

Your College Gardens Elementary School

Parent-Teacher Association at work.

We hope you'll be as excited to join us as we will be to welcome you! Here are some of the programs your PTA sponsors:



Art Show

In the spring, the PTA and College Gardens Art teacher Mr. Cousin puts together an exposition of student work as a celebration for the families. There is no cost to College Gardens families or guests. The annual art show has craft tables so students and siblings can participate. Art work from all grades is showcased

Book Fair - Scholastic Book Fairs

The CGES PTA holds 2 book fairs a year – in November and April. Students visit the book fair during the week with their classes to browse the selections. The students create a wish list and bring this home to discuss with their parents.

It takes a lot of volunteers to run the book fair and we are looking for parents who are willing to give an hour of their time to help make the book fair successful. In addition to raising money for PTA programs, the school and teachers receive hundreds of dollars in donated books.

Cultural Heritage Night

This annual PTA event is a favorite and is typically held in late April. Last year over 300 hundred students, friends and family members came out to celebrate the diverse cultures. We had representation from 27 Countries and 15 States. And we hope to grow the event even more this year. There are displays of traditional clothing, food, music, geography & arts. Students visits at each tables and get a chance to explore this culture. Each table is organized by parents who are knowledgeable about the region. More information about this event will be sent out as the date grows closer.

Community Dinners

Do you and your family eat at local restaurants? Then come out to one of our many community dinners and socialize with the College Gardens Community over dinner. In the past we have met for dinner at Baja Fresh, Hard Times Café, Papa Johns, Fudruckers, Armands and Guiseppis.

Cultural Arts Program

The PTA sponsors many assemblies during the school year. These assemblies are designed to further the students understanding of the diverse populations in our community and around the world.

School Community Directory

Each October the PTA gives out the College Gardens directory at minimal charge to all College Gardens families. When new families arrive at our school, CGES provides them a copy of the directory as well.

The directory quickly becomes the source for information on the school and the school community. The personal information about the community will not be available on the web site or any other location, so keep your directory in a safe place.

The PTA sells advertising space in the directory to offset the cost. If you would like to advertise, you know someone who would like to advertise, or you would be willing to help secure advertisers, please contact the PTA

If you would prefer to have some or all of your family contact information, withheld from the directory, you may indicate your preference to the PTA or the school at any time before the directory is sent to the publisher.

Science Expo

This is a crown jewel of the spring. All students are encouraged to create a science experiment on their own, and then on a Saturday in May (we just had one last Saturday, May 22) the students present their projects and they are judged by parent volunteers. In addition, there are parent/student break out sessions on exciting science activities and ideas.

Wednesday Communications Packet

Wednesdays are the big day for info from the PTA. Our On Wednesdays, the PTA makes sure that the youngest child in the family will receive the full packet of information. These will be called “green” packets. Your older children will receive some information related specifically to them or to their grade. These will be called “yellow” packets. If your child is not in school on a Wednesday, the teacher will make sure a packet is left for them when they return. Please remember to look for this information on Wednesdays in your child’s backpack. These packets contain important information from our PTA, our school

and Montgomery County Public Schools. To have flyers included in the Wednesday Packets, copies must be made and delivered by 9am Wednesday morning. The packet stuffers do not make copies unless prior arrangements have been made.

Yearbook

The yearbook is a parent produced publication that captures the highlights of the CGES year. There is a page dedicated to each homeroom with the students individually pictured. Additionally, the book is filled with hundreds of candid photos taken on Halloween, on field trips, during recess and lunch . and the list goes on. This keepsake is sold at cost and is not a fundraiser to the PTA. It is possible only because of the hard work of a dedicated group of parents who travel the halls of the CGES with the camera by their side. The yearbook committee welcomes and encourages parents to send their digital photos for inclusion in the book. Please only send photos involving CGES students at CGES events.

The yearbook committee is also looking for parents to join us in using computer software to design and layout next year's book. Training will be provided. It can be as large or as small a commitment as you are able to make. But only with more parents can we ensure that all events will be included in the yearbook.

Family Fun Night

The community comes together for Family Fun Night, a whole school party which will be held on a Friday in February. Fabulous prizes are given away including: lunches with teachers, bowling with teachers, move to the front of the lunch line, gift certificates to Carmen's, Target, Safeway.

Family Movie Night

Three Family Movie Nights have been scheduled for the 2010-11 school year. Mark your calendars for fun-filled nights in November, January, and March

Fun Run

The Montgomery Count Road Runners Club DARCARS Young Run is a special, non-competitive running event just for kids 12 and under. It's the largest event of its kind in the region and one of the largest kids runs in the nation. It is designed for every kid to be a winner and to discover that Running is Fun! Three Races are held - set your goal and pick your distance.

Special ribbons for all finishers in the 1/4 and 1/2 mile races. Medals for all 1 mile finishers. Goody bags for all runners. We will bring our school banners and cheerleaders and show the CGES school spirit! College Gardens won a participation award in 2007 and 2006 and the school spirit award in 2005.

Read to Me Talk With Me

This early literacy program for Kindergarten provides a cornerstone critical to building a solid foundation for reading. It forges a partnership between child, parent, and school that revolves around books and language development.

Your kindergartener will have the opportunity each day to self-select a book that is a classic example of children's literature. It will come home in a zip-lock bag with a pocket folder that contains a HOME READING RECORD sheet.

A parent or grandparent or older sibling reads the book to your child. Each book selections has a list of conversational questions to facilitate discussion before and after reading, as well as an idea for a follow-up activity for your child to do. When your child has completed the story and returned the book, he/she may choose another book to take home. We have 5 different collections of books that will rotate between the classes every 6 weeks. In a six week period, your child can interact with you and up to twenty-five pieces of excellent children's literature.

We count on parent volunteers to keep the program running smoothly.

Volunteers assist children in returning books and projects, selecting new books, and maintaining the classroom Read to Me, Talk with Me log book. It requires about 30 minutes one day a week - usually the first thing in a kindergartner's day. Please let your child's teacher know if you would like to be part of this program. Reading is a top priority at College Gardens.

Join our Read to Me, Talk with Me team!

Go Gators!

