

# The Patriot NEWSLETTER



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## Principal's Message

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**September 15-October 15**  
**Hispanic Heritage Month**

**Germantown Elementary**  
19110 Liberty Mill Road  
Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 301-353-8050

**GES Website**  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

Contact: Jaime Howenstein  
[jaime\\_b\\_howenstein@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jaime_b_howenstein@mcpsmd.org)

Listserv: Join and stay up-to-date! To sign up, submit your email at the bottom on our website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org) and click blue button GO

**Patriot Newsletter Editor:**  
Kris daCosta-Warshauer  
[KdacW35@gmail.com](mailto:KdacW35@gmail.com)



Dear GES Families,

I would like to **thank you for your active participation** thus far this school year. Many of you attended Back to School Night. I'd like to thank you for showing up and coming out to Chipotle last week. We raised \$386 from your dining participation. Next, I'd like to thank the numerous families who came out last evening to last night's PTA meeting. Last, I'd like to thank the many families that walked to school this morning for International Walk to School Day. Walking helps keep our air clean and is a great form of exercise as well as bonding activity for families. Your active participation is essential because it demonstrates our shared commitment toward our students and creating a cohesive school community. I am so thankful to lead this school filled with such warm and giving community members. #TeamGermantown

**GES before and after-school clubs** for the fall/winter semester begin during the week of October 14<sup>th</sup>. On Tuesdays after school we will have a Cooperative Game Club (grades 2-4) hosted by Mrs. Kissal and Ms. Marino, a Kindness Club hosted by Mrs. Edmundson and Mrs. Atanda (grades 2-3), and a Nature Club (grades 3-5 students) hosted by the Ms. Leizear and Mrs. Stevens. On Thursdays before school, we will have a Chess Club (grades 2-5) hosted by Mr. Lancaster (parent of Corey) and an Art Club (grades 2-3) hosted by Mrs. Srour. As always, students

are enrolled in clubs on a first come basis and we thank our teachers (and parent) who volunteer beyond their work day to provide these enrichment activities for our students.

As a caring school community, I respectfully ask that we continue to consider the growing number of students within our building with **food allergies**. We have students with allergies to seafood, peanuts, tree nuts, dairy, and eggs. Our most common student allergy here at GES is the nut allergy. Another common allergy is to eggs. In each case, students may not only have a serious, life threatening reaction (anaphylaxis) to ingesting these food items, numerous children also have concerns with touching or being in the vicinity (airborne) of nuts and/or eggs. We have nut-free tables at both lunch periods, and egg-free areas in one lunch period due to this serious concern. Students eating at those tables or in classrooms with students who have these health concerns must refrain from bringing lunches and/or classroom snacks that contain these items. A letter went home yesterday to each student in a class with one of these allergies.

An issue of concern are the treats for Halloween/Valentine parties that families bring in to school for their children. Many of our local grocery stores do not make it easy for us to support our students with

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Continue reading the Principal's message in the full version GES newsletter by linking at our school homepage  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

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**Dates to Remember**

<b>Weds, Oct. 2</b>	<b>National Walk to School Day</b>
<b>Friday, Oct. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GES Spirit</b> Day and Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm
<b>Mon, Oct. 7</b>	Interims go home with students
<b>Weds, Oct. 9</b>	<b>No School for students and teachers</b>
<b>Mon, Oct. 14</b>	Open House (until students' lunchtime) Boys & Girls Club closed
<b>Tues, Oct. 15</b>	Afterschool clubs begin, 4:10-5:10 pm
<b>Thurs, Oct. 17</b>	Before school clubs begin, 8-9 am
<b>Mon, Oct. 21</b>	Individual School Picture Day
<b>Tues, Oct. 22</b>	Afterschool clubs meet 4:10-5:10 pm
<b>Thurs, Oct. 24</b>	No School for PEP Before school clubs meet 8-9 am
<b>Fri, Oct. 25</b>	PTA Harvest Dance 7-9 pm
<b>Mon, Oct 28</b>	Grade level newsletters distributed
<b>Tues, Oct. 29</b>	Afterschool clubs meet 4:10-5:10 pm
<b>Thurs, Oct. 31</b>	Before school clubs meet 8-9 am <b>Halloween parade and parties begin, 2:15 pm</b>
<b>Fri, Nov. 1<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>GES Spirit Day</b>
<b>Mon-Fri, Nov 4 - 8</b>	<b>Book Fair week</b>
<b>Tues, Nov. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	PTA Meeting 7 pm, Media Center

**Spotlight on New Staff**



**DeAnna Mathous, 4-5 SCB Teacher**

**Childhood:** Buffalo, New York

**Colleges/Specialization:** Daemen College undergrad/grad, Amherst, NY. Degrees in Early Childhood Education/Special Education

**Prior positions/experience outside of MCPS:** Taught for five years as Secondary SCB in Watertown, NY

**Joined MCPS:** 2017 with 4<sup>th</sup> grade learning center, DuFief ES

**Personal info:** Ms. Mathous lives in Frederick. A Buffalo Bills fan, she enjoys boating, crabbing, bow fishing, sporting clays, hunting, and playing soccer. She also loves to cook and eating sushi.

Catch up with PTA announcements, and other information!

The full version GES newsletter is available by linking at our school homepage

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/)

Principal's Message continued ...

these concerns. None of the three closest grocery stores (Giants, Safeway and Wegmans) have nut-free bakery departments. This means the item you purchase may not contain nuts but other bakery goods with nuts that they produce may have contaminated the baking environment. However, we found:

- Both Giants carry a commercial line of cupcakes that indicate "peanut free." There are also sugar cookies that are made in a peanut and tree nut free facility.
- Wegmans offers a school safe line of cupcakes as well made in a peanut free facility. In addition, there are signs posted around the store for other allergies.
- Safeway does not have a commercial line at this time.

I know the list above is not inclusive of all of the local businesses that sell treats that you may purchase. As such, please call the store or bakery you will be purchasing from to inquire about their nut-free offerings. You should also confer with your child's teacher before purchasing any food items for your child's birthday treat and/or class parties. Even if your child isn't in a designated nut-free or egg-free classroom, please still follow these rules of safety. If your child touches eggs and/or nuts and then plays with a child with a food allergy without cleaning his/her hands and mouth, it could have a devastating impact. I know none of us want that because we care about each and every child in this building as if s/he is our very own. Please know that I appreciate your attention and care to this matter.

At the end of the month, on October 31<sup>st</sup>, we will host a **Halloween parade and class parties** here at school. Here are some important points to consider:

- Students must refrain from wearing costumes that are bloody, scary or have weapons as an accessory;
- Parent classroom volunteers may be needed to help with party set-up;
- Notes should be sent to the teacher in advance of October 31<sup>st</sup> if you do not want your child to participate in the festivities; and
- Parents should NOT park in the bus lane as they participate in the fun. We do not want to block dismissal due to late party-goers. THANKS!

I am signing off for now. Please call (301- 353-8050) or email me ([Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)) if you have a question, comment or concern.

Take care,

*Amy D. Bryan*

Principal

[Amy\\_D\\_Bryan@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org)



Follow me on [@TeamGermantown1](#)



**Drop-off and Dismissal Reminders:** We have a number of parents driving into the smaller lot to drop off and/or pick up students. Parents driving cars into this area disrupts staff and buses traffic. Please drop off in the designated car rider lane. Parents, please refrain from instructing your child to wait in the front of the school or walk to the side of the school. All students are directed to the car rider area at dismissal. No exceptions will be made...for the safety of our students!

# PTA News

GES Parents,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed the first month of school as much as my family has. I have had a chance to meet and speak with so many of you at Back to School Night and the Chipotle Fundraiser. I know we can keep this momentum going through October and into November!

We have a lot of exciting events coming up, starting with the always popular Family Fall Harvest Dance.



Join us for a family FUN night on Friday, October 25 (7 – 9 pm)! Students, parents and staff are welcome to join with us in their costumes! This popular event is a fundraiser. We will need volunteers to help with the Dance (set up, ticket sales at the door, concessions, and clean up). Keep an eye out for a sign up genius. Please remember that we cannot process credit transactions so ticket sales and concession will be **CASH ONLY**. Another important reminder is that all **children must be accompanied by an adult**. We look forward to seeing everyone there, in costume!

Another event to look forward to next month is the Book Fair!



The Fall Book Fair will be held the first week in November. As we all know, books are the doorway to children’s imagination and learning. Your kids will love the book selection this year! See the flyer on *pg. 6-7* in this issue for shopping details and hours. Book fair coordinator **Lourdes Pesseh** is in need of more volunteers. Link for the Signup genius will be posted soon.



We still have vacant committee chairs (Cultural Arts, and Teacher Appreciation) and volunteer needs. Please feel free to reach out to Danielle or myself at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com) if you have any questions. We would love to get each parent involved in whatever capacity you are capable. Be a part of something bigger than yourself.

Best,

*Meghan Lowery*

*Danielle Story*

GES PTA President  
and President-elect

**Keep up with the current news and events:**  
 PTA website [www.ges-pta.org](http://www.ges-pta.org)  
 Germantown Elementary School PTA   
 Germantown ES PTA @GermantownPTA

# Many shopping options you can support the PTA!



*Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for back to school supplies at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).*

Most of us already shop Amazon on a regular basis. By using the **Smile.Amazon.com** link and designating Germantown Elementary School PTA as you beneficiary, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchases. It's the same Amazon you know and love, with the happy benefit of a PTA donation on purchases you're already placing.

Certifikid's mission is to bring families together to create unforgettable memories. They provide exclusive deals with incredible savings on activities, camps, classes, parties, and more. By entering the promo code "PATRIOT" during checkout any order over \$20, GES PTA will receive a \$5 donation.



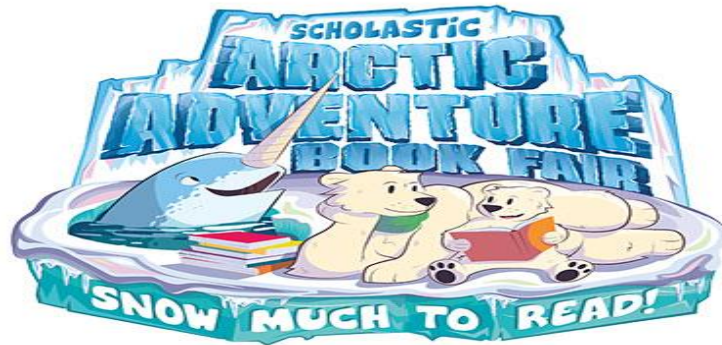
Box Tops for Education is making its way into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century! Download the **Box Tops app** and scan your receipt after purchasing any items with the new Box Tops Logo. The school will automatically receive 10¢ for each Box Tops item. During the transition, you may still see some of the old logos. They can be clipped and sent in to the school. Visit [boxtops4education.com](https://boxtops4education.com) for more info.



Old Clip-able Logo



New Scan-able Logo



### The Fall 2019 Book Fair is Almost Here!!!

Dear Parents and Families:

Reading for pleasure unlocks the power of information and imagination and helps children discover who they are. Here’s what you can do to help children develop stronger reading skills and a love for reading:

- Set the example. Let children see you read books.
- Have a collection of books in your home. Update this collection routinely to keep up with changing tastes and reading skills.
- Support our school’s Book Fair. Allow your children to choose their own books to read.

Our Scholastic Book Fair is a reading event that brings the books kids want to read right into our school. It’s a wonderful selection of engaging and affordable books for every reading level. Please make plans to visit our Book Fair and be involved in shaping your child’s reading habits.

**We need volunteers to make this a successful event!**

(Sign-up genius and schedule for the fair will be posted on the PTA website)

**FAIR DATES: Monday, NOVEMBER 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday, NOVEMBER 8<sup>th</sup>**

We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Book Fair! Remember, all purchases benefit our school. Let’s get our GES students ready for reading over winter break!

Lourdes Pesseh  
Book Fair Chair



**Artic Adventure Book Fair**

**Monday, November 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday, November 8<sup>th</sup>**  
 (times subject to change)

Monday November 4th	Tuesday November 5th	Wednesday November 6th	Thursday November 7th	Friday, November 8th (early release)
9am – 10am 11:00am – 2:00pm 3:30 pm – 4:30pm	9am – 10am 11:00am – 2:00pm 3:30 pm – 4:30pm	9am – 10am 11:00am – 2:00pm <b>3pm – 7pm</b>	9am – 10am 11:00am – 2:00pm 3:30 pm – 4:30pm	9am – 10am 12:00pm – 2:00pm

**Event announcement from Jones Lane ES PTA:**



**Try DI Night**

The **Jones Lane Elementary School PTA** and **Maryland Destination Imagination** are co-sponsoring a "Try DI" Night on Monday, October 7th, from 7 pm - 8:15 pm at the Jones Lane Elementary School all-purpose room, 15110 Jones Lane in Darnestown, MD. All Montgomery County elementary school students and parents are invited to attend!

Destination Imagination is a creative problem-solving program where teams of kids work together to "solve" a challenge by creating a skit, building a structure, or making vehicles and machines. Kids can choose from a variety of categories including technical, scientific, fine arts, improvisational, engineering, service learning, and early learning. The kids present their challenge solutions to be scored at local and state tournaments. The teams which place at the top of their challenges advance to the next level tournament.

Try DI Night is an info-session for parents and kids. The kids will Try DI during a hands-on activity about half-way through the evening. More information about the non-profit organization Destination Imagination can be found at <https://www.destinationimagination.org/about/>

Refreshments will be served. The event is free, however, please RSVP to Susan Victory at [evictor@att.net](mailto:evictor@att.net) to ensure we have an accurate count.

Feel free to contact myself, Susan Victory, or Jen Legge, President of the Jones Lane ES PTA at [president.jlespta@gmail.com](mailto:president.jlespta@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

## **MCPS Community News**

### **Parent Academy (English and Spanish)**

The MCPS Parent Academy is kicked off its fall season last Thursday, September 26. Parents/guardians and members of the community are invited to participate in these free workshops that provide information, resources, tools, and tips to support your child's success in school. Don't miss this season of workshops, which will be offered on a range of topics, including college and career planning, mental health, cybersafety and social media, active parenting, and positive communication.

Parent Academy workshops are free. Childcare and interpretation services are provided upon request.

A full list of courses will be posted at

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/).

### **Academia para Padres**

La Academia para Padres de MCPS inicia su temporada de otoño el jueves, 26 de septiembre. Los padres y miembros de la comunidad están invitados a participar en estos talleres gratuitos que ofrecen información, recursos, herramientas y consejos para apoyar el éxito de sus hijos en la escuela. No se pierda esta temporada de talleres, que tratarán una variedad de temas, que incluyen planificación universitaria y profesional, salud mental, ciberseguridad y redes sociales, crianza activa y comunicación positiva.

Los talleres de la Academia para Padres son gratuitos. Se ofrecerán servicios de cuidado infantil y de interpretación de idiomas a petición. La lista completa de talleres se publicará en:

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/).

### **Forum for Equity and Excellence Set for October 15 (English and Spanish)**

The Black and Brown Forum for Educational Equity and Excellence will be held on Tuesday, October 15. The event, which is being hosted by the NAACP Parents' Council and Identity, is set for 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard in Gaithersburg.

The forum will bring together Montgomery County education stakeholders, advocacy partners supporting the Black and Brown Educational Equity Coalition, and other community leaders for a discussion of evidence-based solutions to create better educational outcomes for students of color in MCPS.

### **Foro para Equidad y Excelencia Programado para el 15 de Octubre**

El Foro para Personas de Raza Negra y Morena (Black and Brown Forum for Educational Equity and Excellence) tendrá lugar el martes, 15 de octubre. Este evento, que está siendo presentado por el Concejo de Padres de NAACP e Identity, está programado de 7:00 a 9:00 p.m., en Gaithersburg High School, 101 Education Boulevard, en Gaithersburg.

El foro reunirá a interesados en la educación en el Condado de Montgomery, socios defensores que apoyan a la Coalición de Equidad Educativa para Personas de Raza Negra y Morena (Black and Brown Educational Equity Coalition) y otros dirigentes de la comunidad para una discusión de soluciones basadas en evidencia para crear mejores resultados educativos para los estudiantes de color en MCPS.