

# The Patriot NEWSLETTER



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

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**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, 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,

**Welcome 2019 !** The GES staff and I certainly hope you had a wonderful winter break and holiday season. We give huge thanks to **Holly Hills Montessori** and many of **our very own staff**, who purchased holiday gifts for some of our students in need. In addition, once again I want to thank our **community partner, Agape AME Church**, for providing 19 turkeys, including fresh vegetables, sides and a holiday pie to identified GES families. What a blessing for those families!

I know you will join me in welcoming Mrs. Deb Ryan, "visiting principal" to Germantown Elementary School. Mrs. Ryan is currently the principal of Rosemary Hills ES and will be working with staff and students to support teaching and learning, as well as playing a critical role in supporting my development as a principal intern. I also wanted to share with you that Ms. Judith Starlings, Administrative Secretary and Mrs. Nancy Jespersen, Attendance Secretary, will both be on long-term leave. During this time period, Mrs. Janet Paul, will be our Acting Administrative Secretary between

January 4-25, 2019 and Mrs. Mary (Kitty) Burkey will be our Acting Attendance Secretary, January 7-31, 2019. We look forward to having Ms. Starlings and Mrs. Jespersen back at GES, and are grateful to Mrs. Paul and Mrs. Burkey for joining our GES team.

From time to time, I highlight information contained within the GES Policies and Procedures that was distributed at the beginning of the school year and is posted on our school's website. The section on **HOME/SCHOOL FOLDERS** is highlighted below:

*These folders should go home and be checked by parents daily. The Home/School folders may contain HW, corrected work, a note from school staff, newsletters, fliers, etc. Teachers will check this folder for notes from home as well. New folders will be distributed in late January. Many thanks to our PTA for purchasing these valuable 2-way communication tools for our families!*

*Continued on pg 2...*

## Dates to Remember

- Jan 16 Reading Pajama Night, 6:30 - 8:30 pm
- Jan 21 Holiday/No School
- Jan 23 **Domino's Pizza fundraiser - all day**
- Jan 23 Winter Concert @ 7 pm (snow date Jan. 30)
- Jan 25 Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm
- Jan 28 No School - Professional Day for Teachers
- Feb 1<sup>st</sup> **GES Spirit Wear Day**
- Feb 5<sup>th</sup> **PTA Meeting @ 7 pm** with representative from Roberto Clemente Elementary School

Acting Principal's Message continued ...

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

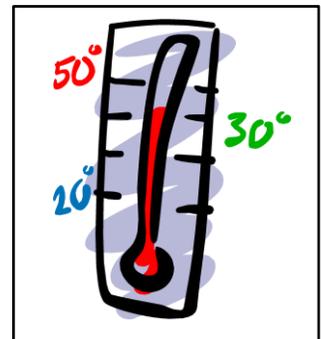
[carolynn\\_walsleben@mcpsmd.org](mailto:carolynn_walsleben@mcpsmd.org)

Follow us on  @TeamGermantown1

**Cold Weather Reminder.....**

Please be sure to send your child to school dressed for the weather. As the weather continues to be cold, students should wear clothing that they are comfortable in and that will keep them warm. Layering clothing, so that the child can take off a sweater or sweatshirt, depending on the varying temperatures in the building, is a very good idea. Remember, we do try to get outside for recess when we can!

Following policy, we send children outside for recess if/when the temperature is above 32 degrees and the conditions are dry. It is also suggested that students' outerwear be marked with their name on the inside.



## Additional School News

### Resources to Support Student Learning:

Are you looking for a way to support your child’s learning, either through practice or enrichment? Please visit [www.quantile.com](http://www.quantile.com) to find math activities, which can be accessed at home and [www.Lexile.com](http://www.Lexile.com) to find books that match your child’s Lexile level.

### HELP! Recess Volunteers:

We are looking for volunteers to assist in supervising students during recess. If you are willing to and have the time to volunteer during a recess please contact Mrs. Jennifer Atanda, counselor at 301-353-8050. Please note that all volunteers must have completed the MCPS Volunteer training at <https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/childabuseandneglect/#Volunteer>.

### Exciting news happening at GES: Pregnancy News

Congratulations to **Mrs. Bubser** and her husband, who are expecting a new addition to their family in April. We wish the Bubser family the very best and we are looking forward to meeting baby Bubser in the spring.

### Events to mark your calendars:

**Pajama Reading Night:** Join us for an evening of reading, entertainment, and milk and cookies! On Wednesday, January 16, starting promptly at 6:30 pm, please join staff members as they read stories to you and your child; followed by entertainment by Barry Louis Polisar at 7pm. Please note that this is **not a drop-off activity** and an adult must accompany students. The PTA and GES staff are looking forward to seeing you and your family during this family fun-filled evening.



#### GES Restaurant Fundraiser!

Take a break from cooking and enjoy quality time with your family at Domino’s Pizza in Germantown. The restaurant will donate a % of sales to GES field trips for grades 4 – 5 students.

**Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>**

**ALL DAY**

*Chorus & Instrumental Music*

## *Winter Concert*

*Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>*

*7:00 pm*

*(snow date is January 30<sup>th</sup>)*

*All GES families are invited*

# PTA News

Dear Patriots Family,

Happy New Year to all of you and your families!

I hope everyone had a happy and memorable Winter Break! On December 7, 2018, the PTA hosted its First Annual Holiday Potluck Party for PTA members and their families, and it was a pleasant success thanks to the many volunteers who assisted including our wonderful Lourdes P. Many thanks to all of the families who brought delicious dishes to share. The kids had an absolute blast with the hot-chocolate station, holiday crafts and free play! If you are considering joining the PTA, it is not too late to sign up! Please visit [ges-pta.org](http://ges-pta.org).

The PTA is currently looking currently looking for parents like you to volunteer for the upcoming 2019 - 2020 school year! Whether you have a little time or a lot of time to spare, there's a position within the PTA that may work with your availability. Whether you are a PTA member or not, please join us at our next meeting in February. The current PTA committee members will be able to answer any questions you have regarding volunteerism.

## Upcoming Events:



**Pajama Reading Night:** Pick out your child's favorite pajamas and mark your calendar for a fun, educational family night at school on **Wednesday, January 16 from 6:30 – 8:30 PM**. Share stories and laughter! Enjoy cookies and milk, provided by the PTA.



The next **PTA Meeting** will take place on **Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 PM in the GES Media Center**. One of the benefits of attending meetings is interacting with other GES parents. **As a PARENT or PTA MEMBER, YOUR PRESENCE at PTA MEETINGS WOULD GARDNER SUPPORT and SHARING IDEAS.**

Also joining us at this meeting will be a liaison from Roberto Clemente Middle School with important information to share; details will follow.



**Black History Month Program:** This event will take place on **Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> from 7 – 8:30 PM**. Join us for an informative and entertaining event celebrating black history. More details will be announced soon.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Lastly, with Spring Break right around the corner and summer planning underway, check out a fantastic resource for discounts on entertainment, recreational, and travel plans. CertifiKid is family friendly!



View great deals on family outings, summer camps, and other fun activities for your little ones. I once purchased a camping package at Yogi Bear Jellystone Park through Certifikid and my daughter had the best time! If you use **“PATRIOTS”** at checkout, the PTA will receive a special donation from your purchase *without* increasing the purchase price for your item. Thank you in advance for supporting PTA fundraising efforts! *(to browse and purchase, click on the corresponding image for the direct link)*

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our next meeting on February 5. If you have any questions, please email me at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com)

*Lydia Rose*, GES PTA President



**Earn money for GES!**

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Patriot Student of the Month

(December 2018)

<b><u>Kindergarten</u></b>		<b><u>Fourth Grade</u></b>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Daniel	<i>Mrs. Kahn</i>	Taniya
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Yoselyn	<i>Mr. Kaigler</i>	Kayla
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Chloe		
<b><u>First Grade</u></b>		<b><u>Fifth Grade</u></b>	
<i>Ms. Horvath</i>	Nate	<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Danielle
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	David	<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Joey
<i>Mrs. Rockovich</i>	Annalese		
		<b><u>SCB</u></b>	
<b><u>Second Grade</u></b>		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Eden
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Ali	<i>Ms. Gray</i>	Hannah
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Salif		
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Jean	PEP 5 Hour ( <i>Mrs. Ho</i> )	
		PEP Classic ( <i>Mrs. McKenzie</i> )	
<b><u>Third Grade</u></b>		PEP Pilot ( <i>Mrs. McKenzie</i> )	
<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Naomi		
<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Hephzibah	Peacemaker of the Month	Natalie
		Patrol 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 acui. 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

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### **Help MCPS Receive Critical Impact Aid Grants**

Impact Aid programs and grants are designed to assist local school districts that enroll federally connected students. The grants from these programs become part of the MCPS general operating budget and support instructional activities. To qualify for Impact Aid funding, MCPS must determine how many of its parents/guardians are in active duty with the uniformed services, employed on federal property, reside in federal or public housing, and/or are a foreign government military officer. MCPS uses the Federal Impact Aid Survey that is distributed to all families to collect this information. For each school-aged child in your household, please complete and return the survey as soon as possible. The survey is available on the [MCPS website](#). Your participation is critical to ensuring that MCPS receives its fair share of federal Impact Aid grant funds and that all MCPS students receive an excellent education. If you have any questions, contact the MCPS Division of the Controller at 301-279-3039.

### **Ayude a Que MCPS Reciba Subvenciones Cruciales de Asistencia de Impacto**

Los programas y subvenciones de Asistencia de Impacto (Impact Aid) están diseñados para ayudar a los distritos escolares locales que matriculan a estudiantes federalmente conectados. Las subvenciones de estos programas se convierten en parte del presupuesto operativo general de MCPS y apoyan actividades de enseñanza. Para calificar para fondos de Asistencia de Impacto, MCPS debe determinar cuántos de sus padres/guardianes están en servicio activo en servicios uniformados, están trabajando en una instalación federal, viven en una vivienda federal o pública y/o son oficiales militares de un gobierno extranjero. MCPS usa la Encuesta Federal de Asistencia de Impacto (Federal Impact Aid Survey) que se distribuye a todas las familias para recabar esta información. Por cada niño/a en edad escolar en su unidad familiar, por favor complete y devuelva la encuesta lo antes posible. La encuesta está disponible en el sitio web de [MCPS](#). Su participación es crucial para asegurar que MCPS reciba su parte justa de fondos de subvención federal de Asistencia de Impacto y que todos los estudiantes de MCPS reciban una educación excelente. Si usted tiene alguna pregunta, por favor llame a la División del Controlador de MCPS (Division of Controller), teléfono 301-279-3039.

### **Board of Education Elects New Officers**

Shebra Evans was selected by her colleagues on Tuesday, December 4, 2018 to serve as president of the Montgomery County Board of Education. Patricia O'Neill was elected as vice president. Both officers will serve a one-year term. Ms. Evans was elected to her first four-year term in 2016. For the past year, she has served as the vice president of the Board and a member of the Board's Fiscal Management Committee. Mrs. Evans serves on the Maryland Association of Boards of Education's Resolution Committee, as well as the Policies and Procedures Committee.

Ms. O'Neill, a resident of Bethesda, is serving her sixth term on the Board of Education and is currently the longest serving member of the Board. She has served as vice president and president of the Board several times, each. For the past year, Ms. O'Neill has served as the chair of the Policy Management Committee.

### **Consejo de Educación Elige Nuevos Directivos**

Shebra Evans fue elegida por sus colegas el martes, 4 diciembre, 2018, como presidente del Consejo de Educación del Condado de Montgomery. Patricia O'Neill fue elegida como vicepresidente. Ambas directivas servirán un mandato de un año. La Sra. Evans fue elegida para su primer mandato de cuatro años en 2016. Durante el último año, ella ha desempeñado el cargo de vicepresidente del Consejo y ha dirigido el Comité de Administración Fiscal. La Sra. Evans sirve en el Comité de Resolución de la Asociación de Consejos de Educación de Maryland, así como en el Comité de Políticas y Procedimientos.

La Sra. O'Neill, residente de Bethesda, está sirviendo su sexto mandato en el Consejo de Educación y actualmente es el miembro con más antigüedad en el Consejo. Ella ha sido varias veces presidente y vicepresidente del Consejo. Durante el último año, la Sra. O'Neill ha dirigido el Comité de Administración de Políticas.