

THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 6 — October 19, 2011

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Phone: 301-353-8050

GES Website
Montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/

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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,

It was **great seeing so many of you** at the annual Donuts for Dads and Open House events last Monday. I am sure each of the Dads enjoyed starting their day off with a cup of coffee, donuts, and additional time with their child(ren). And parents who stayed for the parent visitation were wowed, I am sure, by the excellent teaching and learning taking place at GES each day!

I have a **few staff updates** to share:

- First, congratulatory wishes go to Gerry Reed, SCB teacher. She got married this past Saturday to GES alumnus, Walter Horbatuk, who also happens to be the son of fellow Germantown staff member, Ellen Horbatuk. I know you join me in wishing the happy couple well!
- It is with mixed feelings that I must share that my administrative assistant, Laurie Lyons, accepted a new position within the MCPS Dept. of Facilities Management. This is a great opportunity for her to grow professionally. Mrs. Lyons has been with us for 8 years...her wonderful personality and organization will be sorely missed. Her last day will be October 31. I know you join me in

in wishing her well in her new endeavors. An advertisement for a new assistant has been posted.

- Sadly, I must also share that Terri Schuster, school nurse, will also be leaving us in early November. She will be transferring to the Emergency Preparedness Division of MC Dept. of Health and Human Services. It is a wonderful opportunity for her to participate in county-wide planning and development of Emergency Preparedness programs, education, etc. Mrs. Schuster was with us one day a week. Plans for a replacement will be shared shortly.

Our annual **Halloween parade and class parties** are coming soon! Each will take place on Friday, October 28th. Weather permitting, the parade will be on the upper playground area. Students will be allowed to change before the parade begins at 2 o'clock. Students should NOT wear their costumes and/or make-up to school. Also remember that no bloody costumes or weapon-like accessories are allowed! If you do not want your child to participate in the festivities, please send a note to your child's teacher as soon as possible so we can arrange an alternate activity in the media center.

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Dates to Remember

Oct 20	PTA iWalk	Nov 4	Principal Chats, K-2 nd @ 9:30 am; grades 3-5 th @ 10 am
Oct 21	School Closed	Nov 8	Fall Student Portraits Clubs meet
Oct 28	Halloween Parade/Parties, 2 pm PTA Harvest Dance 7-9 pm	Nov 9	GES fundraiser @ Milano's 5-9 pm
Oct 31	School Closed	Nov 10-11	Early Dismissal, parent conferences
Nov 1	PTA Meeting, 7-8:30 pm Clubs meet	Nov 11	Flu Clinic for GES Students, 1:30-3:30 pm

Principal's Message continued

Sadly, the greater Germantown community experienced a **very public and tragic loss** – the deaths of William McQuain and his mother, Jane. William played football with some of our students and just hearing about the case may have caused anxiety and uncertainty in some students and their parents. The enclosed article may provide you with some guidance on how to help your child with his or her fears. Let's keep William's extended family and his former and current school communities - Great Seneca Creek ES and MLK Middle School - in our thoughts.

Remember, there is **no school on Friday**. Have a peaceful three-day weekend! 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) if you have a comment, question, or concern.



Amy D. Bryant
Principal

PTA News

Letter from the PTA President

It's hard to believe that October is almost over already. We've had so much going on already, but there's so much more to come!

A great big thanks to all the parents who came out to paint our retaining wall with a fresh bright coat of white paint and put a new sheen on some of our blue doors. My favorite part is the new blue handrail leading up to the playground – so fun! A big thanks to Donna Banting for getting everything organized!

We had a great turnout for Donuts for Dads this year - as usual. It was so great to see how proud all the kids were to show off their dads and to show their school to their fathers. I especially loved that after all the kids left for class many dads stuck around to chat with each other. This is definitely one of the things that I love most about GES – the sense of community.

Unfortunately, Mother Nature did not cooperate and we had to postpone our **iWalk until this Thursday, 10/20**. This is always the chance we take with planning a large outdoor event, but it will be worth the wait! Remember, last year we walked on our rain date and it was a gorgeous day! We're always looking for volunteers, and we'll definitely put you to work if you want to come and watch your child walk. I encourage you to come out – it's a super fun day and you can't help but leave with a smile on your face! See page 3 for more information on the iWalk.

Next **Friday, 10/28** will be a fun packed day for everyone. The GES Halloween parade and class parties will occur in the afternoon, and the PTA sponsored **Harvest Dance will be at 7pm** that evening. We will have a DJ, costume contests and lots of concessions. This is our only event all year where we charge admission - \$1.50 for PTA

members/\$2.50 for non-members. Parents, this is not a drop off event – you or another adult must stay with your child for the duration of the dance. Make sure to check in at the front table when you arrive as this is a "Cookie Jar" event.

Our membership drive is coming to a close shortly, and we have a record number of PTA members already. If you haven't joined yet – it's not too late, see the attached form or join online at www.ges-pta.org. In addition to discounted admission to the Harvest Dance, you also receive a copy of the school directory – an invaluable tool for reaching other GES families. Directories will be going out to all families by the week of the 24th. Get yours while you can.

Last, but not least, over the past week I've asked you to respond to a request for your opinions regarding the upcoming feasibility study recommendations and I thank all of your heartfelt responses. The Superintendent is expected to announce his recommendations on 10/28 and I will share that recommendation with you as soon as it is released. In the meantime, it appears that the majority of respondents (64%) would prefer that MCPS build a new school at a new location, with a majority of those responses also preferring that GES be modernized in the near future. Based on this feedback, the PTA will begin to formulate a position for our testimony before the Board of Education and we will formalize this position at our November 1st PTA meeting. I encourage you to attend this meeting. Bar-T has graciously offered to provide childcare for all our meeting this year – so you can't use your kids as an excuse not to come. You don't have to be a member to come (but, come on – why wouldn't you join!?) and we'd love to see you.

I truly appreciate all of your input and assistance that help make GES and the GES PTA such a wonderful place to be.

As always, please feel free to contact me at any time at gesptapresident@yahoo.com.



Jen Brill
GES PTA President



iWalk Volunteers: On October 20th 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 20th, please contact 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 can help.

STORE REWARDS REMINDERS

1. The first Box Tops For Education submission deadline of the school year is rapidly approaching. Thank you to all who have sent Box Tops in to school over recent months. I'll be collecting Box Tops from the collection boxes throughout the school later this month. If you have Box Tops at home, please send them into school by Monday, October 24th.

2. The Giant A+ School Rewards program began October 7th and runs until March 29, 2012. It's not too late to register your Giant card with this program. If you register prior to October 31st, GES will receive credit for all of your October purchases. Visit www.giantfood.com/aplus to register your card (if you do not know your card number you can call the Giant hotline 1-877-366-2668, option 2). The GES school ID is 00786. If you participated in the program last year you are still required to register your card for the current school year.

3. It's not too late to renew your Safeway Club Card with the eScrip program. Go to www.escrip.com to renew or register your card with the program. The GES school ID is 6507698. Renewal of Safeway club cards with this program ends November 1st.

Thank you for supporting these programs which enables the school to purchase materials for education.

If you have any questions please contact me at sharon@astill.org.

Sharon Astill
PTA Store Rewards Coordinator

THE iWALK is HERE!

Germantown Elementary's 2nd Annual Walk-A-Thon is tomorrow, Thursday, October 20th! The kids will be walking with their classes at their assigned times:

- K, 1, 3, PEP-C at 11:00
- 2, 4, 5 at 1:15
- Pre-K at 2:30



Thanks to all the parents who have already offered to volunteer at the event. As usual, we can always use more help – so please stop by if you find you have some free time.

The course measures approximately 1/10 of a mile out on our soccer field behind the school and the kids will be walking as many laps as they can in approximately 30 minutes. The weather forecast is predicting partly sunny skies but it will be a little chilly, so please dress accordingly. All students will walk, regardless of whether or not they have received pledges. Students should be wearing comfortable shoes and clothing and bring a filled water bottle with their name on it if possible. We will provide additional water during the walk and a healthy snack afterwards.

Pledge booklets will still be accepted up until the day of the walk and you can even continue to collect money right up until the NEW DEADLINE for turning in pledge money of November 4th! Every dollar counts and will go directly towards supporting your PTA. Remember, only students who collect pledges and have their pledges turned in by November 4th will be eligible for prizes. Prizes will be determined by total amount received by PTA on November 4th.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Castellano who will be leading the students in their pre-walk stretches and to Mr. Burdette who will be our official iWalk emcee. We hope you are as excited as we are to get walking!

LAST CALL for SPIRITWEAR!



The deadline for all spiritwear orders is October 28th. We will not be selling any more of our new merchandise for the

rest of the year, so if you're interested...now's the time to get your order in. Don't wait. Order form is attached to the end of this Patriot.

The Book Fair is Coming!



Reading is the most important skill you can teach a child. Of all the skills children learn, it is the one you can influence the most. We invite you to visit our **Scholastic Book Fair** and experience a celebration of reading that provides families the opportunity to get involved in a universal mission: **encouraging kids to read every day so they can lead better lives.**

Our Scholastic Book Fair theme – **To the Book Fair and Beyond!** – is part of an out-of-this-world reading event that brings to school a wonderful selection of fun, engaging, and affordable books kids want to read. Giving kids access to good books and the opportunity to choose their own books will motivate them to read more. And like most acquired skills, the more kids practice reading, the better they'll get. Reading is vital to every child's success, and raising kids as readers means getting involved while they're young. Now is the time!

Book Fair Dates: October 24- October 28

Shopping Hours: M-F 9:30 am – 3:30 pm

**Evening Hours: T 9:30 am – 8:00 pm;
F 9:30 am – 7:30pm**

School Health Services Offer Seasonal FluMist Vaccine at School Clinics

School Health Services and MCPS will conduct free nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) clinics at Einstein High School in Kensington and Seneca Valley High School in Germantown on October 31st for school aged children in Montgomery County.



School Health Services will also conduct free, after-school nasal spray flu vaccine clinics in all MCPS elementary schools for students enrolled at the school. Those clinics will take place on November 10th and November 11th, which are early release days for students.

The clinic at Germantown ES will take place on November 10th starting at 1:30 pm.

Notification letters, consent forms, and vaccine information statements were provided to students in early October. Form more information about the upcoming clinics and the FluMist, visit the following websites:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/>
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/flu>

The injectable seasonal flu vaccine will be available, at no charge, at other DHHS flu clinics at various locations in the county, October through December. Visit <http://www.mongomerycountymd.gov/flu> or call 311 for county locations. Flu vaccine may also be available from your health care provider.

Online Resources at Home

1. Access the Montgomery County Public Schools home page (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/>)
2. Click on "Parents and Students" near the top of the page.
3. Select the "Online Services" tab below the photograph.
4. Under "Homework Subscription Services," click on the "Homework Resources" link.
5. Select an online service under the "Online Subscriptions" tab.
6. Click on the link for the selected online service and you may be prompted for a login and password.

GES Chorus News



I want to let you all know about some exciting changes in chorus rehearsals this year. Instead of having rehearsals primarily during the school day, we are having a hybrid of after school and in-school rehearsals. In order to maximize both classroom instruction and choral rehearsal times, we have hour long rehearsals every Thursday after school. For the students who aren't able to participate after school, we also have full-chorus in-school rehearsals every 3rd Friday. I also started a new chorus website this year, in order to keep parents and students up to date on concert and rehearsal schedules, and give students the resources to practice their songs at home. More info about the website will be coming home soon!

See below list of the online resources available to our students, both at home and in school. Most of the resources require log-ins and passwords when used from home. Keep the list in a spot near your home computer for easy access! **Type in login and password below to access online resources.**

**2011-12 Online Resources Home Use
Germantown Elementary Logins and Passwords**

Service	URL – or use links on MCPS website (see instructions below)	Login	Password
Annals of American History	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search
Culture Grams – country information	http://www.proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps
Enciclopedia Juvenil – Spanish elementary encyclopedia	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search
Encyclopaedia Britannica –3 levels	http://school.eb.com	mcps	search
Encyclopedia Britannica Global Reference Center – Japanese, Korean, Chinese, French encyclopedias	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search
NoodleTools – create bibliographies and take notes for reports	http://noodletools.com/login.php -- Select Create a Personal ID (unless you already have one), then register after selecting An account linked to a school/library subscription or trial	german	mcpses
Pebble Go Animals and Earth and Space - videos and articles about animals and astronomy; electronic reader	http://www.pebblego.com	germantown	school
SIRS Decades – 20 th Century by decade; primary sources	http://www.proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps
SIRS Discoverer – elementary magazine articles, references, websites	http://www.proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps
SIRS Knowledge Source - upper level magazine articles, references, websites	http://www.proquestk12.com/myproducts	mcps	mcps
Student Newsnet – news articles for students	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search
TeachingBooks.net – author and book information	http://www.teachingbooks.net	mcps	mcps
TumbleBooks Library – online collection of animated, talking picture books	http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/home_tumblebooks.asp	<i>No login necessary</i>	<i>None needed</i>
Webster’s Third New International Dictionary (Unabridged)	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search
World Data Analyst – data about countries	http://school.eb.com/all/databases	mcps	search

Students of the Week

Week ending October 7, 2011

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Reagan
Ms. Wilson	Legend
Mrs. Huhn	Ashley
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Roshan

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Camila
Mrs. Keough	Liana

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Jocelyn
Mrs. Myers	JaJuan

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Anthony
Mrs. Gray	Saylor
Ms. Reed	Antoine

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Sindhuja
Ms. Rodriguez	Veronica

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Gabriel
Mrs. Wehage	Corey
Mrs. Shumsky	Srija

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Antonio
Mrs. Young	Joel

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Arena
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Patrol

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Students of the Week

Week ending October 14, 2011

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Brian
Ms. Wilson	Shannon
Mrs. Huhn	Samuel

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Tyler
Mrs. Keough	Guilherme

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Kristian
Mrs. Myers	Jenny
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Daniel

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Abrar
Mrs. Gray	Ethan
Ms. Reed	Antoine

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Timothy
Ms. Rodriguez	Not available

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Nicole
Mrs. Wehage	Helena
Mrs. Shumsky	Cindy

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Regina
Mrs. Young	Shaylee

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Noah
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Patrol

Danny



Calling all Pirates & Princesses
Attention all Ghosties & Goblins...
Get ready for some ghoulish fun at the
Germantown Elementary PTA
Harvest Dance!



When: Friday, October 28th

Where: Germantown Elementary All-Purpose Room

Time: 7-9 pm

Cost: \$1.50 for PTA members \$2.50 for non-PTA members

NOT A DROP OFF EVENT - RESPONSIBLE ADULT
MUST BE IN ATTENDANCE

WHAT'S IN STORE FOR YOU?

DJ Jamaal (from last year's dance) will be spinning his web (actually, his tunes)

Costume Contests!

Crafts!

Fun & Friends!

Pizza, Drinks & Snacks will be available for purchase





★ 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
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REGISTER ONLINE at www.ges-pta.org or fill out information below and return to school with payment.

2011/2012 PTA Membership Application

- Family Membership (2 parents/guardians) – \$20.00 \$ _____
entitles you to one GES PTA School Directory and car magnet
 - Single Membership (1 parent/guardian) – \$15.00 \$ _____
entitles you to one GES PTA School Directory
 - Teacher/Staff Membership \$ 8.00 \$ _____
 - Additional GES PTA School Directories, great for car or office ___ X \$6.00 \$ _____
(Additional directories are only available to members)
 - Additional Donation to support programs at GES \$ _____
 - I do not wish to join the PTA, but please add me to the ListServ so
I can receive important school related news and event updates.
- Total Amount** (Make checks payable to “GES PTA”) \$ _____

***** Print clearly and list information as you would like it to appear in the online directory*****

*Last Name:	*First Name:	First Name (Parent 2):
Child’s Name:	Grade:	Teacher:
Child’s Name:	Grade:	Teacher:
Child’s Name:	Grade:	Teacher:
Address:		
Phone:	*Email:	

*Required for access to PTA ListServ and the www.ges-pta.org Members Only online directory

Note: All information collected by the GES PTA is for the sole use of the GES PTA.
This information will not be shared with any outside party.