

# THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 7 — November 2, 2011

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**Germantown Elem. School**  
19110 Liberty Mill Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 301-353-8050

### GES Website

Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/  
schools/germantownes/

Contact: Kathy Spiro  
[Kathleen\\_A\\_Spiro@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Kathleen_A_Spiro@mcpsmd.org)

Listserv: Join and stay up-to-date! To sign up, send an email to GES-PTA  
[subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
or click the Join button on our website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org)

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## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Germantown ES is a busy place! Last week's book fair was fantastic. Not only was it a financial success, but it also put lots of great books into the hands of our students. Thanks to our reading specialist, Amy Taylor, and her helpers (staff members Mrs. Castellano, Mrs. Myers, and Ms. Cole and parents Mr. Castro and Mrs. Photinakis) the alien-themed book fair looked great as well!

We had a lot of fun on Friday at the Halloween parade and parties, and then the PTA's Harvest Dance was fun and well attended as well. And last but not least, I would like to extend a hearty thanks to all the parent volunteers and staff who made the **PTA's iWalk a great success!** For the second year in a row, this PTA fundraiser not only raised funds for the organization but also helped students engage in healthy choices through walking and eating foods like pretzels, apples, and drinking lots of water. With the nation-wide concern about childhood obesity, it is great that we are taking steps, as a school community, to show students that being healthy is also fun! **GO TEAM GERMANTOWN!**

We are looking forward to hosting you during **parent-teacher conferences** on November 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>. On both days, students will be dismissed at 12:55 pm.

Teachers will be sharing specific information about your child such as his/her current reading level, data notebook, and work samples. You'll also hear about current fields of study in all other subject areas. During these brief but informative conferences, you will have an opportunity to hear and ask questions about your child's specific strengths and areas of need. You may ask questions such as:

- What specific suggestions for improvement do you have for my child?
- What can I do at home to support my child?
- Are there any specific problems relating to discipline or socialization?
- Is my child motivated? If not, what can we do to motivate him/her?
- Is my child doing as well as he/she should in school? Is he/she progressing in all subject areas?

But please remember that each conference is only 15-20 minutes, so plan to arrive early or on time so each parent may communicate with the teacher for their full scheduled time. If you are unable to get all the information you need due to time constraints, know that you can follow-up at another time. That would be necessary so the next parent can begin/end their conference on time. Thanks for your cooperation!

*Continued on page 2*

## Dates to Remember

- |              |   |                  |  |
|--------------|---|------------------|--|
| <b>Nov 4</b> | Principal Chats, K-2 <sup>nd</sup> @ 9:30 am; grades 3-5 <sup>th</sup> @10 am | <b>Nov 9</b>     | GES fundraiser @ Milano's 5-9 pm (pick up, carry out or delivery only) |
|              | <b>GES Shirt Day – Show your school spirit</b>                                | <b>Nov 10-11</b> | <b>Early Dismissal at 12:55 pm, parent conferences</b>                 |
|              | iWalk pledges due!  | <b>Nov 11</b>    | Flu Clinic for GES Students, 1:30-3:30 pm                              |
| <b>Nov 8</b> | Fall Student Portraits Clubs meet   | <b>Nov 18</b>    | PTA Bingo Night, 7-9 pm  |

*Principal's Message continued*

I am in the midst of the interview process for **hiring a new administrative assistant** after Mrs. Lyons' departure on Monday. Until the process is complete, I am relying on the support of in-house staff and a couple of parent volunteers to keep the main office afloat! Thanks, in advance, for everyone's support. As always, our school community steps up to the plate when there is a need...and for that I am eternally grateful! ☺

Encourage your child to **show his/her school spirit** by wearing a GES shirt this Friday!! I am signing off for now. Remember, we're here to help your child have the best learning experience possible, so please call (301-353-8050) or email ([Amy\\_D\\_Bryant@mcpssmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryant@mcpssmd.org)) if you have a comment, question, or concern.

*Amy D. Bryant*  
Principal

## PTA News

### Letter from the PTA President

You know what they say, "When it rains it pours" – or should I say, "When it snows it pours"? Crazy October weather, huh! I hope you and your families had a good long weekend and enjoyed the Halloween holiday. We've had a lot going on this month, so I'll get right to the good stuff.

First of all – a big double congratulations to the two classes who won this month's cookie jar events! **Mrs. Keough's** class will hold onto the cookie jar for a bit longer as the class with the highest PTA membership! Then, the cookie jar will travel over to **Mrs. Rodriguez'** classroom as her students had the highest turnout at the Harvest Dance. Way to go!

Huge thanks to all the volunteers who came out to help at the **iWalk** on the 20<sup>th</sup>, and especially to Kimmi Photinakis who organized the event. What a wonderful event for our kids and our school. Even though the weather was a bit chilly, everyone had a great time and the kids had a blast walking! Don't forget to **turn in your collected pledge money by Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**.

This year's **Harvest Dance** was so much fun and the kids were all so cute (or scary?) in their costumes. We had a great time dancing and having costume contests and even a couple of dance-offs. It's always so fun to come out and relax with our GES friends. Many thanks to Joanna Hook and all the volunteers that helped make this event so successful. Our next Family Fun Night event will be **Bingo Night** on Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us for this family friendly game night.

Last, but definitely not least, the Superintendent did release his recommendation for GES in the new CIP. His recommendation to relieve the overutilization at Spark Matsunaga and Ronald McNair elementary schools is to build a new elementary school in the Northwest Cluster with a scheduled completion date of August 2017. **The recommendation includes no change for Germantown Elementary School.** Based on your responses to our survey, this is the recommendation most of our population was in favor of. Since GES will not be rebuilt in the near future, we will now begin to more strongly advocate for more modernizations and updates to our wonderful community school. The Northwest Cluster is scheduled to testify before the Board of Ed on November 14<sup>th</sup> and GES PTA will present a statement advocating for more technology to support our wonderful teachers. This is open to the public and we'd love to have you come and support us as we testify. If you'd like to attend, please contact me for further details.

School directories were distributed this week to families who are PTA members. If you did not receive one, and are a PTA member, please let me know. Of course, if you would like to join – it's never too late – and our handy, dandy directory will be yours!

As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments at offered to act me at any time at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com).

*Jen Brill*  
GES PTA President



**BINGO NIGHT** - Friday, November 18th from 7 to 9 pm in the APR - Students and their families are invited to come play BINGO. Prizes will be awarded to winners. This is a free event. Concessions will be sold. Volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Please contact Joanna Hook at 703-407-1162 or [joannahook@yahoo.com](mailto:joannahook@yahoo.com) if you are able to help. Thanks!!

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**MENU CHANGE:** The Spicy Black Bean Burger w/ Tater Tots which is scheduled to be served on 11/3/11 has been substituted with Pork BBQ w/Tater Tots.



I wanted to send out a HUGE thank you to all the volunteers that helped make our 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon a success! The day would not have happened if it weren't for all those helping hands! Despite the chillier than hoped for weather, the kids all had a great time

walking! And walking they did...our students walked over 6,000 laps! That's about 600 miles! Every student should have received their certificate of participation and the students in each grade with the highest number of laps have already received their medals.

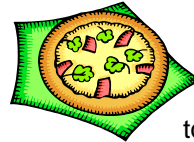
Congrats to: *Kevin, Jeremy, Amie, Pranav, Kelly, Xavier, Ramzi, Grace, Mehul, Erick, Elijah, Daniel, Owen, Brie, Michael, Charlie, & Corey.*

Now is the time to finish collecting any outstanding pledges. Pledge booklets and collection envelopes were sent home last week. All donations must be turned in by **Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**. Only amounts collected by the deadline will be used to determine student's prize eligibility level. Every dollar counts towards supporting GES! Please contact me at [georgeandkimmi@msn.com](mailto:georgeandkimmi@msn.com) with any questions.

*Kimmi Photinakis*  
 GES PTA Vice President, Fundraising

## Mark your calendars: Picture Day

Germantown Students will have their individual student portraits taken on **November 8<sup>th</sup>**. Flyers have already been sent home. All students will be photographed since these are the pictures used in our annual yearbook. If you return your child's envelope with payment, your portrait package will arrive at school in a few weeks and will be sent home with your child. Anyone who does not prepay for a portrait package will receive a small proof with ordering instructions. From the proof you may order by mail or online and the portrait package will be mailed directly to your home. Either way, you have the opportunity to capture your child's beautiful smile and the memories of another school year!



**Milano's Pizza & Pasta**  
**Restaurant Fundraiser**  
 to benefit Grade 4 Field Trips

**Wednesday, November 9<sup>th</sup> between 5 and 9 pm**

You can order online @  
<http://www.milanospizzapasta.com/>  
 or call 301-540-9191

*Support our students while also enjoying a great meal w/out cooking at home!*

## Join the Junior Lego League!

The SAP Germantown Droids are sponsoring a Junior Lego League this year and are in search of kids in kindergarten through 3rd grade to participate. Each junior team needs two to six members and will be coached by one of the Droids, who you may remember won the Lego League regional qualifiers tournament last year. Each team will need to create a model out of legos and a "show me" poster explaining their project. For the project you will need to think of your favorite snack then research where it came from. SAP Germantown Droids will host a weekly meeting for 1 hour after school starting at 3:35 pm, Friday November 18th where you can share ideas and work on your project. It will be a great chance to spend time with friends and make some new friends too. Please contact the SAP Droids, for more information to sign up, at: [gtandroids@gmail.com](mailto:gtandroids@gmail.com), For more information see :

[http://www.astill.mobi/androids/?page\\_id=1597](http://www.astill.mobi/androids/?page_id=1597)

## COUNTDOWN TO SUCCESS

Check out these, and more tips at Countdown To Success (<http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>) a **month-by-month** guide filled with the advice, tools, and online resources you'll need to help your children have a school year packed with fun and learning. Here's a "to do" list for November:

1. **Review that report card** Pay careful attention to all progress reports, but particularly the first one—it will be coming soon if your child hasn't received it yet. You want to get help for any problem areas before your child falls too far behind. Ask your child's teacher how grades are determined and for suggestions on how your student can improve. Review grades and the teacher's comments with your child—always starting with something she's doing well, then pointing out areas that need attention, and ending with something positive again.
2. **Encourage creativity** Urge your children to enter the National PTA Reflections arts contest. They can submit works of art in six categories: visual arts (such as painting, drawing, or collage), literature, musical composition, photography, film production, and dance choreography. This year's theme is "Diversity Means..." Contact your local PTA for additional details or go to [pta.org](http://pta.org).
3. **Make over your meals** November is National PTA' Healthy Lifestyles Month, so think carefully about what your kids are eating at home and in school. Ask your school lunch director for nutritional information if it isn't available. Work with your PTA and school district to improve the menu if necessary. For more healthy eating and lunch-packing tips, go to [pta.org/goodchoices](http://pta.org/goodchoices) and [choosemyplate.gov/kids](http://choosemyplate.gov/kids).
4. **Be a good citizen** Your child will be learning about the importance of voting and how elections work, and they'll be thrilled to go with you when you cast your ballot on November 8. Go to [free.ed.gov](http://free.ed.gov) to learn more about how government works.
5. **Give thanks** This month's Thanksgiving holiday is the perfect time to talk with your children about all the freedoms the United States has to offer its citizens. Help your children explore what life was like here during the first Thanksgiving at the Library of Congress website: [loc.gov/families](http://loc.gov/families).

# Students of the Week

Week ending October 21, 2011

### Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Reagan
Ms. Wilson	Robert
Mrs. Huhn	Anthony

### First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Zachary
Mrs. Keough	Michael
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Logan

### Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Nalu
Mrs. Myers	Alex

### Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Imani
Mrs. Gray	Genesis

### Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Daniel
Ms. Rodriguez	Laurel

### Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Ellen
Mrs. Wehage	Kevin
Mrs. Shumsky	Charles

### PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Antonio
Mrs. Young	Omar

### Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Lauren
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### Patrol

Saykon
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# Students of the Week

Week ending October 28, 2011

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Theo
Ms. Wilson	Riya
Mrs. Huhn	Jordyn

## First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Neil
Mrs. Keough	Kira

## Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Fiona
Mrs. Myers	Kayatu

## Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Andrew
Mrs. Gray	Andrew
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Melissa

## Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Keylah
Ms. Rodriguez	Jacqueline

## Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Daniel
Mrs. Wehage	Perry
Mrs. Shumsky	Cindy

## PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	AJ
Mrs. Young	Joel

## Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Fabio
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## Patrol

Jane

# Students of the Month

October 2011

## Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Diana
Ms. Wilson	Shannon
Mrs. Huhn	Amie

## First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Xavier
Mrs. Keough	Tien

## Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Olivia
Mrs. Myers	Taylor

## Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Anthony
Mrs. Gray	Connor
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Matthew

## Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Kayla
Ms. Rodriguez	Saykon
Ms. Reed	Sarah

## Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Andre
Mrs. Wehage	Kristofer
Mrs. Shumsky	Atalom

## PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Zion
Mrs. Young	Omar

## Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Arena
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## Special Needs Matter

Resources for our students with special needs, and their families.

[vanessaionespir@yahoo.com](mailto:vanessaionespir@yahoo.com)

### OUT and ABOUT!

- **Let's Go To The Movies!: PUSS IN BOOTS** ~ playing on **November 5, 2011**, at the AMC Loews Theaters at Rio Cinemas 18, in Gaithersburg, MD. This 10 A.M. showing provides a special opportunity for families to enjoy their favorite films in a safe and accepting environment. Lights will be dimmed up, the sound turned down, and the audience will be invited to get up, walk, dance, shout, or sing! 301-948-6763.
- **Bounce U-just for our kids!** ~ Starting **November 7, 2011**, and every 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month, Bounce U presents: Sensory Rebound Bounce, from 6-7:30 PM. No loud music and limited attendance in a supportive environment. Reservations are required. In Clarksburg, 301-515-5665 and in Rockville, 301-340-1311.
- **Holiday Boutique** ~ presented by Ivymount School, start your holiday shopping in November! Browse through Botanicus scented candles, Toffee House English toffee, Ivymount Barkery dog biscuits, and a variety of handmade jewelry and crafts. This shopping event is held on **November 12, 2011**, from 10 AM-2PM, at 11614 Seven Locks Road, Rockville, MD.
- **Family Cooking Night** ~ just for families living with Multiple Sclerosis, join DreamMakerS at the Dream Dinners in Silver Spring. On **November 18, 2011**, have fun making delicious and healthy meals ready to eat or freeze! Recipes, ingredients, a professional chef, and an accessible kitchen, all provided. Event is free. For details: [msdreammakers.org/events](http://msdreammakers.org/events).

### ACTION AND INFORMATION

- **The Fifth Annual ADHD Awareness evening** ~ Guest speaker, Deb Phelps (mother of Olympic Swimmer Michael Phelps), will share her own experiences in living with ADHD in her home and as an educator. This event will be held on **November 3, 2011**, from 7-9PM, in Ellicott City, MD. Free. Call 410-313-1252.

- **Building Blocks for Success** ~ The second annual informational program is for busy parents of students with ADHD and/or learning disabilities and the caring professionals who work with them. Sponsored by the LDAMC, GT/LD Network and CHADD, this **free** event will be held on **November 5, 2011**, from 1-5PM, in Potomac, MD. Speakers include: Dr. Lance Clawson, Dr. Patricia Quinn, Larry March, and Dr. Ari Tuckman. For details on the many topics presented, call 301-933-1076.

### SUPPORT GROUPS:

- **Parents of Children with ASDs** (Autism Spectrum Disorders)~ sharing coping strategies, community resources, developing networks and gaining support. **November 7, 2011** in Rockville, MD, from 7-8:15PM. Registration required: 301-610-8361.
- **Education Committee Meeting** ~ The Arc of Montgomery County invites parents to this monthly gathering and learn how to advocate for their children and adults on education issues. This group meets on **November 9, 2011**, in Rockville, MD, from 7-9PM. These meetings continue every second Wednesday of the month. Call 301-984-5777 or [haydeed@arcmontmd.org](mailto:haydeed@arcmontmd.org).
- **Parents of Children with Special Needs** ~ learn to balance one's own needs with those of children with special needs. **November 15, 2011** in Rockville, MD, from 7:15-8:45PM. Registration required: 301-610-8355.
- **The Parent Connection** ~ sponsored by LDAMC (Learning Disabilities Association of Montgomery County) is a guided peer support group for parents of students with learning disabilities. Share successful resources, tips, and strategies. Next meeting is on **November 16, 2011**, from 7-8:30PM in Rockville, MD. RSVP at 301-933-1076 or [ldamcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:ldamcpc@yahoo.com).