

THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 4 – September 21, 2011

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Germantown Elem. School
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Germantown, MD 20874
Phone: 301-353-8050

GES Website

Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/
schools/germantownes/

Contact: Kathy Spiro
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

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Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Finally, on Friday, the students were able to **play on the playground equipment!** I gave a quick "training" to students on how to use the equipment and which grades will use which equipment and play areas. Pre-K, PEP-C, SCB (all levels) and Kindergarten students can play on the two pieces of equipment nearest to the steps while students in grades 1-5 (and older SCB students) can play on the large piece of equipment and monkey bars near the fields. All the other equipment is shared by all. I know the students are enjoying themselves...and hopefully their compliance of the rules will ensure safety for all.

We are fortunate to **continue our education partnerships!** From the University of Maryland, we welcome Lori Ulrich as a year-long intern in Ms. Reed's class. Then from Northwest HS, we have three new student interns working with us in grades K – 2, and one intern from Seneca Valley HS working with 3rd grade. It is great to have young people working and/or giving back to their school community. It really is a mutually beneficial relationship.

I have a few more reminders to share:

- The temperature fluctuates within different areas of the building and on the playground. **Layers of clothing** are recommended so that your child can remain comfortable throughout the day! Please label all clothes, such as jackets and sweaters, so that we can identify them if your child takes them off.
- At dismissal, parents picking up their children from the car rider area should stay in their cars rather than parking and crossing in front of traffic to pick up their child. We want everyone to be safe...it might take a few moments longer but **safety comes first!**

I am going to sign 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) if you have a comment, question, or concern.



Amy D. Bryant

Principal

Dates to Remember

| | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|--|
| Sept 24 | Opening Ceremony for Saturday School 8:30 am @ Northwest HS | Oct 6 | Chorus rehearsal 3:50 – 4:40 pm |
| Sept 28 | Half day, Students dismissed at 12:55 pm. 1 st lunch period at 11:30 am; 2 nd lunch at 12:30 pm | Oct 10 | Donuts for Dads 8:45-9:15 am Columbus Day parent visitation/ Open House (am) |
| Sept 29 | Holiday – School Closed | Oct 11 | California Tortilla Restaurant Fundraiser, 5-9 pm |
| Sept 30 | Interims go home (grades 1-5) | Oct 13 | iWalk Walk-a-Thon |
| Oct 4 | PTA Meeting, 7-8 pm | Oct 28 | Harvest Dance, 7-9 pm |

PTA News

Letter from the PTA President

As September winds to a close, the PTA is just starting to ramp up. Our second annual walk-a-thon, the iWalk, kicked off today! This fantastic event is our main PTA fundraiser, in addition to being a whole lot of fun! Ask anyone who was involved last year – it was a great time. Your child should come home tonight with their pledge book and more details on this event taking place on October 13th. We are so excited to bring this event back to GES this fall and hope everyone is looking forward to walking again. In addition to the iWalk, we have lots of exciting events coming up over the next month, so I'll get right to them.



- Our **Mixed Bags** fundraiser ended last Friday and we are so thankful for everyone's interest in these bags. Thanks to you, we've raised over \$3,000 for GES PTA programs! Look for your bags to arrive in early to mid-October.
- **After school club** registration forms are due this Friday, September 23rd. As a reminder, we are offering three clubs this fall; Cook with Books for grades K-2 and Mad Science or Young Rembrandts for grades K-5. Please contact Claudia Goldman with any questions at cvgoldman@verizon.net. Clubs begin meeting on Friday, October 7th.
- **Donuts for Dads** will be held on Monday, October 10th from 8:40 to 9:15 am in the Media Center. All

students are invited to bring their dads or male father figures for donuts and coffee to start the day off. Don't miss this wonderful event.

- **Harvest Dance:** Mark your calendars for the big dance! We all (kids and parents!) have so much fun showing off our costumes. There will be pizza, drinks and snacks for sale, costume contests, and lots of dancing. Please join us Friday, October 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.
- Our next **PTA meeting** will be held Tuesday, October 4th at 7 pm in the Media Center. We try to keep these meetings short and sweet, hoping to get you home by 8pm. In addition to the regular business of the PTA, Ms. Bryant is always present to keep us up to date on any school news. Meetings are a great opportunity to be "in the know" and I highly encourage you to attend. **Bar-T has agreed to provide free childcare during our meetings this year, so please come!**

This will be our last weekly newsletter. Our next Patriot will arrive Wednesday, October 5th and then every other Wednesday going forward. In an effort to cut down on paper usage, we will also be sending home one copy per family via your youngest GES student. I know I sure could use a little less paper in my house!

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



Jen Brill

GES PTA President



703-407-1162 or joannahook@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping with this event.

iWalk Volunteers: On October 13th we will hold our second annual walk-a-thon. We need tons of volunteers to help with everything from set up, lap tallying and snacks. If you can dedicate any portion of your day on the 13th, please contact Kimmi Photinakis at georgeandkimmi@msn.com.

Calling all Photographers: Do you love to take pictures of your kids and their friends at school events? We need you! The majority of our yearbook pictures are candid shots taken by parents and students. Please think of us as you take pictures during the year and send us any you think we may like. We're already looking for pictures from the back to school picnic, the first day of school and classroom action. Please share! Send any photos to Kimmi Photinakis at georgeandkimmi@msn.com.



Harvest Dance Volunteers: For Friday, October 28th from 7:00 to 9:00 pm to help with planning, setting-up, decorations, admissions, concessions, crafts and clean-up. This is a great opportunity for SSL hours and for everyone to see all the creative Halloween costumes our students and parents come up with. Contact Joanna Hook at 703-407-1162 or joannahook@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEALS

Menus are printed with menu selections for two months. Menus are sent home prior to the first day of each new month. Hot lunches are served daily with alternate choices. Due to the number of students with peanut allergies, our third menu choice will be grilled cheese.

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MEAL PRICES

| | |
|------------------------------|--------|
| Lunch Meal | \$2.50 |
| Reduced Price Lunch Meal | \$0.40 |
| Breakfast Meal | \$1.30 |
| Reduced Price Breakfast Meal | \$0.00 |
| Milk | \$0.60 |

The SNAP program is a system that sets up individual accounts for student monies to purchase meals. Reminders will be sent home when your child's balance starts to get low. Checks or cash may be submitted at any time to deposit money into an account. Please make sure that your child's name and pin number are included with the deposit. **You may also deposit money and check your child's account balance at www.myLunchMoney.com.**



If a student does not have sufficient funds for a lunch, the amount needed will be charged to the student's account and reflect a negative balance. Money that is deposited on a student's account by the parent/guardian which has a negative balance will be applied to the negative balance first and the remaining funds will be available for meal purchases. The cafeteria manager will print a report of students with a negative balance and a total of all negative balances to the school office. **Per the Division of School and Nutrition Services, after June 1st, the cafeteria will no longer be allowed to let a child's account go into a negative status. Any money left in a child's account will rollover to the next school year.**

Remember, for direct access to your child's SNAP account visit: www.myLunchMoney.com

FREE/REDUCED MEALS APPLICATION FORMS

Free and Reduced application forms need to be turned in as soon as possible if you wish to apply. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services have thousands of applications to process.

Students who received meal benefits last year must have an

application approved by October 11, 2011 in order to continue receiving free or reduced-price meals. Students may use their eligibility from the previous school year until a new application is approved or October 11, whichever comes first. After October 11, all students who do not have an approved application for the current year must pay for meals until a new application is processed.



Mark Your Calendar!

Early Release Day: Wednesday, Sept. 28—Students Dismissed at 12:55 p.m.

No School on Thursday, September, 29— Rosh Hashanah Holiday

Montgomery College Workforce Development & Continuing Education YOUTH PROGRAMS

is offering

KIDS COLLEGE

Enrichment and advancement courses for students in grades 2 - 12

These courses, held on the Rockville campus, cover a wide range of topics including:

- Aggressive Learning for Middle School Students
- Financial Fitne\$\$ for Teens
- Keyboarding for Computers
- Leadership Skills
- Teen Fiction Writing (online)
- Mathematics Enrichment Program
- Music Preparatory Program
- And more...

Courses fill quickly, so register now!

For brochures or registration forms, access our website at <http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/wdce/youthpdf/kidscollege.pdf>

For additional information, contact **YOUTH PROGRAMS** office at 240-567-7264 or 240-567-7917.

Asistencia en Español Disponible



Homework Hotline Live is off to a fast start!

Homework Hotline Live is back, all this week. Call with your homework questions from 4 to 6 pm, and text from the Hotline website or your phone until 9 at night! Call 301-279-3234 or go to Ask HHL.org.

Students of the Week

Week ending September 16, 2011

Kindergarten

| | |
|---------------|--------|
| Mrs. Brooking | Andrew |
| Ms. Wilson | Derek |
| Mrs. Huhn | Jabari |

First Grade

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Mrs. Lea | Ayushi |
| Mrs. Keough | Dimas |

Second Grade

| | |
|---------------------|--------|
| Mrs. Chamberlain | Julia |
| Mrs. Myers | Rachel |
| Mrs. LaMonica-Hayas | Daniel |

Third Grade

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| Mrs. Jacobs | Gisandra |
| Mrs. Gray | Connor |

Fourth Grade

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Mrs. Boucher | Matthew |
| Ms. Rodriguez | Kobey |

Fifth Grade

| | |
|--------------|-------|
| Ms. Marino | Rohit |
| Mrs. Wehage | Danny |
| Ms. Reed | Timmy |
| Mrs. Shumsky | Jacob |

PEP-C

| | |
|------------|----------|
| Mrs. Ho | Clifford |
| Mrs. Young | Omar |

Pre-Kindergarten

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| Mrs. Harrigan | Benedict |
|---------------|----------|

Patrol

Elias

The George B. Thomas, Sr. Learning Academy, Inc.



Saturday School

Low cost tutoring and mentoring program for Montgomery County students in grades 1-12.

Saturday mornings September 24, 2011-April 21, 2012
8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. at Northwest HS (breakfast provided at 8:00 a.m.)

Parents must register in person at the Saturday School Center that their child will attend.

\$50 Registration fee per student. For more information go to: www.gbtlearningacademy.org



Hispanic-American Heritage Month is September 15th to October 15



PTA Membership

Have you joined or renewed your PTA membership yet? If not, you should get to it because this is the ***last chance to take advantage of the \$2 Spiritwear Coupon*** offered to members that join by **September 30th**! Of course you can join the PTA at any time throughout the year, but why wait when you can save?

The PTA is a completely volunteer run organization, and thanks to our wonderful parents and teachers, we are able to provide our kids with big school amenities while keeping our neighborhood school feel. Joining the PTA doesn't mean that you will get sucked in to countless volunteer commitments (unless you want to!). It does mean that you become a more active participant in your child's education. Germantown's PTA is a crucial part of our small school and we need **you** to make a difference.

Our membership drive has been a HUGE success so far this year but let's work together to surpass our numbers from last year and reach our goals in just the first month of school! A membership form is attached or can be found on the PTA's website – www.ges-pta.org. If you were a member last year, then renewing is easy...

1. Log in at www.ges-pta.org using your email & password
2. Click on "profile" – located under your name in the login box
3. Edit your profile – click "save" when complete
4. Under the "membership details" section, click on the button "renew until September 2012"
5. Follow the directions to complete your renewal.

Please feel free to contact me at gesmembership@gmail.com or (301) 972-0966 if you have any questions.

Kimmi Photinakis
GES PTA Vice President, Membership

**Please see below for upcoming
Montgomery County Public Schools
Parent Academy workshops and events:**

Monday, September 19, 2011

**Special Education: Parents as Advocates and the
Family-School Partnership (part 2 of 4)**

6:30-8:30pm

Learn about the special education process and how to advocate for your child. Topics include the Individual Disabilities Education Act, Individualized Education Program (IEP), resolving issues, community resources and support. Learn, network and share tips with other parents. This is the first of a series of four Parent E.A.S.E. workshops facilitated by the Montgomery County Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. Dinner is provided and served at 6:30pm Galway Elementary School, 12612 Galway Dr., Silver Spring 20904

Monday, September 19, 2011

MCPS Safety and Security Codes

7:00-8:30pm

For well over a decade, Code Blue and Code Red procedures have been used to keep students safe during emergencies that occur on or near school grounds. New federal safety guidelines contained in the National Incident Management System (NIMS) have since been adopted by both Maryland and Montgomery County. Come learn about the new guidelines as well as Lockdown—Evacuate—Shelter (LES), MCPS's updated emergency preparedness program. The program complies with NIMS guidelines and will be implemented in the 2011-2012 school year. Thomas W. Pyle MS, 6311 Wilson Ln., Bethesda 20817

Wednesday, September 21, 2011

Help! My Child is Disorganized!

Is your child's backpack ready to burst? Are her assignments often overdue? Does he lose his homework? Does she put off her research project until the last minute? An expert from Your Life Simplified, Inc., will discuss the factors that may be contributing to your child's disorganization. You also will learn skills that you can teach your child to be organized for

success in school.

Argyle MS, 2400 Bel Pre Road, Silver Spring 20906

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Munch on a Healthy School Lunch!

6:30-8:30pm

Bring your children with you to learn more about how to select healthy school lunch options that pack a punch for school and sports performance. Activities include a fun healthy eating video, games, Q&A with doctors and nutritionists from Kaiser Permanente and much more! This interactive session will be offered in both English and Spanish.

Kaiser Permanente Germantown Medical Center, 20407 Seneca Meadows Parkway, Germantown 20876

Thursday, September 22, 2011

Curriculum 2.0 Information Night

7:00-8:30pm

Curriculum 2.0 has been developed to create a more exciting learning experience for our students in Grades K-5. Built upon the existing Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) curriculum, Curriculum 2.0 blends reading/language arts and mathematics instruction with lessons in science, social studies, music, art, and physical education in a way that spurs creativity and critical thinking skills. Come learn about the new curriculum at this session.

Gaithersburg Elementary School, 35 North Summit Ave., Gaithersburg 20877

Childcare and interpretation services are provided at all workshops.

To register and learn more about the Parent Academy, visit

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/>

You can also "like" the Parent Academy on facebook to get more updates about workshops and tips for helping to support your child's learning

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/MCPS-Parent-Academy/139362779441525>



★ PATRIOTS ★

Spiritwear Order Form 2011 – 2012

Orders will be collected and processed bi-monthly.
You can expect to receive your order in about 3 weeks.

ORDER DEADLINE – OCTOBER 28TH

STEP 1: REVIEW YOUR OPTIONS

| Description | Colors Available | Sizes Available | Unit Price |
|-----------------------|------------------|--|------------|
| Youth T-Shirt | Navy, Red, Grey | SM, MED, LG | \$9 |
| Men's T-Shirt | Navy, Red, Grey | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2), XXXL (+\$3) | \$10 |
| Women's T-Shirt | Navy, Red | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2), XXXL (+\$3) | \$10 |
| Men's Polo | Navy, Grey | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2), XXXL (+\$3) | \$15 |
| Women's Polo | Navy, Grey | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2) | \$15 |
| Youth Pullover Hoodie | Navy | SM, MED, LG | \$14 |
| Adult Pullover Hoodie | Navy | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2) | \$18 |
| Youth Zip Hoodie | Navy | SM, MED, LG | \$16 |
| Adult Zip Hoodie | Navy | SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL (+\$2) | \$20 |
| Visor | Navy, Red | One Size | \$10 |
| Baseball Hat | Navy, White | One Size | \$10 |

STEP 2: CHOOSE YOUR MERCHANDISE

| Description | Color Choice | Size | Quantity | Price |
|-------------|--------------|------|----------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

STEP 3: SUBMIT PAYMENT DETAILS *(Membership coupon must be attached in order to be applied.)*

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| STUDENT'S NAME..... | # ITEMS ORDERED..... |
| TEACHER'S NAME..... | SUBTOTAL..... |
| GRADE..... | MEMBERSHIP COUPON..... |
| <i>Make Checks Payable to: Germantown ES PTA</i> | TOTAL DUE..... |

For PTA use only

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|
| ORDER RECEIVED | CASH OR CHECK # | DELIVERED |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------|