this school year approximately one day per week. Her role is to provide comfort and joy to our school community. And, as evidenced by the MANY smiling faces last week when she was present in the lobby, she is quite good at her job! Please see my website or contact me directly for additional information on Lily's role as a therapy dog in school.

**Olweus:** Olweus is our bullying prevention program. We take seriously the safety and well-being of each child with us in school. Many efforts are in place proactively to prevent issues as well as reactively if an issue occurs. For more information or if there is ever a concern, please see my website (Guidance) under the Olweus link or feel free to reach out to me directly.

**SOUP NIGHT: Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Soup Night will be Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>.** You don't want to miss this much loved community event. The reservation form is now available on our GWES Website. The proceeds of this event each year go to an organization related to pediatric cancer. This year we will donate to The Cure Starts Now organization in honor of our first grade student, Julia Bitto.