

The Patriot NEWSLETTER



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[Random Acts of Kindness during the holidays](#)

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montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/germantownes/
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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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Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

Happy December! Our staff and I certainly hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. There's so much to be thankful for. We thank our **community partner, Agape AME Church**, for providing Thanksgiving food boxes to identified GES families in need. The boxes each were filled with a frozen turkey, an oven roaster, fresh produce and canned/boxed goods allowing our families in need to have a "traditional" Thanksgiving meal. What a blessing for those families!

As you may have heard, on November 24th the **Board of Education** voted to **accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the new school boundaries for Northwest, Seneca Valley and Clarksburg clusters**. This decision has a direct impact on current GES students. Currently, all of our students matriculate to Roberto Clemente Middle School (RCMS) and then onto Northwest High School (NWHs). In the future, only a portion of our students will follow that feeder pattern. A portion of GES students will now attend Seneca Valley High School after RCMS. The links provided on this take-home newsletter preview and online are for you to view the map to see where your child(ren) will attend (based on where you reside) and the decision.

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 1**. (Part 2 will be published in next month's Patriot newsletter.) Policy on health room and medications reads 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.

A. No medication will be administered in school or during school-sponsored activities without the parent's/guardian's written authorization and a written physician's order. This includes both prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) medications.

B. The parent/guardian is responsible for completing Part I and obtaining the physician's statement on Part II of the Montgomery County Authorization to Administer Prescribed Medication (MCPS 525-13, or MCPS 525-14 for auto-injectable epinephrine).

Continued on back...

New school boundaries for Northwest, Seneca Valley and Clarksburg clusters:

MAP: <http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/SVSuperintendentsRecommendationHSArchE.pdf>
DECISION: http://gis.mcpsmd.org/boundarystudypdfs/SVHS_SuptRecOptionTableUpdated.pdf

Principal's Message continued ...

This is required every school year for each new or continuing order or if there is a change in dosage or time of administration during the school year. (A physician may use office stationery or prescription pad in lieu of completing Part II). Information necessary includes: child's name, diagnosis, medication name, dosage, time of administration, duration of medication, side effects, physician signature, and date.

C. The medication must be delivered to the school by the parent/guardian or, under special circumstances, an adult designated by the parent/guardian. School of Health and Human Services personnel will not administer medication brought to school by a child.

D. All prescription medication must be provided in a container with the Pharmacist's label attached and delivered by the parent/guardian to the health room. Non-prescription over the counter medication must be in the container with the manufacturer's original label. Physician samples must be appropriately labeled by the physician.

E. The first day's dosage of any new medication must be given at home before it can be administered at school.

F. The parent/guardian is responsible for collecting any unused portion of a medication within one week after expiration of the physician's order or at the end of the school year. Medication not claimed within that time period will be destroyed.

G. Self-administered and /or non-medically prescribed medication are entirely the responsibility of the parent/guardian and not that of either the Montgomery County Public Schools or Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services. Medications without accompanying physician's orders and parental consent will not be stored in the health room.

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, Nov 5th 4th grade field trip to Imagination Stage
Before school clubs meet
- Fri, Nov 6th 3rd grade field trip to Imagination Stage
PTA Holiday Potluck Party, 7 pm in GES APR
(all members are welcome!)
- Mon, Dec 9th Picture make up day
- Tues, Dec 10th Last day for After school clubs
- Thurs, Dec 12th No PEP classes
Last day for Before school clubs
- Fri, Dec 13th Hearing and Vision rescreening
- Dec. 23 - Jan. 1 Winter Break
- Thurs, January 2 School resumes
- Tues, January 7th PTA meeting 7:00 - 8:00 pm

Principal's Message continued ...

H. When your child is sick, please keep him/her home from school for 24 hours. This not only benefits your child, but other children and staff in the classroom at school. Parents should keep their child home from school when s/he exhibits such symptoms as:

- Temperature more than 100
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach ache
- Diarrhea
- Pale or flushed face
- Headache
- Cough
- Ear ache
- Thick discharge from nose
- Sore throat
- Rash or infection of the skin
- Red or pink eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Loss of energy or decrease in activity

I can't believe we are already transitioning into 2020 but I guess time quickly flies by when we're focused on excellent teaching and learning! As we **enter into the winter holiday season** I'd like to take this time to wish you all well and to thank you for your on-going support and kindness toward my staff and me. I look forward to more good times after the New Year!

Have a wonderful holiday, enjoy your precious family time, and be safe in your travels! 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

Spotlight on New Staff



Hannah Srour, 3rd Grade Teacher

Childhood: Grew up in Arkansas before moving to Bel Air, MD

Colleges/Specialization: Degree in Early Childhood Education (grades PreK-4) from Messiah College. Also earned a certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages. Currently working on graduate studies through Messiah College for Masters degree in Curriculum and Instruction with a certificate in Online Teaching. Goal to graduate next Spring.

Teaching experiences: Prior to MCPS, taught third grade in Baltimore County, MD and Harford County, MD. Prior to GES, taught third grade at Cedar Grove ES for two years.

Personal info: Mrs. Srour met her husband in college, and shortly after he joined the U.S. Army. Married four years, they adopted two cats, Yoda and Olaf. When she is not working, she enjoys reading books, spending time with their families, hiking and traveling together, and cuddling with their cats.

Update from GES physical education:

This year’s 28th Annual **Kids Heart Challenge** is complete! We had 111 students signed up to help raise money for the American Heart Association. On Wednesday, November 27th we had two Kids Heart Challenge “parties” to celebrate those students who collected donations for the AHA. The first Jump Party was for the 1st, 3rd, and 4th graders. We had approximately 65 students who had a chance to go through an obstacle course (Ninja Warrior), a hurdle racing/ hippity hop station, and of course a jump rope station where the students could show off their short or long jump rope skills. The second Jump Party was for the 2nd and 5th graders. We had approximately 40 jumpers doing the same activities as the first Jump Party. The students had a blast! They really enjoyed the different Kids Heart Challenge parties.

As of right now we recorded/collected just a bit over \$2,700 through online donations. The pledge sheets have not been completely counted yet. I will let everyone know how much we have raised for this year’s Kids Heart Challenge.

I just want to congratulate and thank all the students who participated in this year’s Challenge. They did a great job with all their hard work. I also want to thank the parents for letting their child participate in such a community building project. Thank you for your time, donations, and your help with your child collecting donation either online or through other money donations. It truly has been an honor to work with everyone on such a worthwhile event.

Thanks again,
Jeff Burdette
Physical Education Teacher/ Kids Heart Challenge Coordinator



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

PTA News from GES PTA President and President-elect

GES Parents,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This feels like an appropriate time to stop and express my gratitude to the individuals making this a successful PTA year.



First comes in mind is **Lourdes Pesseh** for all she does, but most recently making the book fair a hit! **Audrey Boettcher** for reviving the PTA social media accounts to keep everyone in the loop, **Tracy Green** for diving right into everything as a new kindergarten parent, **Jamie Jackson** for taking over Spirit Wear and racking up those volunteer hours, **Nigel Ohrum** and **Becky Miller** for being the long standing pillars keeping this group going, **Danielle Story** for being my partner in crime, everyone who has made it out to the first few PTA meetings or volunteered at the first few events, and of course **Kris daCosta-Warshauer** for taking the time each month to put this newsletter together.

On that last note, Kris will not be with us after this school year as her son will be moving on to middle school which means we need to find her replacement. If you have any interest in taking over this role please reach out (experience not required, WORD and layout skills helpful). It is an excellent way to volunteer from the comfort of your own home, and flexible within your hours of availability. Kris is more than happy to train her replacement on all things newsletter before she leaves!

A special message from Book Fair Chair Lourdes Pesseh:



Thank you all for supporting our fall book fair- it was a success! We hope everyone enjoyed the book fair and will continue reading their new books over the cold snowy days ahead.

Thank you to the following volunteers: **Meghan Lowery, Danielle Story, Nigel Ohrum, Cynthia Steele, Kris daCosta, Erica Melendez, Tracy Green, Hilda Magezi, Kristin Blank, Erin Moran**, our middle school helpers, **Johan, Aneesh, Luke** and **Jacob** and our GES helpers, **Jordan, Jayden, Michael, Logan**, and **Mason** and anyone else that may have stopped in to help out. I truly appreciate everyone’s efforts to help and was happy to see so many new faces. 😊 We look forward to seeing you and your family at our Buy One Get One Free Book Fair (June 1 – 5, 2020)... just in time for summer reading!

Coming up next is the Holiday Potluck this Friday, Dec 6th from 7-9pm.



We tried this out last year for the first time and it was a great way to catch up with families or get acquainted with new families. Parents or adult chaperones need to be present as children cannot be dropped off at this school festive event. Each family brings a dish to share with the other families in attendance. Please bring a name card for your dish with the ingredients listed for those with dietary restrictions. A night of fun with crafts and games, as well as food and conversation. Please use the signup genius that was emailed out and shared through our social media.

Finally, I know many of you were following the boundary study like I was, and it did not go the way I had hoped. Our students will go off to middle school together, then split for high school between Northwest and Seneca Valley. While I was not a supporter of this decision, it has been made and we will persevere. At Germantown ES, **we are still a small, tight knit community and I suggest we continue to build these bonds.** You never know what the future will hold, but having a close community will never steer you wrong.

I hope everyone has a wonderful winter break and I look forward to seeing you at the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, January 7th.

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

Holiday shopping options for loved ones and you can support the PTA!

Purchase with purpose. Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for holiday gifts at smile.amazon.com.



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.

Planning for entertainment fun for your family and kids during winter break can be convenient and save money with deals through CertifiKid.

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

(November 2019)

<u>Kindergarten</u>		<u>Third Grade</u>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Israel	<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Ayaan
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Srilekha	<i>Mrs. Srour</i>	Dyann
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Destiny		
		<u>Fourth Grade</u>	
<u>First Grade</u>		<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Roman
<i>Mrs. Evans</i>	Jacob	<i>Ms. Kiernan</i>	Isabella
<i>Mrs. Fox</i>	Yoselyn		
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	Kayla	<u>Fifth Grade</u>	
		<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Kayla
<u>Second Grade</u>		<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Matthew
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Kelsey		
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Fatoumata	<u>SCB</u>	
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Aron	<i>Mr. Fishman</i>	Lincoln
		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Nikolas
Patrol of the Week	Ayden	<i>Ms. Mathous</i>	Eden
Peacemaker of the Week	Clarie		



Drop-off and Dismissal Reminders: We have a number of parents driving into the smaller lot to drop off and/or pick up students. Priority of this lot is for GES staff and school buses traffic. Parents driving cars into this area disrupts the traffic. **Please drop off your children 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!

Liberty Mill Road crossings: Safety is a priority and responsibility, please refrain from crossing Liberty Mill Road between smaller lot and the Church. 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.

MCPS Community News (English and Spanish)

Winter Coat Drive Under Way

The MCPS Prekindergarten/Head Start Programs are collecting new winter coats for students. They are seeking donations of boys' and girls' coats in sizes 5, 6, 6X, 7, and 8, along with other winter wear, such as hats and gloves. Donations can be sent to Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. For more information, contact Ms. Lisa W. Conlon, social services specialist, at 240-740-4530.

Ya Está en Marcha la Campaña de Recolección de Abrigos de Invierno

Los Programas de Prekindergarten/Head Start de MCPS están recolectando abrigos de invierno para los alumnos. Están solicitando donaciones de abrigos para niños y niñas en tallas 5, 6, 6X, 7 y 8, además de otras prendas de invierno, tales como sombreros/gorros y guantes. Las donaciones pueden ser enviadas a Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road, Room 141, Rockville, Maryland 20852. Para más información, por favor llame a la Srta. Lisa W. Conlon, especialista en servicios sociales, teléfono 240-740-4530.

Phase One of Districtwide Boundary Analysis Under Way

External consultants from WXY architecture + urban design (WXY), working on behalf of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), have launched the first phase of the Districtwide Boundary Analysis, an initiative designed to provide a comprehensive assessment of MCPS boundaries. WXY will analyze various data points, such as school facility utilization and capacity, student demographics, school assignment and travel patterns. It is important to note that this initiative will not make recommendations on potential boundary revisions. Phase one of this initiative will include data analysis and community engagement activities. The first community engagement activity of this phase will be the **Board of Education's public hearing on Monday, November 18**. The hearing will begin at 6:00 p.m. at Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive in Rockville. Members of the community who wish to testify are asked to register online at

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3Cq6C9c08s8sup_gZCRDx2kRGOTF1XNk7SErCmUb1SYyqEg/vi ewform.

Regional meetings will be held beginning Wednesday, December 4 and will continue through mid-January 2020. Details about additional dates and locations will be available on the Districtwide Boundary Analysis webpage in the coming days at

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/.

Ya Está en Marcha la Primera Fase del Análisis de Límites Geográficos para Todo el Condado

Consultores externos de arquitectura y diseño urbano (WXY) trabajando en nombre de Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), han iniciado la primera fase del Análisis de Límites Geográficos para Todo el Condado, una iniciativa diseñada para proveer una evaluación integral de los límites geográficos en MCPS. WXY analizará diversos puntos de datos, tales como utilización y capacidad de instalaciones escolares, datos demográficos de los estudiantes, asignación escolar y patrones de viaje. Es importante destacar que esta iniciativa no hará recomendaciones sobre posibles revisiones a los límites geográficos. La primera fase de esta iniciativa incluirá análisis de datos y actividades de participación de la comunidad. La primera actividad de participación de la comunidad de esta fase será la **audiencia pública del Consejo de Educación, el lunes, 18 de noviembre**. La audiencia comenzará a las 6:00 p.m., en Carver Educational Services Center, 850 Hungerford Drive, en Rockville. Se pide a los miembros de la comunidad que deseen prestar testimonio que por favor se inscriban en línea en

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd3Cq6C9c08s8sup_gZCRDx2kRGOTF1XNk7SErCmUb1SYyqEg/vi ewform.

Se realizarán reuniones regionales a partir del miércoles, 4 de diciembre, y continuarán hasta mediados de enero 2020. En los próximos días, en la página web del Análisis de Límites Geográficos en Todo el Condado se publicarán más detalles sobre fechas y lugares adicionales. Ingrese a: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/publicinfo/boundary-analysis/.

MCPS Community Conversation: The New Curriculum

Please join MCPS curriculum leaders to learn more about the new curriculum, its implementation, key highlights, and available resources and supports for parents/guardians. During the live presentation and virtual conversation, online questions will be answered. Questions can be submitted online and via text message now and through the duration of the live TV program. The program will be live on MCPS TV (Comcast 34/998 HD, Verizon 36, and RCN 89) and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Conversación de MCPS con la Comunidad: El Nuevo Currículo

Por favor acompañe a los líderes de MCPS encargados del currículo para conocer más acerca del nuevo currículo académico, su implementación, puntos destacados y recursos y apoyos disponibles para los padres/guardianes. Durante la presentación en vivo y conversación virtual, se responderán preguntas en línea. Las preguntas se pueden enviar en línea y por mensaje de texto ahora y durante la duración del programa de televisión en vivo. El programa se transmitirá en vivo en MCPS TV (Comcast 34/998 HD, Verizon 36 y RCN 89) y en línea en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Nominations Now Open for Supporting Services Award

Nominations are now open for the Supporting Services Employee of the Year Award. This award recognizes a supporting services employee who extends himself/herself beyond the basic required duties and contributes to students and the school community by enhancing student learning, creating positive relationships, and making the school and/or office a better place.

Nominees must be active support professionals with a minimum of three years of service with MCPS. Parents/guardians, students, staff, and community members can nominate. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 cash award. **The deadline is 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 19.** You can submit your nominations at www.seiu500.org/mcps-employee-of-the-year.

Ya Están Abiertas las Nominaciones para el Premio a Servicios de Apoyo

Ya están abiertas las nominaciones para el Premio de Empleado/a de Servicios de Apoyo del Año. Este premio reconoce a un empleado/a de servicios de apoyo que va más allá de sus obligaciones básicas y contribuye a la comunidad escolar y a los estudiantes mejorando el aprendizaje de los estudiantes, creando relaciones positivas y haciendo de la escuela y/u oficina un mejor lugar.

Los nominados/as deben ser profesionales de apoyo en activo con un mínimo de tres años de servicio con MCPS. Los padres/guardianes, estudiantes, empleados y miembros de la comunidad pueden presentar una nominación. El ganador/a recibirá un premio de \$1,000 en efectivo. **El plazo límite es a las 4:00 p.m., del jueves, 19 de diciembre.** Usted puede enviar sus nominaciones a www.seiu500.org/mcps-employee-of-the-year.