

# THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 11 — January 11, 2012

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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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:subscribe@yahoogroups.com)  
or click the Join button on our website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org)

### Editor:

Cheryl Qassis  
[iyadncheryl1@yahoo.com](mailto:iyadncheryl1@yahoo.com)



## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

**Happy New Year!** I hope each of you enjoyed the winter break and spent it with family and friends engaged in fun activities you typically don't have time to do because of your busy schedules. I would also like to offer sincere thanks to all of our families who were able to contribute books and/or gift cards for students in need during the holiday season under the school's "Germantown Cares" program. As the economy continues to create hardships for families within our very own GES community, it is wonderful for us to band together and support our very own!

During the holidays some of our students may have received new cell phones as gifts. Whether your child had one before or recently was gifted with a phone, I need everyone to remember that **student cell phones** should not be seen or heard on school grounds. First, we want to help guard against theft. More importantly, we've had several instances of cell phones ringing during classroom instruction or tests and that is unacceptable. In the future, disruptive cell phones will be confiscated and only returned to parents. Please discuss this with your child. A recorded ConnectEd message will go out to ensure all families are aware of this request. I appreciate your full cooperation!

Thanks to Miss Lalley, on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>, the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes got to visit with a special guest musician from the **Baltimore Symphony Orchestra**. A percussionist visited both classes, in the morning, to do a session entitled "African Folktales." He used a wide variety of percussion instruments to imitate sounds we hear all around us. This was a great opportunity to integrate music with literature, meet and hear a world-class musician, and see a variety of instruments not found in our school. It was a fun, exciting, and FREE event, so if you have a 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student ask him/her to share about it!

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

## Dates to Remember

<b>Jan 11</b>	Vocelli's Pizza fundraiser, 11 am – 10 pm	<b>Jan 23</b>	School Closed—Professional Day for Teachers
<b>Jan 16</b>	<b>School Closed—MLK Holiday</b>	<b>Jan 27</b>	Pajama Reading Night, 7-9 pm
<b>Jan 20</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> marking period ends <b>GES Shirt Day</b>	<b>Feb 7</b>	PTA meeting, 6:30 pm

# PTA News

## Letter from the President

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful break and enjoyed your time off. I know it was hard for my family to get back into the swing of things, but this wonderful weather sure has helped!

It's a new year full of resolutions. Resolve to be more involved in your child's education. It's never too late to join the PTA. The year is barely half over and we value every parent's input. Like I said at back to school night – you can only get out what you put in. Get the most out of your child's school years by becoming a member today. A membership form is attached or you can join online at [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org).



We are starting the year off with a bang with one of our most popular events – Pajama Reading Night – on Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup>. Bring the kids in their jammies to hear stories read by our wonderful staff, followed by milk & cookies. Then, stay for our fantastic performer – Chris Fascione, a professional storyteller who will

have you on the edge of your blankets. Siblings are welcome to this fun & free event. We would love to have as many volunteers as possible to help hand out the snacks. See the attached flyer for more details.

## Inclement Weather and Other Emergencies



In the event of inclement weather conditions or equipment malfunction, it may be necessary to close schools for all or part of the day. The decision for all day closing or delayed opening of school is made by the superintendent of schools and reported on local television and radio stations as early as possible, by 6:00 a.m., or the night before if possible. Information will be available on area radio, television stations, County Cable stations 6 & 34 and at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org).

It is extremely important that families make plans for the emergency supervision of their children if no one is likely to be home in the event of an all-day closing, delayed opening, or early dismissal of schools. **For more information concerning inclement weather and emergency closings log onto: [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org)**

### When schools are closed due to emergency conditions:

- All afternoon and evening activities at Germantown Elementary are cancelled.

I'd like to send out a special invitation to next month's PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Khadija Barkley, the Principal of Roberto Clemente Middle School, will be joining us to speak at our meeting. As the parent of a new 6<sup>th</sup> grader, I can tell you from firsthand experience that middle school is an entirely new experience and a big change from our small GES community. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade parents will be especially interested in this special opportunity to meet with Mrs. Barkley personally, but I'd also encourage any and all parents who are curious about learning more about our middle school. Trust me, time flies and you will be a RCMS parent before you know it! So, please mark your calendar for 2/7 at 6:30 pm to join us for this special opportunity (please note this is earlier than our typical start time).

Last, but not least – today is our first restaurant fundraiser of the year at Vocelli's Pizza. They are open all day for us for takeout. Just call 301-528-8866 and mention that you're part of the GES fundraiser and your teacher's name. The class with the most pizzas ordered wins a pizza party! It's that easy, and you don't have to cook dinner. A win win for everyone!



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

*Jen Brill*  
GES PTA President

### When schools are delayed:

- School begins at 11:15 a.m.
- Regular buses run two hours later than normally scheduled times.
- Breakfast will not be served.
- Lunch is served.
- School is dismissed at the regular time unless otherwise announced.
- Field trips are cancelled.

### Emergency Early Dismissal of Schools

When it is necessary to dismiss students early, the plan is announced over local radio and television stations. When an early dismissal is in effect:

- Lunch is served.
- Buses will run afternoon routes in the same order as on a regular school day.

**Student Council News:**

I want to congratulate all of the Student Council Candidates. All of the student candidates put lots of effort and time into this election. After 3 days of elections (watching the videos of candidates' speeches), the votes were calculated before winter break.



Congratulations to:

President: Nicole

Vice-President: David

Secretary: Ana

Treasurer: Elias

Publicity: Timothy

If your child is interested in participating with the Student Council this year, Student Council (classroom) Representatives will be selected soon!

-Ms. Rodriguez

**Saturday School:**

The George B. Thomas Saturday School program is gearing up for the second half of their program year. Registration forms in English and Spanish are available in the main office if you are interested in signing your child up. Parents and students can enroll at any of our 12 sites every Saturday that they are in session until the closing ceremony on April 21.

The registration fee is only \$50 (\$40 for FARMS). A payment plan and financial assistance is available for families in need. Please visit their website at [www.saturdayschool.org](http://www.saturdayschool.org) for additional information.



**Free Books!**

Roberto Clemente Middle School is hosting their 7<sup>th</sup> annual book swap on Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. We will be collecting donations of used books of all types for the swap. Just send them into the office by 1/27 and we will deliver them to RCMS. The book swap is open to everyone in the community – you do not need to have a RCMS student to attend. Bring a bag to carry all your free books home. Further details will come in the next Patriot.

**Jr. First Lego League Demonstration a Great Success!**

December 21st was the culmination of this year's GES Junior First Lego League Snack Attack. Led by GES parent and sponsor John Astill, teams from Kindergarten through third grade researched their favorite snacks to help them create a "Show Me" poster and model of how the snacks are made.

The mission was taken from FIRST's Jr. First Lego League Snack Attack program with the event being organized by the SAP Droids, former GES students once again working towards their First Lego League Qualifier. Each team had a pair of Droids helping them with their research and model building.

Goldfish and Potato Chips were the favorite snacks of the teams -- they learned how the snacks are created, where the ingredients came from, how they are packaged and how they are kept safe and fresh. The teams had some simple Lego motors and lights and lots of Lego bricks at hand, their great imaginations created an oven for baking Goldfish, cleaning, cooking and a slicing machine for the potato chips.

Former GES students and master of ceremonies, Jordan Qassis, quizzed the teams on their research as they presented to the Droids, parents, teachers and friends. All participants received certificates and a Lego keepsake.

The Junior First Lego League is a K-3 program designed to encourage exploration of science and technology. Students can progress to First Lego League (4-8) and First Robotics Challenge (9-12) moving from Lego Mindstorm Robots to real robots.

Last year the SAP Droids, comprising mostly GES students reached the MD FLL State Finals after an astonishing champions award win as rookies. They will compete again on January 15th at UMUC Shady Grove in their MD FLL qualifier. The FLL season starts in late summer each year. The SAP Droids will have opening for next season as our older members' progress.

The Droids are sponsored each year with SAP covering the costs of the Lego robotics and registration fees each year. You can follow the droids on their blog <http://androids.astill.mobi> or reach us via email [gtandroids@gmail.com](mailto:gtandroids@gmail.com).



# LoveNotes & BuddyNotes

LoveNotes & BuddyNotes are messages that appear in the Germantown Elementary School yearbook that is published at the end of the year. The recipient of the LoveNote or BuddyNote will receive a lollipop on Valentine's Day letting them know that a "special message" will be printed for them in the yearbook. Sales will begin January 24<sup>th</sup> and last through February 10<sup>th</sup>. You can buy your Notes in person at PJ Reading Night, or send them into the office at any time during the sale.

Sending LoveNotes & BuddyNotes are a great way to make our students, teachers, staff, and friends feel special. Tell them how much you appreciate them, how much you love them, how much you love hanging out them, etc. When the students purchase their yearbook at the end of the year and see their special messages, they will have received a very special gift from you and have a lasting memory of their year at Germantown Elementary. Stay tuned for more details!



## Students of the Week

Week ending December 16, 2011

### Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Adonis
Ms. Wilson	Adrian
Mrs. Huhn	Praneeth

### First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Daniel
Mrs. Keough	Dimas

### Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Katie
Mrs. Myers	Joshua
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Daniel

### Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Rachel
Mrs. Gray	Mehul
Ms. Reed	Thien An

### Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Timothy
Ms. Rodriguez	Giovanni

### Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Gina
Mrs. Wehage	Paul
Mrs. Shumsky	Cindy

### PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Kailani
Mrs. Young	Gregory

### Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Timothy
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### Patrol

Nolan
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# Students of the Week

Week ending December 23, 2011



**Kindergarten**

Mrs. Brooking	Paige
Ms. Wilson	Kaira
Mrs. Huhn	Christian

**First Grade**

Mrs. Lea	Elle
Mrs. Keough	Antonio
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Logan

**Second Grade**

Mrs. Chamberlain	Connor
Mrs. Myers	Nathan

**Third Grade**

Mrs. Jacobs	Kevin
Mrs. Gray	Lexi

**Fourth Grade**

Mrs. Boucher	Jamisel
Ms. Rodriguez	Planmedi

**Fifth Grade**

Ms. Marino	Michael
Mrs. Wehage	Ali
Ms. Reed	Antoine
Mrs. Shumsky	Justin

**PEP-C**

Mrs. Ho	Antonio
Mrs. Young	Leo

**Pre-Kindergarten**

Mrs. Harrigan	Noah
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**Patrol**

Anna

# Students of the Month

December 2011

**Kindergarten**

Mrs. Brooking	Annika
Ms. Wilson	Pranav
Mrs. Huhn	Cole

**First Grade**

Mrs. Lea	Elle
Mrs. Keough	Dimas

**Second Grade**

Mrs. Chamberlain	Henry
Mrs. Myers	Brenda

**Third Grade**

Mrs. Jacobs	Abrar
Mrs. Gray	Alexandra
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Melissa

**Fourth Grade**

Mrs. Boucher	Daniel
Ms. Rodriguez	Amelia

**Fifth Grade**

Ms. Marino	Gina
Mrs. Wehage	Petr
Ms. Reed	Antoine
Mrs. Shumsky	Jacob

**PEP-C**

Mrs. Ho	Kailani
Mrs. Young	Joe

**Pre-Kindergarten**

Mrs. Harrigan	Erika
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## SPECIAL NEEDS MATTER



*Resources for our students with special needs and their families.*

[vanessaajonespjr@yahoo.com](mailto:vanessaajonespjr@yahoo.com)

### OUT and ABOUT!

- **Swim Lessons** ~Sports Plus' is offering swim lessons starting **January 14, 2012**, at two locations, the Quince Orchard Swim and Tennis Club and Georgetown Prep. Call for registration information, 301-452-3781.
- **Bounce U-just for our kids!** ~ On **February 6, 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.
- **Let's Go To The Movies!: THE SECRET WORLD OF ARRIETTY** playing on **February 25, 2012**, 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

- **MC Trans** ~ Presents speaker Dr. Valerie Hu, will discuss the topic of 'What Causes Autism?'. Dr. Hu is a researcher in autism and Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the George Washington University Medical Center and is also a mother of a son with ASD. This meeting will be held on **January 12, 2012**, from 7:30-9PM, at the Arc of Montgomery County, 11600 Nebel Street, Rockville MD.
- **Partnership for Extraordinary Minds** ~Presents 'Parents Night', on **January 18, 2012**, from 7-9PM, in Rockville, MD. A panel of parents will be discussing the topic of mainstreaming your child with autism. This panel has successfully

mainstreamed and will share tips and strategies. There is no registration required for this free meeting. For specifics, call 301-444-5225. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Parent Academy Workshop**~ presents 'Understanding ADHD and How to Help Your Child', on **February 1, 2012**, at the Cabin John MS, in Potomac, MD. Learn about ADHD and explore strategies and interventions that support academic and social success. Register online: [montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/register.aspx](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/register.aspx).

### SUPPORT GROUPS:

- **Parent Connection**~ A peer support group for parents of children with LD (learning disabilities), will be holding their next meeting on **January 18, 2012**, and continue every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, from 7-8:30PM, at the Flower Valley ES. The topic will be on modifications and accommodations for the LD/ADHD student, followed by open discussion. RSVP at [ldamcpc@yahoo.com](mailto:ldamcpc@yahoo.com).
- **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. **February 5, 2011**, in Rockville, MD, from 7-8:15PM. Registration required: 301-610-8361.
- **Family Support Group**~ This free, monthly group focuses on building a support network, connecting with your community resources and learning to balance your own needs with those of children with special needs. The next meeting will be on **February 21, 2012**, from 7:15-9PM., in Rockville, MD. Pre-registration is required, 301-610-8355.

