

# THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 9 – November 30, 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/](http://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@yahogroups.com](mailto:subscribe@yahogroups.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,

MCPS recently installed a computerized **Visitor Management System (VMS)** at our school. This system, in addition to the new door entry system, is designed to ensure the safety and security of our students and staff. Parents and other family members will now be required to show their driver's license or other identification when visiting or volunteering at the school. The VMS will screen all visitors after a secretary scans their driver's license or other identification into the computerized system which will give authorization (and print a visitor's sticker) for entry. I cannot stress the importance of checking into the office using the new VMS upon entering and exiting the building. Your cooperation and patience in using this added level of security is greatly appreciated!

Thanks to our fantastic PTA and a parent who works for IBM, we just received a **new portable promethean board!** The PTA wrote a matching funds' grant to the Promethean Corporation and Mrs. Johnson, mother of a GES first grader, wrote a \$1000 grant to IBM in order to cover all the costs associated with this new technology. The promethean board is a piece of interactive technology that our teachers utilize to enhance students' learning (and the students really enjoy). More importantly, this new purchase will allow our students to learn using 21<sup>st</sup> century technology.

We are beginning to experience the **colder temperatures** of the fall and winter months. This means we need children to come to school properly dressed for the weather. We ask that you send your child to school prepared to go outside for recess. This includes coats, hats, and gloves or mittens. We go outside every day unless the temperature (or wind chill) is below 32 degrees and on those days when rain or snow keeps us indoors.

I have great staff news to share in the form of **kudos to Christine Castellano!** She joins Mrs. Brookings, Mrs. Lea and Ms. Marino in earning her National Board



Certification for Teachers. This arduous process is one that is built upon reflection of teaching practices and skill. I know you join me in congratulatory wishes...she deserves it! ☺ Hooray!!

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@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryant@mcpsmd.org)) if you have a comment, question, or concern.

*Amy D. Bryant*

Principal

## Dates to Remember

<b>Dec 6</b>	PTA meeting, 7 pm, media center	<b>Dec 13</b>	Patrol Meeting, 12:45 pm
<b>Dec 8</b>	Interims go home (grades 1-5) Chorus rehearsal, 3:40-4:40 pm	<b>Dec 14</b>	McDonald's Fundraiser for the 5 <sup>th</sup> grade, 5-8 pm
<b>Dec 9</b>	Student Portraits Make up Day	<b>Dec 15</b>	Chorus Rehearsal, 3:40-4:40 pm
<b>Dec 12</b>	Magical Math Tour, 9:30 am, APR No PEP-C classes today	<b>Dec 19</b>	Winter Concert, 7 pm
		<b>Dec 24- Jan 2</b>	Winter Break—School Closed

# PTA News

## Letter from the PTA President

I hope you and your family had a restful Thanksgiving. We sure couldn't have asked for better weather – 70 degrees at the end of November. How wonderful! Thanks to everyone who helped out at our first ever Bingo Night on November 18<sup>th</sup>, and especially to Joanna Hook and Lorelei & Nelton Castro for organizing this fun event. From all the positive feedback I've heard, it sounds like we've found a new November family fun night event!

December is a pretty slow month for the PTA, but I would like to make you aware of a couple events occurring at the county level:

**December 7** - You are invited to attend Superintendent Joshua P. Starr's presentation of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Operating Budget recommendation for Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). The presentation will be held on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, beginning at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium of Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville.

**January 4** - Maryland state law says that our local districts must maintain per pupil funding from year to year. Last year, this "Maintenance of Effort" requirement was not met by our county, which meant that our students received less per pupil than the year before. Many questions and concerns are emerging about "Maintenance of Effort." There

has been discussion that bills may be introduced to amend the law and we are uncertain about how this will affect our kids' education. MCCPTA will be hosting a discussion on this very significant issue on Wednesday, January 4 which will include Board of Education members, County Council members and state legislators beginning at 7:30 p.m. at the Carver Educational Center in Rockville.

On a more local level, GES PTA will be sponsoring an all school assembly on **Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am** in the APR. "The Magical Math Tour" is hosted by Brian Curry using magic to help kids explore both simple and complex math concepts. Parents are welcome to join us for this fun, yet educational, assembly.

Also, please mark your calendars for **Pajama Reading Night on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. This is historically one of our most fun and well-attended events. We have a fantastic performer scheduled for the evening, along with some of our favorite teachers reading. I'm sure it will be tons of fun for everyone.

Last, but not least, please join us for our monthly **PTA meeting on Tuesday, December 6<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in the Media Center.

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

*Jen Brill*

GES PTA President

## The Student Council is gearing up for elections! Here's the timeline of the election process:



**Thursday, November 17 @ 12:45 pm:**  
Interested Candidate's Meeting – Room 8

**Wednesday, November 23:** Parent  
Permission returned/Posters given out.  
(No late forms will be accepted.)

**Friday, December 2:** Posters up (after approval), Speeches due

**Wednesday, December 7:** Practice speech session in Ms. Rodriguez's room

**December 8, 9:** Speeches taped during recess (Dress up)

**December 12, 13, 14:** Speeches shown, Elections held

**Friday, December 16:** Election results announced

## Important Reminder to 5th Graders applying for the Roberto Clement Middle School Magnet Program in the Fall 2012

**Testing Date: Saturday, December 3; (Inclement Weather Date: December 10, 2011)**

**Test time: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Roberto Clemente Middle School  
18808 Waring Station Road, Germantown**

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**For special needs testing and testing makeups only:**

**Testing Date: Friday, December 9<sup>th</sup> (Inclement Weather Date: December 16, 2011)**

**Test time: 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.**

**Location: Roberto Clemente Middle School  
18808 Waring Station Road, Germantown**

Contact RCMS for more information: 301-601-0344

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## Nominate MCPS Teachers for Top Awards

Awards season will soon be upon us. Nominations are now open for three competitions to honor exemplary teachers. They are—

**[Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education Awards](#):** The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education *Veteran Teacher Award* recognizes three full-time teachers in kindergarten through Grade 12 who have a demonstrated record of promoting student success, such as closing the achievement gap and mentoring new teachers. One of the veteran teacher award winners is chosen as the MCPS Teacher of the Year and goes on to represent MCPS as a contender for the Maryland State Teacher of the Year award and could become the National Teacher of the Year.

The Marian Greenblatt Excellence in Education *Rising-Star Teacher Award* recognizes a **first- or second-year** full-time teacher in kindergarten through Grade 12 who has a demonstrated record of promoting student success. This teacher contributes to a professional learning community of students, staff, parents and community.

**[The Washington Post Agnes Meyer Outstanding Teacher Award](#):** This honor recognizes a full-time teacher in prekindergarten through Grade 12 who instills in students a desire to learn and achieve. Each nominee must have a minimum of five years' teaching experience, three of which must be in MCPS. This teacher must understand the individual needs of students, encourage their talents and foster their self-esteem. They also must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the subject matter, have the ability to share it effectively with students and demonstrate outstanding leadership. The winner receives a \$3,000 award.

**[Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award](#):** The Shirley J. Lowrie "Thank You for Teaching" Award honors extraordinary elementary school teachers who have a deep dedication to the teaching profession. These elementary school teachers, prekindergarten through Grade 5, must work directly with students in the classroom on a daily basis, demonstrate thorough knowledge of the subject matter, and effectively communicate that subject matter to students. The nominee should be a teacher who goes the extra mile to ensure that students receive the support they need to succeed. The winner receives a \$2,500 award.

**Nomination materials for awards are due by 4 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 13, 2012.**

If you have questions, contact [Moriah Martin](#) at 301-279-3900

## Students of the Week

Week ending November 18, 2011

### Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Adonis
Ms. Wilson	Quentin
Mrs. Huhn	Amie

### First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Nicole
Mrs. Keough	Emely

### Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Mihika
Mrs. Myers	Dintau
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Daniel

### Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Elijah
Mrs. Gray	Maranda

### Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Amani
Ms. Rodriguez	Regina

### Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Ailec
Mrs. Wehage	Joseph
Ms. Reed	Antoine

### PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Zion
Mrs. Young	Shaylee

### Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Nicole
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### Patrol

Daniel
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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!: THE MUPPETS** ~ playing on **December 3, 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.
- **Saturday Night Alive** ~ Spend your Saturday night being encouraged and supported by a vibrant community where everyone is welcomed! People of all disabilities, their families and caregivers will experience fun and games, arts and crafts, sports, and pizza too! This event is held on **December 3, 2011**, from 5-7PM, in Rockville, MD. Cost is \$7pp. Call 301-841-7412 or email [lpozanski@havenuniverse.org](mailto:lpozanski@havenuniverse.org)
- **Bounce U-just for our kids!** ~ On **December 5, 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.
- **Fundraising and Fun** ~ Sports Plus' annual fundraiser event takes place on **December 10, 2011**, from 12-3PM. Located at the Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis Club in Gaithersburg, MD, families can expect lots of fun, from swimming and kids' activities, to music and food. A Silent auction will be held benefitting Sports Plus. Contact via email, [sportsplus@comcast.net](mailto:sportsplus@comcast.net).
- **Karate for Individuals with Disabilities** ~ Emphasis on improving motor coordination, classes will include stretching, arm and leg movements, and drills. Classes held at the Holiday Park SC, on

Saturdays starting **January 7, 2012**, from 9 - 9:45AM. 240-777-6870.

- **Kaleidoscope Art** ~ A structured program offering arts and crafts using various media to create one of a kind art. Classes held at the Germantown Community Center, on Saturdays starting **January 14, 2012**, from 12:30-2PM. 240-777-6870.

### ACTION AND INFORMATION

- **Partnership for Extraordinary Minds** ~Present a one day forum with guest speaker Dr. Paul Levelli, Ph.D., on **December 7, 2011**, from 7-9PM. The topics covered in this discussion are of Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIP) and Functional Behavioral Assessments (FBA). Some questions addressed will be: What is a BIP and a FBA? What do well-written plans look like? And, how can they help your child be more successful in school? Dr. Levelli is an educational and behavioral consultant. This free forum will be held at the Rockville Memorial Library in Rockville, MD. 301-444-5225.

### SUPPORT GROUPS:

- **Parents of Children with ASDs** (Autism Spectrum Disorders)~ sponsored by JSSA, this free support group shares coping strategies, community resources, developing networks and gaining support. **December 5, 2011**, in Rockville, MD, from 7-8:15PM. Registration required: 301-610-8361.

### BOOKS FOR YOUR PERSONAL LIBRARY:

The following books can be purchased from Amazon.

**Managing Anxiety in People With Autism: A Treatment Guide for Parents, Teachers and Mental Health Professionals**

This guide aims to help you learn how and when the child is prone to anxiety. It leads the reader to understand their role in the child's anxious behavior. And helps meet the goal to recognize anxious behavior.

**The Kitchen Classroom**

This cookbook's focus is to teach kids how to cook, help boost their communication, motor, sensory, and social skills. It features 32 gluten and casein-free recipes. It may be used as a tool for parents and kids to work together.



THE GES PTA PROUDLY PRESENTS:

# The Magical Math Tour

$$2 \times 2 = 4$$

$$21 \div 3 = 7$$

$$62 - 2 + 457 = ?$$



All-School Assembly  
Monday, December 12, 2011  
from 9:30am - 10:15am  
All-Purpose Room

Parents are welcome!

The Magical Math Tour is a unique assembly program that makes learning math magical! The Magical Math Tour is jammed with fun facts, audience participation and inspiring messages about Math.

Using world-class magic, award-winning magician, Brian Curry combines mathematical concepts like measurements, multiplication, shapes and geometry. The students will be amazed and entertained. They will

laugh and “oooh” and “aaah,” and without even realizing it, they will be reviewing essential mathematical concepts, many of which are covered on standardized tests.





# PLEASE JOIN US FOR AN IMPORTANT CONVERSATION ABOUT FUNDING FOR OUR SCHOOLS ... THE MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT LAW

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**DOES IT GUARANTEE A FLOOR FOR PER PUPIL FUNDING?**

**WHAT IS "RE-BASING" AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS RECEIVE  
\$70 MILLION LESS IN FUNDING NEXT YEAR AS A RESULT?**

**SHOULD THE LAW BE CHANGED?**

**WHY ARE SCHOOLS SUBJECT TO STATE PENALTY IF COUNTIES DO NOT MEET  
MOE, AND WILL OUR SCHOOLS BE PENALIZED \$26 MILLION?**

Join us for an informative panel discussion with Maryland Senate Delegation Chair Jamie Raskin, House Delegation Chair Brian Feldman, and Elected leadership from the Montgomery County Council and the Montgomery County Board of Education.

It's a conversation you can't afford to miss.

Wednesday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 7:30 – 9:00 pm  
Carver Educational Services Center  
850 Hungerford Drive  
Rockville, MD 20850

Presented by the Montgomery County Council of PTAs and the  
NAACP Parents' Council