

THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 10 – December 14, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message	1
Dates to Remember	1
PTA News	2
Important News	3
Students of the Week	4

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
or click the Join button on our website www.ges-pta.org

Editor:

Cheryl Qassis
iyadnchery1@yahoo.com



Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Last week the Superintendent presented his recommended **Operating Budget for the 2012-2013 school year**. If you would like to review a copy of the FY 2013 Operating Budget in Brief, it is housed in my office and another copy was given to our school's PTA President, Jennifer Brill. You will also find the *Superintendent's Recommended FY 2013 Operating Budget* and the *Recommended Program Budget FY 2013* published online on the MCPS website at the following address:
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/department/s/budget/.

I have a **staff update** to share. Parents of students who receive speech services were informed by letter last week. Pamela Helton, our speech-language pathologist, resigned from Germantown ES and MCPS last week. We wish Ms. Helton the best as we transition to having the speech services provided by two certified speech-language pathologists from National Speech, a contract agency, until a permanent speech-language pathologist is hired. An advertisement for the speech-language pathologist vacancy has been posted. Stay tuned!

Each year our staff voluntarily participates in a program we've affectionately called **Germantown Cares**. Within this program,

staff purchase gifts for selected students in need during the holiday season. As the economy continues to create hardships for families within our very own GES



community, we find ourselves needing some support from those who might be able to give it. Again this year we would like to ask for help from GES families, who are able, to contribute children's books and/or gift cards by December 20th. Gifts will be distributed through an anonymous process to the families in need. If you have questions, please call or email Mrs. Castellano at 301-353-8050 or [Christina L Castellano@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Christina_L_Castellano@mcpsmd.org).

I am signing off for now. Please enjoy the extended time off with your child and family during the winter holiday season. Time is one of our most precious gifts, don't you think? Wishing you a **happy holiday** and a joyous New Year!

Amy D. Bryant
Principal

Dates to Remember

Dec 14	McDonald's Fundraiser for the 5 th grade TONIGHT, 5-9 pm (near Shoppers)	Dec 24- Jan 2	Winter Break—School Closed
Dec 15	Chorus Rehearsal, 3:40-4:40 pm	Jan 4	PTA meeting, 7 pm
Dec 16	Student Council election results announced	Jan 16	School Closed—MLK Holiday
Dec 19	Winter Concert, 7 pm	Jan 23	School Closed—Professional Day for Teachers
		Jan 27	Pajama Reading Night, 7 pm

PTA News

Letter from the President

There are only two weeks left in this year's calendar school year, so this will be the last Patriot of 2011! Unbelievable!



Hopefully your child came home raving about our all school assembly on Monday. Brian Curry presented "The Magical Math tour" to our students & staff, and everyone seemed to really enjoy themselves. The kids really loved the magic, and didn't even realize that they were learning math.

Even my kindergartener can now tell me the difference between an obtuse & acute angle. Not too shabby! A huge thanks to Lorelei Castro who organized this event. She did an amazing job.

The PTA after-school clubs will meet for the final time this Friday at 3:40 (Mad Science & Young Rembrandts). I cannot thank Claudia Goldman enough for her fantastic job setting up and coordinating all of these weeks of clubs.

We have no official PTA events planned for December, so I'd like to just reflect on where we stand at year end. We have had an amazing fall as an organization. Thanks to all of you, and to our wonderful fundraising VP, Kimmi Photinakis – we are very comfortable financially and on track to meet all of our financial obligations. We had two very successful fall fundraisers and are truly grateful for all of your support. Don't forget that the bag tax begins January 1st, get those mixed bags in your trunk now!

Additionally, we have had record turnout at our events so far this year and wonderful volunteer support for these events. Joanna Hook makes it look so easy to organize all these fun nights out for all of us and I know you'll agree that there's nothing better than a free family night of fun! Our next scheduled event is Friday, January 27th for Pajama Reading Night – put it on your calendar now!

So many people work together to make our PTA successful that I cannot even begin to mention everyone. But, as the year ends – please know that your involvement has made a difference - To me, to your child, to GES – to your community.

As the year winds down, I wish you and your family a wonderful holiday season. Whatever you celebrate – celebrate it well! Enjoy your break and we will see you next year. 2012! Wow!

As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns at gesptapresident@yahoo.com.



Jen Brill
GES PTA President

The Visitor Management System (VMS) is now up and running. Please remember to bring a photo ID into the school if you plan on gaining entry into the building. The VMS and the door entry system provides a double layer of security for our most precious gifts – the students! Thanks for your continued patience and cooperation!



Two Hour Delay Reminders:

- ❖ Information about school delays (or closings) is announced by 6:00 a.m. on area radio and television stations, on the Internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/or at schools-out.com and on a recorded telephone message service at 301-279-3673.
- ❖ Please refrain from calling our school office. We have limited staff and find out the same way you do about school delays or early closings ... by listening to the radio, watching TV, or via email notifications.
- ❖ Students will be allowed to enter GES at 10:50 am.
- ❖ Breakfast will not be served. No recess will be held.
- ❖ Students who attend middle school math will report directly to GES in the morning.

Chorus News:



The Germantown Elementary School Winter Concert is coming up soon on Monday December 19th at 7pm, and all are invited to attend! This concert will feature our 3rd grade students on recorders, as well as the 4th and 5th grade chorus. We will perform a mix of new and traditional songs, and both groups have been working very hard over the past few months to learn and practice the music. We hope to see you there!

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.

News from Mr. Burdette about Jump Rope for Heart



Parents, we successfully completed our 18th Annual Jump Rope for Heart event. We had a total of 92 students participate in grades 2-5. Our students had an exceptional time, on Wednesday Nov. 23rd, jumping rope for an hour and a half! I would like to give a special thanks to all the students who signed up and collected donations for the American Heart Association. I would like to also thank all the parents that supported by helping their child collect donations or that showed up and helped during the Jump. Proudly I share that we have collected over \$2,700 dollars for the American Heart Association, as of this date. I will give an update on the amount of money collected by the American Heart Association when I finish collecting all the pledge sheets. Thanks to all!

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.





Here's something from the Department of Education's "countdown to success" website (a month by month

suggestion of how to help your child succeed in school). <http://www.ed.gov/parents/countdown-success>

Get ready for flu season Amp up the reminders about washing hands frequently—particularly when kids get home from school, sports, and other activities. Pay attention to school websites and newsletters for alerts about flu or other illness outbreaks. Check the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website (cdc.gov) for up-to-date information and the latest prevention advice. And be sure your family gets flu shots.

Help end bullying Take the time to talk with your children about any bullying behavior they may have seen going on at school. Before you begin the conversation, go to pta.org/bullying and stopbullying.gov to learn what you can do as a parent to instill an attitude of acceptance in your children and get help with bullying behavior if your family needs it.

Remember the teacher A simple holiday token is nice if you can swing it. Teachers particularly appreciate cards from their students, and gift cards for their favorite book, crafts, or office-supply stores. Teachers often replenish classroom supplies out of their own pay, so gift cards help cut the cost.

Practice cyber safety If your children will be spending more time online during the winter break, or if they get a new laptop or smartphone as a gift, be sure to review family rules and online behavior.



Students of the Week

Week ending December 9, 2011

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Riona
Ms. Wilson	Sabrina
Mrs. Huhn	Not available

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Ryan
Mrs. Keough	Alejandro

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Devin
Mrs. Myers	Erica

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Vanessa
Mrs. Gray	Morgan
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Matthew

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Jane
Ms. Rodriguez	Veronica

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Ethan
Mrs. Wehage	Not available

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Samuel
Mrs. Young	Joel

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Ben
---------------	-----

Patrol

Angel
