

# THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 3 – September 14, 2011

## IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message	1
Dates to Remember	1
PTA News	2
Help Wanted	3
Students of the Week	4
Special Needs Matter	5
Mixed Bag Flier	6

**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,

Our **new playground equipment** is installed and looks fantastic! Our school was slated to receive one piece of new equipment but due to the age of our former pieces and my strong advocacy, we received 2 pieces of playing equipment, an upper body climbing apparatus, two checker board picnic tables, a bench, and two "pop-ups". I know our students are eager to go out to play; however, we are required to wait for the inspection approval process. Good things come to those that wait!

**Back to School Night** was well-attended. I hope you learned a lot about your child's academic plans for the year and that you had an opportunity to meet some other GES families. If you want more information about the curriculum at your child's grade level, you may visit the following link: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/elementary/guides.aspx>. As promised, I held a drawing for all the parents who participated in the BTSN BINGO and turned in their forms. Mrs. Elizabeth Wyatt-Benjamin, mother of Keylah, won the prize! She was extremely friendly by talking to a lot of people—she had every box except one signed on her sheet!

This week is **Maryland Home Grown School Lunch Week**. If you looked at your September lunch menu you would see that the following Maryland grown fruits and vegetables were served with school purchased lunches this week: grape tomatoes, watermelon, red pepper strips,

cantaloupe and honeydew, peaches or plums. I tasted a few of the fresh produce offerings and they were delicious! ☺ Visit [www.marylandsbest.net](http://www.marylandsbest.net) to find out more!

The staff and I want to thank all the students who turned in their **summer reading and math packets**. We can easily see which students worked on academics during the summer – their hard work is evident in their classroom performance these first few weeks of school. Students who completed math packets received a Dunkin Doughnut treat certificate while students who completed their reading packets received a Chick-Fil-A treat certificate. Kindergarten students received their treat certificates at the spring Orientation in anticipation of their summer work completion. Enjoy!

I'd like to share some additional reminders (to the ones I provided the past two weeks), which will help our school year run more smoothly. They are as follows:

- As we know the Assess Control System (ACS) is now up and running to provide a layer of safety and security for our students and staff. I need everyone's patience in getting "buzzed" in. A secretary needs to "buzz" visitors in. If they stepped away from their desks, are helping others within the office or are on the phone it might delay your entry. A slight delay is sometimes the price we pay to keep our loved ones safe....but don't you think it is worthwhile? Your **patience is necessary** and greatly appreciated!

*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Dates to Remember

<b>Sept 16</b>	Mixed Bag Orders Due	<b>Sept 29</b>	Holiday—School Closed
<b>Sept 21</b>	Fall Grounds Cleanup, 3:45-5 pm	<b>Sept 30</b>	<b>Interims</b> go home (grades 1-5)
<b>Sept 28</b>	Half day, Students dismissed at 12:55 pm. 1 <sup>st</sup> lunch period at 11:30 am; 2 <sup>nd</sup> lunch at 12:30 pm	<b>Oct 4</b>	PTA Meeting, 7 pm

(Principal's Message continued)

- The ConnectEd calling system is a communication device utilized by the school system to get **important recorded messages** to our staff and/or families. Oftentimes, when a ConnectEd message is sent, numerous parents immediately call the school asking, "Did you just call me? I got a phone call from this number." Please listen to your message instead of calling right back. These numerous phone calls tie up our phone lines unnecessarily.
- Speaking of phone calls, I respectfully ask that parents **call the main school number 301-353-8050** instead of calling the number they see on their caller ID. We have numerous phone lines that staff can use to call out on but most of those numbers don't ring aloud here when parents call us. That is why some of your calls go unanswered. Please save the school's main line in your phone address book (301-353-8050) and the health room line

(301-353-0898) as well. That will help reduce frustration some may feel when trying to contact your child's teacher or other staff. Listening to your saved voice mail message prior to calling back the numbers listed in your Caller ID will be also helpful and reduce frustration.

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



Amy D. Bryant  
Principal

## PTA News

### Letter from the PTA President

Wow! What a beginning to the school year. Earthquakes, hurricanes, flooding... what's next!? Hopefully things are settling down, and we can settle into our new routines. We had a great turnout at back to school night and I'd especially like to thank all the PTA volunteers who ran our tables: Kimmi Photinakis, Louise Basore, Yvette Bordini, Lorelei Castro, Nancy Dofflemyer, Sharon Astill, Revonne Johnson, Analisa Urcia and Claudia Goldman. Also a big extra thanks to Sharon Astill for inviting the Giant rep to help sign everyone up for the Giant A+ Bucks. Last year we earned over \$1,000 just by grocery shopping! What a super easy way to support our school!

- As I mentioned at back to school night – we'd really love you to **join the PTA**. I can't say it enough – we need you! The families and staff at Germantown are what make it such a wonderful place. Join before 9/30 and you can still get your \$2 coupon towards GES spiritwear! The class with the highest membership at 10/31 will win the PTA Travelling Cookie Jar–yum yum!
- **After-school club** forms were sent home last week. We are offering 3 clubs this fall – Cook with Books for the K-2 students, and Mad Science and Young Rembrandts for grades K-5. All clubs are offered Fridays from 3:40-4:40pm. Enrollment is limited, so

please make sure to get your forms in quickly. Please contact Claudia Goldman at [cvgoldman@verizon.net](mailto:cvgoldman@verizon.net) with any questions.

- The **Mixed Bag fundraiser** ends this Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. Please make sure that you send in your order forms and payment by Friday. Just stick them in your child's red folder and they will get to us. All checks should be made out to GES PTA. There are bag displays in the office and in the display case just outside the APR if you want to browse before you purchase.
- Our **fall cleanup day** is next Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. Please come out and help us get rid of all these weeds the rain has left us. We'll meet at 3:45 in front of the school. Bring your gardening gear, or we will supply you. Siblings are welcome, but all children must be supervised.
- This week you'll notice a section in our newsletter called "Special Needs Matter." Thanks to our parent volunteer, Vanessa Jones, for providing this valuable information. This section will appear once a month and is designed to let us all know about events and issues affecting our special needs population.

You will receive one more weekly newsletter, and then we will go bi-monthly. In the meantime, if you have any questions – please feel free to contact me at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com).



*Jen Brill*

GES PTA President



**MCCPTA Delegate Needed:**

The PTA is still in need of one additional Delegate to complete our Executive Board. The MCCPTA Delegate represents GES at the county PTA meetings, once every other month. This is a great way to get involved with more broad based MCPS issues and make the GES voice heard at the county level. Please contact Jen Brill at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com) if you're interested.

**In Search of NAACP Parent Council Representative:**

The school/PTA still needs a NAACP Parent Council Rep for the 2011-2012 school year. Please contact Ms. Bryant if you are interested.

**Volunteers for iWalk Walkathon**

The iWalk will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> this year. We will need many parent volunteers to make this event run smoothly. We are also still looking to have some prizes donated. If you can help either the day of the event or with planning, please contact Kimmi Photinakis at [georgeandkimmi@msn.com](mailto:georgeandkimmi@msn.com)



**Calling all Fall Cleanup Helpers:**

Our fall cleanup date is Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>. We will need volunteers that day to help tidy up the beds and yard around school. Additionally, we are planning to paint the white retaining wall in the student pick-up parking lot. The school is providing the paint, and we will provide the labor. We are in need of a paint sprayer or other materials to make the job go quickly. If you have painting equipment, or know someone who may be able to donate some for the afternoon – please contact Donna Banting at [Donna.Banting@comcast.net](mailto:Donna.Banting@comcast.net).



In case you've misplaced the catalog, you can go to the link below and click on the fundraiser catalog on the left side (w/ the little girl looking up at all the bags) to see what's available or pick up an extra catalog in the main office.



<http://fundraiser.mixedbagdesigns.com/>

Please contact Kimmi Photinakis at [georgeandkimmi@msn.com](mailto:georgeandkimmi@msn.com) for any questions.

**School-Sponsored After School Clubs!**

Soon Ms. Bryant will begin registration for our **school-sponsored after school clubs**. The clubs will meet on Tuesdays from 3:40-4:40 starting October 4<sup>th</sup> and ending on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have a great but small line-up for the first semester's sessions! We would love to have some parent volunteers to sponsor some clubs. Please contact Ms. Bryant if you might be interested.

- HW Club - Grades 2-5 (Mrs. Castellano)
- MSA Prep Club - Grades 3-5 (Mrs. Gray)
- Critical Thinking Club – Grades TBD (Ms. Cole and Mrs. Myers)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (The sponsor could be YOU!)



**Hispanic-American Heritage Month is September 15<sup>th</sup> to October 15**

**Attention Parents of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders!**

Please Read to find out about 2 opportunities for your children:

**The Middle School Magnet Program at Roberto Clemente Middle School (RCMS).** The Center for Accelerated & Enriched courses in Humanities/Communication and Math/Science/Computer Science. The timeline of important dates remember is as follows:

Information Session for 5 <sup>th</sup> graders at GES	Wed, 9/14
Applications & Test Prep materials available at school & online <a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms</a>	Fri, 9/23
Information Night at RCMS	Thurs, 10/13 7pm
Deadline for Applications	Mon, 11/7

**The Middle School Magnet Consortium** – Made up of 3 Middle Schools: Argyle, Loiederman & Parkland. Since students in the Germantown area live outside the boundaries for these 3 Middle Schools, our students are eligible to participate in the Choice Process. All students who apply for the Choice Process will be placed into a lottery and may be selected to attend one of the above Middle Schools. The timeline of important dates remember is as follows:

Information Meeting at Albert Einstein HS	Thurs, 9/22, 7 pm
Information Meeting at Magruder HS	Tues, 9/27, 7pm
Open House at Argyle MS	Wed, 10/5, 7pm
Open House at Loiederman MS	Wed, 10/12, 7pm
Choice Process forms	Fri, 10/14

available at school & online <a href="http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms">www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms</a>	
Open House at Parkland MS	Wed, 10/26, 7pm
Deadline for Applications	Mon, 11/7



**Students of the Week**

Week ending September 9, 2011

**Kindergarten**

Mrs. Brooking Paige  
 Ms. Wilson Milan  
 Mrs. Huhn Ana

**First Grade**

Mrs. Lea Gabrielle  
 Mrs. Keough Saaya  
 Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes Logan

**Second Grade**

Mrs. Chamberlain Connor  
 Mrs. Myers Connie

**Third Grade**

Mrs. Jacobs Liyha  
 Mrs. Gray Ria  
 Ms. Reed Eric

**Fourth Grade**

Mrs. Boucher Donovan  
 Ms. Rodriguez Saykon

**Fifth Grade**

Ms. Marino Turhan  
 Mrs. Wehage Anna  
 Mrs. Shumsky Justin

**PEP-C**

Mrs. Ho Regina  
Mrs. Young Gregory

**Pre-Kindergarten**  
Mrs. Harrigan Immanuel

**Patrol** Matthew

- **Bouncing Fun** ~ Our autistic children and their families are invited for a super time at Pump It Up! in Gaithersburg, MD. Allowing a special time for the kids and parents, this event is closed to the public. \$5 per child. Pizza and drinks are included. Divided by age, two different times are offered for the date of **October 2, 2011**. Autistic children 9 and under play from 3-4:30PM, and ages 10+ will play from 4:30-6PM. Reservations are required. Please email your RSVP with a 'head count' at [wellenby@verizon.net](mailto:wellenby@verizon.net).

## Special Needs Matter

Resources for our students with special needs, and their families. [vanessajonespr@yahoo.com](mailto:vanessajonespr@yahoo.com)

### OUT and ABOUT!

- **Sports Plus Fall Programs** ~ Beginning **September 24, 2011**, Sports Plus is offering outdoor and indoor sports: soccer, track and field, and swimming. For locations and details, 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 **September 24, 2011**, from 9 -9:45AM. 240-777-6870.
- **Fun Rhythm and Roll** ~ Engage in playful, rhythmic movement for fitness and coordination. Those in wheelchairs or using other mobility devices are welcome. Classes are held in Holiday Park SC, on Saturdays starting **September 24, 2011** from 10-10:45AM. 240-777-6870.
- **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 **September 24, 2011**, from 5-7PM, in Rockville, MD. Cost is \$7pp. Call 301-841-7412 or email [lpoznanski@havenuniverse.org](mailto:lpoznanski@havenuniverse.org)
- **Fun Family Time At The Movies!**  
**DOLPHIN TALE** ~ playing on **October 1, 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.



### ACTION AND INFORMATION

- **Support Group** ~ The MC Chapter of the Autism Society will hold its parent support group on the second Thursday of each month, beginning **September, 2011**. Meetings are held from 7:30-9PM in Rockville MD. Visit: [autismmontgomerycounty.com](http://autismmontgomerycounty.com).
- **One Day Seminar on ADHD** ~ *Where is My Child's Self-Control?* Come listen to internationally recognized ADHD authority, Russell Barkley, PhD. He will be discussing aspects of ADHD such as: self-regulation and understanding the relationship of ADHD in the child's environment. This seminar will be held on **September 22, 2011**, from 7:30-9PM., in Rockville, MD. Please call 301-881-3700.



### BOOKS FOR REVIEW

*The following books can be purchased from Amazon.*

- **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.*
- **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.*
- **Therapeutic Massage and Bodywork for Autism Spectrum Disorders**  
*This book is geared for parents and caregivers interested in the benefits of therapeutic massage and bodywork for children and adolescents.*

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