

# The Patriot NEWSLETTER



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

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**February is Black History Month**

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

**GES Website**  
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, 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)

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## Acting Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

It is hard to believe that February is already here, and the third marking quarter has begun. We have so much to be looking forward to during the month of February from our Kindergarteners celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> day, Valentine parities and our annual Black History Month Program. The latter event will be held on Wednesday, February 27 at 7:00 in the All Purpose Room. This year, students in 3rd, 4th and 5th grade will perform skits and musical selections that highlight the lives and accomplishments of several African American historical figures, as well as pivotal moments in African American history. We will also recognize students who participated in the annual Black History Month poster exhibit. A small reception will be held at the end of the evening's event. We hope to see our school community come out and support our students for an evening of celebration and enlightenment.

The school spirit continues at GES! Recently, we have had two school spirit days. Last week on Friday, February 1, we

had GES Spirit Wear Day and this past Monday, we had a Sports Team Day. The GES Spirit Wear day is recurring, taking place on the **first Friday of every month**. We encourage students to wear red, white and blue, if they don't possess actual GES spirit wear. Last Friday, Ms. Farrell's class had over 80%, and Mrs. Brown's class was a close second with 78% of her students participating in the GES Spirit Wear Day. It is wonderful to see so much school spirit throughout the building; nice job Patriots!

Highlighted each month is 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's highlight is the information on the **BIRTHDAY TREATS**.

It reads as follows:

*GES allows parents to bring in something for their child's birthday but it cannot take up any instructional time. With this*

*Continued on pg 2...*

## Dates to Remember

- Feb 14 **Valentine's Day parties 2:30 - 3:45 pm**
- Feb 18 President's Day holiday/school closed
- Feb 19 **PTA fundraiser @ Baja Fresh, 4:00 - 10 pm**
- Feb 20 Center for Enriched Studies testing, selected Grade 3 students
- Feb 21 **NO SCHOOL for PEP STUDENTS**
- Feb 25 Welcome back, GES Principal Mrs. Bryan!!!
- Feb 25 Grade level newsletters distributed
- Feb 26 Spring Picture Day

Acting Principal's Message continued ...

*in mind, parents may distribute store baked goods during the student's lunch time to his/her child's classmates only. Only store baked goods will be accepted due to (possible) student allergies. Healthier treats are encouraged due to the national spotlight on childhood obesity. Additionally, extra decorations or party-like accessories are not allowed to accompany the simple sweet treats distributed at lunch. Due to allergies or health choices, some families may store a pre-approved treat for unexpected situations such as birthday (or other classroom) treats. Let's work with these families to ensure their child is eating pre-approved food.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone (301-353-8050) or email (carolynn\_walsleben@mcpsmd.org).

Take care,

*Carolynn Walsleben*

Acting Principal

[carolynn\\_walsleben@mcpsmd.org](mailto:carolynn_walsleben@mcpsmd.org)

Follow us on  @TeamGermantown1

### Main event this month to mark your calendars:



**Black History Month Program:** One of the GES traditional events will take place on **Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 7 – 8:30 PM**, to be held in the All Purpose Room. Please note the date is a change from last month newsletter. Join us for an informative and entertaining event celebrating black history. **Marcia Fuller-Benjamin** has worked hard organizing with the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to perform skits and musical selections for the program. You will have an opportunity to view posters created by students interested in Black History. We look forward to having you join us at the event!



**Earn money for GES!**

**Collect and bring Box Top labels to your child's teacher!**

## Additional School News

**PEP PILOT news:** We are happy to announce that we will be accepting applications for our Preschool Education Program (PEP) for the 2019-2020 school year. PEP offers prekindergarten classes and services for children with disabilities ages 3–5. More specifically PEP PILOT provides a two-day per week early childhood setting for children with and without disabilities. If you choose to enroll your child, he/she will be in an inclusive class with other students with and without disabilities. Classes are Tuesday/Thursday or Wednesday/Friday for 2.5 hours per day. The cost is \$150 per semester or \$300 per year. The class is taught by an MCPS teacher certified in both General Education and Special Education. There is a para educator in the class to assist. The class follows the MCPS PreK Curriculum, “A Big Day for PreK.” Priority is given to children that reside in the local school boundary. Your child must be 3 years old on or before the first day of school for PEP (please check the MCPS website for the official start date. It is usually a week *after* school starts for grades K-5). Due to the anticipated high numbers of applicants, enrollment will be based on a lottery system. Applications will be accepted during the month of February and assignments made in March. You will be contacted in early March if your child is awarded placement in the program. Although a wait list will be created with the names of applicants not originally placed, please have back up plans for Preschool, as there are a limited number of openings.

Applications will be available in the GES office starting February 4th. You can also email Gerry Reed, PEP Parent Educator, at [Gerry\\_D\\_Reed@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Gerry_D_Reed@mcpsmd.org) and request an application via email. Please return your application by February 28<sup>th</sup> to the main office at Germantown ES.

### **CENTER for Enriched Studies (CES):**

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for every Grade 3 parent to return the interest form to their child’s teacher regarding testing for CES. The assessment at Germantown is 2/20/2019.

### **Career Day Update:**

It is that time of year again! As we look toward spring we look forward to our annual Career Day here at GES.

**Please save the date for Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup>!** The staff and students enjoy having GES families present at Career Day. Presenters generally present to two classes for 30 minutes. Please contact Jennifer Atanda, School Counselor, [Jennifer\\_T\\_Atanda@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jennifer_T_Atanda@mcpsmd.org), 301-353-8050, if you are interested in presenting at Career Day this year.

### **Volunteering with GES: Required Procedure for Volunteers**

On June 29, 2015, the Montgomery County Board of Education approved significant changes to the policy regarding Child Abuse and Neglect. The policy guides MCPS procedures and protocols for recognizing, reporting, and preventing suspected child abuse and neglect of students. If you wish to volunteer at Germantown Elementary School or any MCPS school this school year, MCPS is requiring all volunteers to complete an online course regarding Child Abuse and Neglect. This will take about a half hour to complete. Once completed you will receive a confirmation by email. Please print your confirmation and bring it to the office; they will keep this record on file.

If you completed your training in the 2018-2019 school year, you will need to renew your training in 2022. You do NOT need to do it again this year. If you have any questions, please call the office at 301-353-8050.

Everything you need to know about the volunteer training on recognizing and reporting child abuse & neglect:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/>

# PTA News

Dear Patriots Family,

The first month of 2019 is behind us and we look forward to our students finishing the school year strong! Many thanks to **Renee** and her team of volunteers who coordinated the Pajama Reading Night. Always a special thanks to our wonderful **Kris** who prepares the school's newsletters each month. Big kudos to **Principal Intern Walsleben** for her great leadership she provided to GES with us during January and continues until last week in February. Parent volunteer, **Becky**, coordinated a wonderful display at the Patriots Breakfast. There are so many more valuable volunteers that are a part of the GES family; each of you is appreciated.

**Unfortunately, without candidates to run for the Treasurer and President positions for the upcoming school year, there may not be a PTA next year.** We have various officer and committee positions that need new leaders for the upcoming school year:

- President (required position to have a PTA)\*
- Treasurer (required position to have a PTA)\*
- Membership Coordinator
- Cultural Arts
- Hospitality
- Spirit Wear

Whether you have a little time or a lot of time to spare, a position within the PTA may work with your availability. If you are interested in taking on a position, please feel free to e-mail me at [LLydiarose@aol.com](mailto:LLydiarose@aol.com). I would love to meet with you one-on-one over coffee to discuss how you may best serve the PTA given your availability and interests.

On a lighter note, Spring Break is right around the corner and summer camp planning is well underway! [Certifikid.com](http://Certifikid.com) has great deals on family outings, summer camps, and other fun activities for your children.



Please type "**PATRIOTS**" at check-out so that the PTA gets credit for your purchase. A few more certificates (paid vouchers) are needed to count towards the minimum total GES needs to receive the monetary benefit for school fundraising before the end of this school year. Check the flyer on page 6 in this newsletter for details how CertifiKid supports schools. *(Curious? Browse and purchase by clicking on the corresponding image on the left for the direct link)* We appreciate your support through CertifiKid.

Supporting the PTA and GES can be done through other purchases, we have restaurant fundraisers every month and placing orders through Amazon – both donate a portion of sales to help fund activities and school needs.

GES PTA wants:



**VOLUNTEERS** are needed to assist with the set-up and clean-up of the APR for this event. Please reach out to **Mrs. FULLER-BENJAMIN**, look for a sign-up genius through the PTA app. In addition, since she will be away for one week, interested parent volunteers have opportunities to help students practice for their performances between **12 – 1:30 pm**; if available please contact her at school as soon as possible via email [Marcella\\_fuller@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Marcella_fuller@mcpsmd.org)



**PHOTOGRAPHS** Want to see your child in the yearbook? Help us during the school year by submitting pictures for consideration to [GESyearbooks@yahoo.com](mailto:GESyearbooks@yahoo.com) , your pictures clicked from:

- Field Trips from grades K, 2, 3 and 5 (be sure to include grade and location)
- students sporting GES spirit wear
- Class parties
- GES events

Katy Stermer, editor, is seeking parent volunteers to help on the yearbook committee. Two-four hours is needed from the comfort of your couch to identify GES students in the photos. Please contact Katy if you can help!



**PARENTS!** The next **PTA Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, March 5th at 7:00 PM in the GES Media Center**. We were grateful for Bar-T to provide free child care last night to parents who attended the PTA meeting and presentation from Roberto Clemente Middle School. We are currently working with Bar-T again to allow parents to drop off their children free of charge while **you**, parents, can participate with us during the PTA meeting next month. We need your support and open to hearing new ideas for GES community and the PTA.

You may further support the PTA by attending our events. We have shared the PTA calendar for your viewing information at [ges-pta.org](http://ges-pta.org). Additionally, if you download the GES PTA app on Android and iPhone; alerts will be sent directly to your phone about important GES events and other information.

Thank you for your support and please let me know any questions or concerns or ideas you have in mind. I hope to see new faces at the next PTA meeting next month!

Sincerely yours,

*Lydia Rose* , GES PTA President

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**PTA Restaurant Fundraiser!**

Take a break from cooking and enjoy quality time with your family at Baja Fresh Mexican Grill in Germantown (Shops at Town Center & Century Station). The restaurant will donate a % of sales to GES PTA.

**Tuesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>**

**4:00 – 10:00 pm**



**SHOP**

FOR LOCAL FAMILY FUN AT UP TO 50% OFF &

**EARN**

\$5 FOR YOUR ORGANIZATION—UNLIMITED TIMES!



Sign up for free on CertifiKID.com, and **use promo code PATRIOTS** at checkout for up to 50% off farms, festivals, holiday events, activities, camps, classes, entertainment, unique gifts, restaurants and more!



For every purchase of \$20+ on CertifiKID.com using your organization's promo code, \$5 will be contributed to your fundraising efforts.



Please share this promo code with your friends and family. There's no limit on how much we can raise! **HURRY!** This promotion ends June 15, 2019.

**Use your organization's promo code on unlimited purchases!**

[www.certifikid.com](http://www.certifikid.com)



Shop for your Valentine at **smile.amazon.com** and Amazon donates.



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## Patriot Student of the Month

(January 2019)

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>Fourth Grade</u>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Mary	<i>Mrs. Kahn</i>	Armando
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Enzo	<i>Mr. Kaigler</i>	Edward
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Maahir		
<u>First Grade</u>		<u>Fifth Grade</u>	
<i>Ms. Horvath</i>	Nabhan	<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Aminata
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	David	<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Jazlin
<i>Mrs. Rockovich</i>	Corey		
		<u>SCB</u>	
<u>Second Grade</u>			
		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Eden
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Timothy	<i>Ms. Gray</i>	DJ
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Cayden		
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Isetta	PEP 5 Hour ( <i>Mrs. Ho</i> )	
		PEP Classic ( <i>Mrs. McKenzie</i> )	
<u>Third Grade</u>			
		PEP Pilot ( <i>Mrs. McKenzie</i> )	
<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Modou		
<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Kalkidan	Patrol of the Month	Noah
		Peacemaker of the Month	n/a



## Winter Weather: Stay in Touch with MCPS

Winter weather is here. MCPS offers numerous ways for parents to learn about school closures, delayed openings, and early dismissals due to inclement weather.

- AlertMCPS

Receive text messages or emails from MCPS during weather-related emergencies and other major events that impact school system operations. Parents can also sign up to receive alerts specific to their child's school. Subscribe to AlertMCPS at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx>

- MCPS homepage

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

- QuickNotes email news service

Subscribe at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/subscribe/>

- MCPS cable channel

Comcast 34, Verizon 36 or RCN 89

- Recorded information (English and Spanish)

301-279-3673

- Ask MCPS

301-309-6277. Staff take calls from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, in English and Spanish.

- Twitter

<http://twitter.com/mcps>

- Local radio and TV stations

Visit <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/> for more information.

## Clima Invernal: Manteniéndose en Contacto con MCPS

El clima invernal se acerca. MCPS ofrece muchas formas en que los padres pueden informarse sobre los cierres de escuelas, demoras en el comienzo de la jornada escolar o cuando los estudiantes se deben retirar de la escuela antes del horario habitual por causa de tiempo inclemente.

- AlertMCPS (Alerta MCPS)

Reciba mensajes de texto o correo electrónico de MCPS durante emergencias relacionadas con tiempo inclemente y otros acontecimientos importantes que afectan el funcionamiento del sistema escolar. Los padres también pueden inscribirse para recibir alertas que tienen que ver específicamente con la escuela de sus hijos [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/alertmcps.aspx).

- MCPS homepage

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

- QuickNotes email news service

Subscribe at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/quicknotes/subscribe/>

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- Local radio and TV stations

Visit <http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/> for more information.

### **Share Your Thoughts on Policy KBA**

The Montgomery County Board of Education wants to hear from the community on proposed revisions to Policy KBA, *Policy on Public Information*. The revised policy discusses the importance of effective communication with members of the Montgomery County community across a variety of existing and emerging media and communication channels. The revised policy also affirms the Board of Education's commitment to following all legal obligations regarding the protection and appropriate disclosure of student and employee information. You can provide comments until March 3, 2019. For more information, visit

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/policy/policy-for-public-comment.aspx).

### **Student Transfer Application Season Begins February 1 (English and Spanish)**

Parents and guardians who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season which begins on February 1. All COSA requests must be submitted no later than April 1.

Except for students in the Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC), and Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC) areas, MCPS students are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under limited circumstances. For more information, visit

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers).

### **Temporada de Solicitud para Transferencias de Estudiantes Comienza el 1ro. de Febrero**

Los padres y guardianes que deseen solicitar un Cambio de Asignación de Escuela (Change of School Assignment–COSA) para sus hijos desde su escuela local a otra pueden iniciar el proceso durante la próxima temporada de transferencias de escuela que comienza el 1ro. de febrero. Todas las peticiones de COSA deben ser presentadas a más tardar el 1ro. de abril.

Excepto para los estudiantes en las zonas de Northeast Consortium (NEC), Downcounty Consortium (DCC) y Middle School Magnet Consortium (MSMC), los estudiantes de MCPS son asignados a una escuela de acuerdo a su domicilio o de acuerdo con su Programa Educativo Individualizado (Individualized Education Program–IEP) y por lo tanto deben asistir a su escuela local. Los cambios de asignación de una escuela a otra son permitidos a los estudiantes bajo circunstancias muy limitadas. Para más información, visite

[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfers).

### **MCCPTA is Honoring Contributions to Special Education**

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to submit nominations to recognize individuals who have contributed to the success and acceptance of students with special needs. The recognitions are being given by the Special Education Committee of the Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc. (MCCPTA, Inc.).

Nominations are being accepted in four categories: Staff, Programs, Parents, and Students. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. Applications are due by Friday, March 22. Nominations can be submitted by e-mail attachment or in the body of an e-mail message to [SpecialEd@mccpta.org](mailto:SpecialEd@mccpta.org). If you are unable to submit an electronic nomination, you may send a completed nomination form and a nominating statement, along with supporting statements, to the MCCPTA, Inc. office: Montgomery County Council of PTAs, Inc., P.O. Box 10754, Rockville, Maryland 20849.

The nomination form can be accessed at the following link:

[news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCCPTA-2018-2019-Special-Education-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf](http://news.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/MCCPTA-2018-2019-Special-Education-Award-Nomination-Form.pdf).

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**Restorative Justice Workshops Set for February 5 and April 2 (English and Spanish)**

Parents, guardians, and community members are invited to attend a workshop on Tuesday, February 5, at Julius West Middle School, and on Tuesday, April 2, at A. Mario Loiederman Middle School from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. to learn more about the district’s restorative justice vision and how this social justice platform allows students to actively engage and problem-solve physical, psychological, and disciplinary issues that affect their lives and the community. More information can be found [here](#).

**Talleres sobre Justicia Restaurativa Programados para el 5 de Febrero y el 2 de Abril**

Se invita a los padres, guardianes y miembros de la comunidad a que asistan a un taller el martes, 5 de febrero, en Julius West Middle School, y el martes, 2 de abril, en A. Mario Loiederman Middle School, de 6:30 a 8:30 p.m., para conocer más acerca de la visión del distrito escolar sobre la justicia restaurativa y cómo esta plataforma de justicia social permite a los estudiantes participar activamente y resolver problemas físicos, psicológicos y disciplinarios que afectan sus vidas y la comunidad. Se puede encontrar más información [aquí](#).