

THE PATRIOT



The Germantown Elementary School Newsletter

Volume 2, Issue 13 — February 8, 2012

IN THIS ISSUE

Principal's Message	1
Dates to Remember	1
PTA News	2
Important Information	3
Students of the Week	4-5
Students of the Month	5
Special Needs Matter	6
Operating Budget Flier	7
GES/Mixed Bag Flier	8
Buddy/LoveNote form	9
Kindergarten info	10

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

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,

Last month's **Reading Pajama Night** was a great success with the largest audience I've seen in years! We had six staff members join me to serve as readers during the read aloud session and the PTA's performer was quite entertaining. Thanks to Bar-T for allowing us to use their hot refreshment center...I saw many parents partaking in the coffee and tea selections! And thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Castro for organizing the PTA's portion of the event.

Earlier this week, crews from PEPCO **cut down three trees** (one big maple and 2 evergreens) in the school's front yard to provide a 15 foot clearance around the power lines as dictated by their guidelines. The only alternative was to cut the trees back so much they would have been unsightly and most likely died anyway. ☹ Please excuse our not so attractive curb appeal as some of the wood will be stacked in the front yard for a week or so until it is picked up.

Our school's second semester **after-school clubs** have begun. We have over 50 students enrolled in the HW Club (grades 2-5), Science Inquiry Club (grades 3-5), Touch Math Club (grade 1), Computer Club (grades 4-5) or a small, new invitation-only Reporter's Club. We are still accepting a few registrations for the Science Inquiry and HW Club. Forms are housed in the main office.

I just want to share a few reminders to ensure the second half of our school year goes as smoothly as the first half. They are as follows:

- At dismissal, parents should not take a "short-cut" to **avoid the parent pick-up line**. Parent should stay in their cars and wait to pick up the children as the procedures outline. Students should enter on the passenger side of the vehicle.
- **Do not go directly to your child's classroom** in order to drop off left items, for a quick conference with the teacher or just to say hello. Going to classes after instruction begins causes a disruption in learning for your child and the rest of the class. Also, parents should refrain from walking their child to class in the morning as this impedes students' independence and maturation.
- All visitors must **sign in at the office** with "official" identification and wear a visitor badge at all times. This is for your child and all the other GES students' safety. Please remember to sign out before leaving the building.
- Deposit money in your child's SNAP account as soon as possible. Or if your employment/financial situation has changed you can **submit an updated or new free/reduced meals application** for your child. Eating a good breakfast and lunch supports student growth as well as the learning process. We want to make sure all students are fed properly.

Continued on page 2

Dates to Remember

Feb 8	Chick-fil-A Fundraiser, 5-9 pm	Feb 16	Chorus rehearsals, 3:40-4:40 pm
Feb 9	Chorus Rehearsal, 3:40-4:40 pm	Feb 20	Holiday—President Day! No School!
Feb 10	PTA/SCB Family Fun Night, 6:30 pm	Feb 21	No PEP-C classes all week
	Due date for Love/BuddyNotes		Clubs
Feb 11	AKA service project event, 10 am	Feb 22	GES Shirt Day
Feb 13	Emergency Drill (am)	Feb 23	Chorus Rehearsal, 3:40-4:40 pm
Feb 14	Valentine's Day Parties, 2:30 pm	Feb 24	MOCK TN2-grade 2, 9:30-noon
	Clubs meet	Mar 16	International Night, 7 pm

Principal's Message continued

- Send a note in (instead of calling) if your **child's dismissal plans** will be different than usual. This reduces any confusion that verbal messages may cause during the hectic pace of the end of the day/dismissal.
- Check your child's **Home/School folder** each day and talk to your child about the items coming home in it. This folder is designed to increase the two way communication between home and school and between parents and their children, so please take advantage of it.
- If you have an issue or concern, please contact your child's teacher directly. Effective two-way communication and relationships between home and school first starts with the teacher and parent. If the issue persists, contact me.

Don't forget, this Saturday, February 11th from 10 – 11:30 a.m., members of my sorority (Xi Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated) will be hosting a free **community service project event for GES students** (grades 1-5) and the greater Germantown community at our school. The event will include a read aloud, interactive games, arts and crafts and light refreshments with an age-appropriate highlight on fighting against global poverty – one of the foci of our international sorority. Parents can either stay for the event or drop off their children after signing them in. I hope to see you there!

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)

Amy D. Bryant
Principal

PTA News

Letter from the President

I hope you had as much fun at Pajama Reading Night as I did! As usual, we had a great turnout for this fun event. A big thanks to Lorelei and Nelton Castro for their work setting up the event and booking our fantastic performer. He sure was an inspiration on using your "imagination"! I'd also like to thank our wonderful teachers who stayed at the end of a long week to read to our kids. What a wonderful staff we have at GES!

Have you bought your Love Notes/Buddy Notes yet? Don't wait – the deadline for completing them is this Friday, February 10th. A form is attached for Buddy Notes and additional forms can be found in the office or on our website at www.ges-pta.org. Messages will appear in the yearbook at the end of the school year, but your child will receive a lollipop on Valentine's Day to let them know a message awaits.



Did you get your chance to buy our new Germantown Patriot reusable bags yet? If not, we will have them on sale until they are gone. I realized this weekend at Giant that I'm actually saving 10 cents by using my new bags as I not only avoid the charge, but also get a 5 cent credit for using them! Additionally, our Mixed Bags sale continues online for anyone else (like me!) who just needs one or two more bags. The spring catalog is so fun and there are limited copies available in the office to look through.

Last night Mrs. Khadija Barkley, the Principal of Roberto Clemente Middle School joined us for our PTA meeting. Our current 5th graders are already beginning to register for middle school, and her insight into that process was very helpful. She also helped explain a typical day at RCMS and the expectations of middle school students. Look in our next issue of the Patriot for a more detailed overview of her talk.

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

Jen Brill
PTA President

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.

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**

When schools are closed due to emergency conditions:

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

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 Canned Food Drive
February 6th -17th
Bring in canned and non-perishable
boxed foods**

February is

African-American History Month

STORE REWARD PROGRAM UPDATES

Box Tops



The second, and final, submission of the school year for Box Tops is coming up soon. I will be mailing GES' submission of Box Tops towards the end of the month. With that in mind, if you have Box Tops at home please send them into school with your child by Wednesday 22 February. Some classrooms have Box Tops collection boxes, however if your child's class does not have a collection box, there is a box in the PTA mail slot in the front office. So far this year GES has received \$231 from Box Tops. This, and all store reward program contributions go directly to GES to enhance the education of the students.

Another way to potentially earn money for GES is to enter sweepstakes on the Box Tops website. Visit the Box Tops Bonus web page at <http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/bonus/Default.aspx>. There are a number of sweepstakes in which you can participate, including the possibility of winning 250,000 Box Tops for GES with the Totino's sweepstakes.

Giant & Target

The contributions earned so far for this current school year for GES from Giant is \$688.17. This program runs until 29 March. The latest total for Target contribution to GES is \$218.32, and this program is ongoing.

Thank you to all who have been participating in the above, or any, store reward programs for GES.

Sharon Astill
PTA Store Reward Coordinator

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT



The **11th Annual GES International Night** is scheduled for Friday, March 16, 7-9pm in the GES APR. This is an exciting event for GES families, students and staff to share something about the country they come from, or one they

have visited. This can be done through display of cultural artifacts/photos/clothing, a dance or musical performance, sharing a delicious food or sharing other fun activities or crafts. We even welcome 2 or more families to share a country or heritage together, to make the experience richer. We hope you can join us for this year's event. A flyer will be coming out soon with details! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Lorelei Castro 301-972-1164, nlcastro@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 24th and last through February 10th.

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.

Please use the attached flyer to order your Note. Additional forms can be found at www.ges-pta.org.

Germantown Elementary Feasibility Update

Are you wondering whatever happened to the study that was going on to determine whether or not to build a new elementary school or to rebuild GES? Well, the Superintendent recommended that MCPS build a new elementary school in a new location, meaning there will be no changes or updates to GES at this time. Last month, the Board of Education allocated funds for this new school’s construction in the budget. MCPS is currently in negotiations with the property owner of the selected school site to purchase the land needed. If all goes well, the new school is slated to open for the 2017 school year. Additionally, MCPS has identified a site for an Upcounty Holding School, just off of MidCounty Highway in Gaithersburg. GES remains on the list of schools to be modernized in the future, and this is great news for future GES students and their families. Huge thanks to all of you who responded to our survey and came out to meetings on this important issue.

Students of the Week

Week ending January 27, 2012

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Elizabeth
Ms. Wilson	Alisa
Mrs. Huhn	Zaaina

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Ayushi
Mrs. Keough	Michael
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Daniel

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	None this week
Mrs. Myers	Jonah

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Bobby
Mrs. Gray	Jalyn

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Kaylah
Ms. Rodriguez	Kobey

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Quinton
Mrs. Wehage	Kristofer
Ms. Reed	Tim
Mrs. Shumsky	Srija

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Samuel
Mrs. Young	Joe

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Erika
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Gina

Students of the Month

January 2012

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Riona
Ms. Wilson	Michael
Mrs. Huhn	Sam

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Camila
Mrs. Keough	Antonio

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Fiona
Mrs. Myers	Luke

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Roma
Mrs. Gray	Saylor
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Matthew
Ms. Reed	Eric

Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Donovan
Ms. Rodriguez	Malena

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Rohit
Mrs. Wehage	Anna
Mrs. Shumsky	Not available

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	Kailani
Mrs. Young	Gregory

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Noah
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Students of the Week

Week ending February 3, 2012

Kindergarten

Mrs. Brooking	Brianna
Ms. Wilson	Keira
Mrs. Huhn	Meshelle

First Grade

Mrs. Lea	Daniel
Mrs. Keough	Tiffany
Mrs. LaMonica-Hayes	Logan

Second Grade

Mrs. Chamberlain	Josue
Mrs. Myers	Taiyanna

Third Grade

Mrs. Jacobs	Kamau
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Fourth Grade

Mrs. Boucher	Taylor
Ms. Rodriguez	John

Fifth Grade

Ms. Marino	Nicole
Mrs. Wehage	Corey
Mrs. Shumsky	Not available

PEP-C

Mrs. Ho	AJ
Mrs. Young	Christan

Pre-Kindergarten

Mrs. Harrigan	Sergio
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Marina



SPECIAL NEEDS MATTER

Resources for our students with special needs and their families.

specialneedsmatter.blogspot.com

OUT and ABOUT!

- **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

- **Free Download** : of the Direct Instruction Funnix Beginning Reading Program. Direct Instruction is a body of curriculum based on scientific principles of human learning with 40+ years of research validation in producing excellent student outcomes. From **now through February, 16, 2012**, the Funnix Beginning Reading Program will be free for download. You will receive the entire 220 lessons downloaded onto your computer and daily workbook activities and guides. funnix.com
- **Discussion on Bipolar Disorder and Depression**: At this FREE presentation, Dr. Adelaide Robb of the Children's National Medical Center will discuss Bipolar Disorder and Depression in children and adolescents. This meeting will be held on **February 9, 2012**, @ 7:30PM, in Rockville, MD. For details, email dbaylinson@namimc.org.

- **GT/LD Network**: presents FREE Speakers Series. On **February 16, 2012**, from 7:30-9PM, the presentation will be held in Walter Johnson HS in Bethesda, MD. The speaker will be Charles Moseley, M.D. He practices Integrative Psychiatry in utilizing both standard psychiatric, as well as innovative nutritional and metabolic strategies. Dr. Moseley will discuss the role of nutrient supply to the brain, with emphasis on the role of energy production and utilization. For more details, go to gtldnetworkmc.org.
- **Summer Opportunities Fair for Special Needs Children**: held at Ivymount School on **February 26, 2012**, from 1-3:30 PM, in Rockville, MD. Explore sleep-away camps and local options for exceptional children. Call 301-469-0223.

SUPPORT GROUPS

- **Montgomery County Parent/Caregiver AD/HD Support Group**
At these meetings, parents and caregivers of children and teens with Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder, give and receive support, ideas, and encouragement. Sharing is facilitated by experienced clinicians affiliated with Alvord, Baker, Associates. Next meeting will be on **February 9, 2012**, from 7:30-9:30PM, in Kensington, MD. For details, email sanci@rcn.com or 301-656-5811.
- **Autism Society Parent Support Meeting** ~ will hold its next support group on **February 9, 2012**, from 7:30-9PM, in Rockville, MD. Call 301-924-2211.
- **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.

Please join us for the
MCCPTA Operating Budget Forum
Wednesday, February 15, 2012
7:30pm
Richard Montgomery HS Auditorium
250 Richard Montgomery Drive
Rockville, MD

After \$400 million plus in budget cuts over recent years, and in the face of continued increases in enrollment, poverty and ESOL needs, there are very important issues at stake for our schools.

The Governor's proposal to shift a portion of the teacher pension funding obligation from the State to the counties, and the efforts to close loopholes in the Maintenance of Effort Law and obtain a waiver for the \$26 million penalty facing our schools will be front and center during this budget cycle.

Come and hear directly from Board of Education Members about what is in the proposed MCPS Operating Budget, which will be approved by the Board on February 14th. Also, please come and hear from Members of the Montgomery County Council about funding prospects for FY 2013 – ask YOUR QUESTIONS and share YOUR CONCERNS as the operating budget funding cycle begins.

We hope you will join us for this important event.

Can't stand paying the "bag tax" every time you go out?

Figuring out you didn't order enough Mixed Bags last Fall?

The Germantown PTA has got all your bag needs covered with two great options:

1

We have our very own Germantown Patriots reusable bags for sale! They are made from eco-friendly 80 GSM nonwoven polypropylene material (like the cloth grocery store bags). They feature a spacious open main compartment w/ 10" gusset & removable rigid bottom insert w/ 20" long reinforced handles. 13" W x 15" H x 10" D *There are a limited number of bags available and once they're gone, they're gone! Any remaining bags will be sold at Pajama Reading Night on Friday, January 27th. Use the form below to get yours now!*

- Priced to sell at **1 bag for \$3** or **2 bags for \$5**.
- Accepting cash or checks payable to: Germantown ES PTA

2

Mixed Bags are back! Starting February 1st through the end of the school year, we will be having an **online fundraiser** with Mixed Bags. The online fundraiser lets you order at your convenience and have your items shipped directly to your home. There are many new products as well as new spring patterns on all your favorite products like the lunch totes, grocery bags, & iPhone covers. The PTA will earn 40% on all sales, so spread the word...anyone can order using our fundraiser ID below!

- To order visit: www.mixedbagdesigns.com and click on "online store".
- At checkout, when you review & submit your order, you will be asked for your fundraiser ID.
- Enter **52867** for the "fundraiser ID" and your **GES student's name** in the "referred by" field to give credit to our fundraiser.
- Wait patiently for your beautiful bags to be delivered right to your home!



If you have any problems placing your online Mixed Bag order or have general questions, please contact Kimmi Photinakis at (301) 972-0966 or georgeandkimmi@msn.com.



Germantown Patriots Reusable Bag Order Form

Students Name _____

Grade _____ Teacher _____

Price Chart

1 Bag = \$3
2 Bags = \$5
3 Bags = \$8
4 Bags = \$10

Bags Requested _____

Total Paid \$ _____



BUDDYNOTES



To: _____
Look for your BuddyNote in
the 2011-12 GES Yearbook.
From: _____

January 24th – February 10th
\$2 for Students

**Your buddy will receive a lollipop on Valentine’s Day and
your special note will be published in the
2011 - 12 GES Yearbook.**

There are 2 easy ways to submit your BuddyNotes:

1. Turn this form in with payment to your child’s teacher before February 10th.
2. You can buy your BuddyNotes at Pajama Reading Night on January 27th.

Please use one form per note, per recipient. If you’d like to send more than one Note, copy this form or get additional copies from the Main Office.

LoveNote BuddyNote

To: _____ Grade: _____ Teacher: _____

From: _____

(Max 30 Words)

*Make checks payable to **GES PTA**. Proceeds will go directly to lowering the price of the yearbook.*