

The Patriot NEWSLETTER



19110 LIBERTY MILL ROAD * GERMANTOWN * MD * 2087 * 301-353-8050

Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Happy New Year! I hope your family had a joyous holiday season! At my Principal's Chats with students this week I shared an analogy about 2020 with our students and staff. I talked about going to the eye doctor and desiring 20/20 vision...perfect vision. We know that being perfect is not sustainable, however, we can strive for excellence! As we move forward in the year 2020, let's not strive for 20/20 perfection but instead **strive for excellence...be the best we can be!**

(adults and students). All of the publicly used bathrooms will also receive beautification including new tilework... goodbye 1970s tile! Last, during the 2018-19 school year I requested a walking track be installed at GES for student and staff wellness efforts but was denied due to cost. However, the system returned in the fall to take another look at the project and it was approved! Over the course of 3 years they will work on and complete the track in sections. All of the projects will upgrade our school facility which will have a positive impact on the teaching and learning environment.

We have a staffing update to share. We will say a **fond farewell to Matt Fishman**, K-1 SCB teacher, who will be relocating to Ohio due to his wife received a work-related promotion. Mr. Fishman's last day at GES will be this Friday on January 10th. Ange Traore will serve as the LTS substitute until the end of the school year. Ms. Traore is happy to be joining us on Monday (13th) as she recently ended a LTS special education position at another MCPS school.

Each month I highlight information contained within the GES Policies and Procedures document. It serves as a reminder of important policies that help keep our school running more smoothly. This month highlights the information on the **health room and medications, part 2**. (Part 1 was published last month) Policy on health room and medications continues to read as follows:

Germantown Elementary School will make every effort possible to protect the health and safety of your child. Cooperation of parents in helping to fight the spread of communicable diseases is of great importance. Children should be fever free for at least 24 hours before returning to school from illness.

Continued on back...

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Winter weather:
[Hypothermia awareness](#)
[and physical care](#)

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

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Board approves calendar for SY 2020-2021:

Traditional School Year calendar is published in this Memorandum

[https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BJJU3S772100/\\$file/08.01_2020-2021_SY_Calendars_191203_ADOPTED.pdf](https://go.boarddocs.com/mabe/mcpsmd/Board.nsf/files/BJJU3S772100/$file/08.01_2020-2021_SY_Calendars_191203_ADOPTED.pdf)

Principal's Message continued ...

(A-H was published in The Patriot December 2019).

- I. If your child develops any of these symptoms prior to coming to school, it is best that they stay home to recover. If symptoms develop at school, a parent or guardian will be notified and your child will rest in the health room until you pick them up. In keeping with this policy, parents should notify the main office if the child contracts a contagious disease. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you. It is helpful for parents to notify the health room if their child has a communicable disease such as strep throat, so that appropriate steps can be taken such as extra cleaning and/or informing the school community as appropriate.
- J. If your child is injured at school, the health tech. or nurse will contact a parent or guardian when necessary, and if needed proper emergency medical procedures will be implemented. For all serious injuries, the child's teacher or other staff member who witnessed the occurrence of the injury will complete an incident report. This report will be made available for the parent or guardian.
- K. In order for your child to enter a Maryland public school for the first time, the following are **required**:
 - A physical examination by a physician or certified nurse practitioner must be completed no more than nine months before or six months after enrollment. A physical examination form designated by the Maryland State Department of Education and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene must be used to meet this requirement.
 - Evidence of immunizations against common childhood communicable diseases is required for all students in nursery through the twelfth grade. A Maryland Immunization Certification form for newly enrolling students may be obtained from the local Department of Health and Human Services or from school personnel. The form and the required immunizations must be completed before a child may attend school. (Form DHMH 896)
 - Exemptions from a physical examination and immunizations are permitted if they are contrary to a student's religious beliefs. Students may also be exempted from immunization requirements if a physician certifies that there is a medical contraindication.

Continue reading the Principal's message on page 3 online and
 Catch up with PTA announcements, and other information!
 The full version GES newsletter is available by linking at our school homepage
<https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/>

Dates to Remember	Thurs, Jan 9th	Rising 6 th graders: Parent Articulation Night at Roberto Clemente MS, 7 - 8:30 pm
	Mon, Jan 13th	Read-A-Thon BEGINS
	Tuesday, Jan 14 th	Winter Music Concert, 7 pm in APR
	Weds, Jan 15 th	Grades 3 and 4 Manna Nutrition lessons
	Thurs, Jan 16 th	Pajama Reading Night, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
	Mon, Jan 20 th	MLK, Jr Holiday, Schools closed
	Tues, Jan 21 st	GES Paisano's Fundraiser, 11 am - 10 pm
	Friday, Jan 24th	Read-A-Thon ENDS
	Monday, Jan 27	Early dismissal @ 1:15 pm
	Tuesday, Jan 28	School closed
Tuesday, February 4 th	Grade level newsletters distributed	
	PTA meeting 7:00 - 8:00 pm	

Principal's Message continued ...

- L. Head lice are common among children. Lice can be readily transmitted in schools, homes, camps, backyards, and playgrounds. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other health authorities, head lice are not a health hazard or sign of uncleanliness and are not responsible for the spread of any disease. Nits (lice eggs) that are not viable ($\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more from the scalp) do not cause the spread of head lice. The spread of lice is best prevented by providing parents/guardians with accurate information about the identification and treatment of head lice and nits. **A student is considered to have infestation with head lice if live lice and/or viable nits (those that are closer than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the scalp) are observed. Students with infestation are excluded from school to obtain treatment with a pediculocide in order to prevent spreading lice to other students.** Health care providers are a resource for treatment. Removal of nits located $\frac{1}{2}$ inch or more from the scalp is recommended to avoid identification confusion. Every effort should be made to minimize time away from school and to expedite treatment for students who are excluded due to head lice infestation. Head lice screening programs are not recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics because the screenings have not proven to have a significant effect on the incidences of head lice in a school community.

I am signing off for now. Please call (301- 353-8050) or email me (Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org) if you have a question, comment or concern.

Take care,
Amy D. Bryan
 Principal
Amy_D_Bryan@mcpsmd.org



Follow me on  @TeamGermantown1



Winter Weather cautions – As we experience slippery weather, we ask you to please keep in mind of our safe school parking lot procedures:

- Please **refrain** from texting or talking on the phone while driving
- Families should **not motion** for children to walk across a parking lot to their car or parent
- Please **refrain** from instructing your child to wait in the front of the school or walk to the side of the school
- **Families please drive to the designated (and safe) care rider lane.** We **discourage** drivers from parking in church parking lot across the street or pull off on the side of the road with flashers
- **Be a role model** to your children and school community by using the **pedestrian crosswalks** at the intersection of Liberty Mill and Dawson Farm roads.

Pick-up traffic in the GES school zone is a busy area. Your patience, cooperation, and compassion helps to ensure all students, staff, and school traffic are safe.

Spotlight on New Staff



Katie Schroeder-Smith, Occupational Therapist

Childhood: Grew up in Ijamsville, MD; returned with my husband and kids to be near my family.

Colleges/Specialization: Degree in Psychology from North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Masters in Occupational Therapy at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Completed post-graduate training in Sensory Integration through the University of Southern California. Also certified in teaching kids’ yoga through Childlight Yoga.

OT experiences: Worked in OT for 18 years. Started with the Infants and Toddlers Program as well as schools in Damascus for 4 years. After first child born, worked in the private pediatric therapy setting, as well as exploring areas of home health, nursing homes, and Frederick County infants and toddlers and school-based OT. Returned this year as an OT at Germantown Elementary and Longview Schools.

Personal info: Married to Justin, a personal trainer/strength conditioning coach. Three children: Sophie age 13, Scarlett age 10, and Sawyer age 6. Their family also includes two dogs, one cat, and a bearded dragon. Katie enjoys running, yoga, gardening, traveling, crafting, and reading.

Good to know: Katie is a major Tarheel alumni, looks forward to visiting the NC campus at Chapel Hill for a football or basketball game each year.

Favorite Quote: “All of life is a constant education.” -- Eleanor Roosevelt

GES Announcements:

From Jeffrey Burdette, Physical Education: I am proud to announce that Germantown Elementary collected close to \$4,445.00 for the American Heart Association during our **KIDS HEART CHALLENGE**. Students enjoyed the jumping activities that benefitted funds for the organization. The total was almost exactly \$300.00 more than last year’s Kids Heart Challenge. The students who participated should be very proud of their accomplishments. I know I am very proud of them! Our top donation collectors are as follows:

- Jordyn F collected \$500.78 in donations
- Lucas D collected \$357.43 in donations
- E.J. B collected \$285.30 in donations

From Christie Cole, Student Council Sponsor: Kids Helping Kids Food Drive update – Thanks for your donations, GES exceeded the goal of donating 500 pounds of food to Manna Food Center! Our GES family donated 782 pounds of food to fight hunger in Montgomery County. Congratulations and thank you for your support!

PTA News from GES PTA President and President-elect

Happy New Year GES Families!

I hope everyone enjoyed the nice, long winter break with friends, family, or however you chose to spend it. We're back now, and ready to kick it into high gear! I've been happy with the parent turn out at monthly meetings, and new volunteers at the events so far. Let's keep that momentum building. If you haven't been able to come out yet, there's still time. In fact, this is a good time to come get to know us and see if there's a spot you'd like to fill for next year (we're still looking for someone to take over this very newsletter!). Follow us on FB and Twitter to see the latest happenings!

Holidays wrap-up **thanks:**



For those of you that were able to join us for the 2nd Annual GES Winter Holiday Pot Luck in December, thanks for coming out and sharing a taste of your kitchen with all of us. There was a great turn out and SO much delicious food! The kids seemed to enjoy themselves with fun games and crafts. I was excited to get to catch up with some parents I hadn't seen in a while. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves as much as I did.

Just around the corner is **Pajama Reading Night!**



Join us next Thursday, January 16th @ 6:30PM. GES teachers will share some of their favorite books with the kids, followed by a magic show, milk, and cookies. All this, in the comfort of pajamas, and ALL FREE (no admission fee and no concessions)! You can't beat that! It's one of my favorite events of the year. As a reminder, as always, all students **MUST** have an adult to attend. We do not host "drop and go" events.

In conjunction with Pajama Reading Night, the PTA is holding its 2nd annual **READ-A-THON!**



Packets went home last week. This is our big chance to raise some money for the school, and how we pay for the awesome events you all love coming to. Added bonus, great excuse to get your kids to do a little extra reading. Please have your students reach out to family members, friends, and neighbors to raise money for the PTA. Super awesome prizes this year for our big earners and big readers! As a fun bonus, share photos of your kids reading

on the GES Facebook page. Let's get excited and get reading!

We look forward to seeing many of you with your families at the Pajama Reading night event and hearing about your children's reading adventures! In the meantime, join us at the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 4th.

Best,

Meghan Lowery

Danielle Story

gesptapresident@yahoo.com

Keep up with the current news and events:

PTA website www.ges-pta.org

Germantown Elementary School PTA



Germantown ES PTA @GermantownPTA



Read-A-Thon event at GES will be our largest fundraiser of the year. On behalf of GES PTA, we are pumped to host this event as it is our second year running a two-weeks reading-a-thon with a goal to raise at least \$5,000.00. The money raised will directly support our teachers and classrooms, as well as organize/support a number of popular school events such as Harvest Dance, International Night, Black History Month Program, Pajama Reading Night, & Staff Appreciation Week.

Read-A-Thon packets were sent home with your children last week. In the packet are guidelines, two forms – Sponsor Form and Reading Record Sheet. I hope the information in the packet is helpful for you and your GES children to get started!

Sharing ideas for you to pick up a book to establish reading time in your family and bond with your children:

- For children in the lower grades, listening to adults or older siblings read counts as reading time.
- For families with students in the upper grades, consider reading out loud as a family one night a week while rotating readers. Help strengthen your child's reading skills by asking questions about his/her reading in terms of comprehension, recalling details, and discussing the book's theme or ideas.
- To parents, family members, and guardians, we encourage you to take the challenge of setting a goal and reading daily as well. Show your child that reading is important in your life too.
- When our children see us reading, they learn the value and joy of it.
- Books that cater to your child's interests make reading a fun downtime, not a chore.
- Most importantly, have FUN reading!

All the above are just some suggestions. Feel free to adjust/tweak/improvise for you and your family!

We certainly hope children like and share the idea of classroom pizza parties coupled with teachers looking to boost reading materials for their classes via Scholastic Book credit.

Please reach out to me at nohrum@hotmail.com, for questions or clarifications. Thank you all for your help and support. Go and enjoy a book with your GES children!

Nigel Ohrum
Chair, Read-A-Thon

Shopping options for loved ones and you can support the PTA!

Box Tops for Education is making its way into the 20th 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 for more info.



Old Clip-able Logo



New Scan-able Logo

Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for your shopping needs and gifts at smile.amazon.com.



By using the **Smile.Amazon.com** link and designating Germantown Elementary School PTA as your 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.



Patriot Student of the Month

(December 2019)

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>Third Grade</u>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Kelsey	<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Audrey
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Leonardo	<i>Mrs. Srour</i>	Keith
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Philomena		
		<u>Fourth Grade</u>	
<u>First Grade</u>		<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Linus
<i>Mrs. Evans</i>	Samaira	<i>Ms. Kiernan</i>	Andrea
<i>Mrs. Fox</i>	Jonnile		
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	Sophia	<u>Fifth Grade</u>	
		<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Alvine
<u>Second Grade</u>		<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Thuc Anh
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Liam		
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Jaylynn	<u>SCB</u>	
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Townsend	<i>Mr. Fishman</i>	Lincoln
		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Elijah
Patrol of the Week	Nicole	<i>Ms. Mathous</i>	Gabriel
Peacemaker of the Week	Aissatou		

**Congratulations to our December
School Spirit Classes of the Month!**

Mrs. Minehan's class 25%
Mrs. Srour's class 52%

School classes of the month are identified by the highest % of (K-2 and 3-5) students in a class wearing school colors and/or spirit wear on the GES School Spirit Day!