

# The Patriot NEWSLETTER



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

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Heart Healthy:

[Physical activity important for health and wellbeing](#)

**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

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Kris daCosta-Warshauer  
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## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

I would like to publicly share **congratulatory wishes to Debra Lea, grade 3 teacher, and Meegan Marino, grade 5 teacher**, for renewing their National Board Certification (NBC). National Board Certification is a way to recognize accomplished teaching that is occurring in classrooms. The certification process is based on high and rigorous standards that evaluate teaching practice through performance-based assessments; the ultimate result is improved performance and achievement for students. Kudos to Mrs. Lea and Ms. Marino! We continue to be proud of our other NBC professional staff member, Jennifer Atanda.

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 **absences**. It read as follows:

*Please call our school at (301) 353-8050 by 9:00 am, if your child will be absent. The*

*answering machine will take your voice message between 4:45pm and 8am. In addition, a **written explanation of each absence is required** from the parent or guardian when the student returns to school.*

*Please note, a monthly list of students' tardiness or absences is generated by the school system and sent to the principal.*

*Students who are late and/or absent more than 3 times each month (excused or unexcused) will automatically receive a letter from the principal. Students who are absent 20% or more days of school are considered habitually absent and may be referred to the Truancy Review Board.*

*Also note, one of our staff may call and/or schedule a meeting with families to discuss unexcused absences and tardies.*

*If families have gently worn **GES spirit wear** that your children have outgrown and you'd like to donate, please send them to the main office. We have a number of students that don't have spirit wear and it is cost-prohibitive for their families. We use the "gently loved" spirit wear as student incentives.*

*Continued on back...*

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**2020 MCPS Communication Survey:**

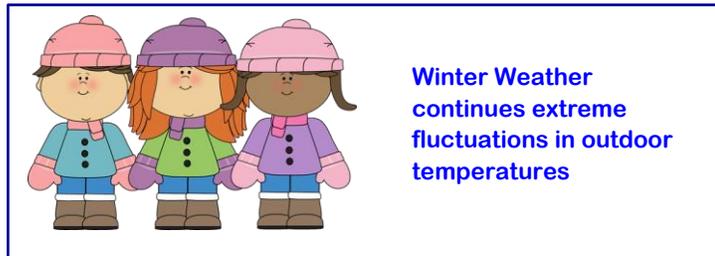
The MCPS Office of Communications is administering an online survey, 2020 Communication Survey, to learn how parents/guardians, staff, students and the broader Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) community prefer to receive news and information from MCPS. Take the survey o share your thoughts:

<https://mcpsweb.wufoo.com/forms/2020-communication-survey/>

Principal's Message continued ...

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

**Dates to Remember**

- Thurs, Feb 6<sup>th</sup> Community Outreach Meeting, 7-9 pm at SVHS (see flyer on page 7)
- Friday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>** **GES Spirit Wear**
- Friday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup> Class Valentine's Day parties, 2:30-3:45 pm
- Monday, Feb 17<sup>th</sup> No school: President's Day holiday
- Week Feb 18-21** **Kindness Week** (see below for theme days)
- Weds, Feb 19<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grade Manna Nutrition Lessons
- Tues, Feb 25<sup>th</sup> Class pictures
- Friday, Feb 28<sup>th</sup> Early dismissal @ 1:15 pm
- Tues, March 3<sup>rd</sup> Teacher presentation on Eureka Math 6:45-7:15 pm  
PTA meeting 7:15 - 8:15 pm

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/>

**GES Kindness Week...** is coming, and you know what that means...

Kindness with a spirit week!



February 18th **Turn Up the Kindness Tuesday**  
Glow with kindness by wearing your brightest, most colorful and sparkly clothing

February 19th **Wild About Kindness Wednesday**  
Show you are wild about being kind by wearing your favorite animal print

February 20th **Thoughtful Thursday**  
Spread kindness by wearing a shirt with a positive message

February 21st **Flannel Friday**  
Cozy up to kindness in your favorite flannel shirt or pants



**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



#### Ange Traore, K-1 SCB Long Term Sub

**Childhood:** Grew up in Ivory Coast, a French speaking county located in West Africa. Moved to the United States in 2004.

**Colleges/Specialization:** Degrees in Biology and Public Health.

**Teaching experiences:** Worked as home-based teacher for children with autism for a private company. Previous MCPS teaching experiences include worked with MCPS as long term substitute for the CAPP Autism program at Roscoe Nix Elementary School

**Personal info:** Ange currently lives in Germantown with her 5-year old son. Ange loves cooking and she co-edits her sister’s culinary blog

**GES event update for Black History Month:** Traditionally, the PTA and GES sponsors an event to recognize Black History Month. In the past, our GES community enjoyed guest presentations, shows, lectures related to Black History. Unfortunately, this year we do not have the staff available to manage an event for GES. We apologize for any disappointment coming out of this announcement. Since GES is a diverse school community in Germantown and surrounding, we encourage parents to explore other options to honor Black History with families, friends, and neighbors.

# PTA News from GES PTA President and President-elect

Hello to our GES Families!

It's February and Valentine's Day is upon us. Love is in the air, and I love how this year is going so far. It's been great seeing so many families at our GES PTA events, and getting to know more parents each time. This is why I got involved with the PTA. I love the sense of community. Building that bond can be easier because we are a small school, but that also means we need parent involvement more than most.

**PTA positions to fill next school year:** Next year we will have some positions to fill, such as **Vice President, Secretary and Newsletter**, so now is the time to get involved. We'd love to have you join the ranks of the PTA. If volunteering at events is more your speed, that's appreciated too.

**Upcoming events:** we are currently planning for International Night and Movie Night. These present opportunities to volunteer and pitch in, so keep a lookout for the sign-up geniuses in the coming months!

### Read-A-Thon update:



In other news, we just completed the annual read-a-thon, the GES PTA's main fundraiser of the year. Thank you to everyone that donated, supported, and encouraged their children. The funds raised are extremely important for the PTA to be able to host beloved events, such as the Fall Harvest Dance, and bring excellent entertainment to the children, as recently we had Magician Bryan Curry who performed at PJ Reading Night. Every bit helps so we thank you for your participation and any donations you make to the PTA. Huge

thanks go to **Nigel Ohrum**, who had spearheaded the Read-A-Thon fundraising efforts, packets, prizes and the accompanying PJ Reading Night. A message from chair Nigel: Thank you to everyone that participated in our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual read-a-thon. This year, we had 52 students across 13 classes read approximately 9,450 minutes, raising more than \$2,000. Prizes will go out shortly along with notifying teachers/classrooms receiving Pizza parties.

In the meantime, join us at the next PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Also on that evening, one of the GES teachers will give a presentation on Eureka Math prior to the start of the PTA meeting. As a parent, expect helpful information shared to familiarize yourself with the math curriculum your child will be learning.

Best,

*Meghan Lowery*

*Danielle Story*

[gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com)

### 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

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



*Not only will you shop for Valentine gifts, you purchase with purpose.*

Amazon donates to GES PTA when you shop for your shopping needs and gifts at [smile.amazon.com](https://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.

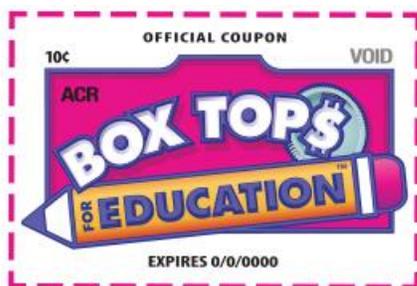
*Need ideas for physical exercise and save a few bucks for your family and their hearts?*

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.



*Need to grab Valentine's treats for your family and kids' Valentine parties?*

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

## Patriot Student of the Month

(January 2020)

<b><u>Kindergarten</u></b>		<b><u>Third Grade</u></b>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Ashley	<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Matthou
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Elijah	<i>Mrs. Srouer</i>	Thiago
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Nathan		
		<b><u>Fourth Grade</u></b>	
<b><u>First Grade</u></b>		<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Modou
<i>Mrs. Evans</i>	Dayza	<i>Ms. Kiernan</i>	Claire
<i>Mrs. Fox</i>	Maddison		
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	Daniel	<b><u>Fifth Grade</u></b>	
		<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Trisha
<b><u>Second Grade</u></b>		<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Parissa
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Bianca		
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Alex	<b><u>SCB</u></b>	
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Kofi	<i>Ms. Traore</i>	Rishabh
		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Gregorio
Patrol of the Week	Kayla	<i>Ms. Mathous</i>	Bryce
Peacemaker of the Week	Farrah		

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

**Mrs. Booth's class 55%**

**Mrs. Srouer's class 66%**

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!

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[Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser](#) Date: Feb. 1, 2019

Maryland's Largest School District

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Expanding Opportunity and Unleashing Potential*

## Communities Coming Together

Learn About Your New School and Community Following the Boundary Study Adoption



*Students and Families are Encouraged to Attend*

**Seneca Valley High School**

**Thursday, February 6, 2020–7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.**

**(Snow Date: Thursday, February 20, 2020)**

**19401 Crystal Rock Dr. Germantown, MD 20874**

**Join this Seneca Valley, Northwest, and Clarksburg Cluster Community Meeting, hosted by MCPS, and learn more about new school assignments to ensure successful transitions and strengthen our school communities!**

This meeting will also provide opportunities to:

1. Discover what academic and extra-curricular programs will be available at Seneca Valley High School
2. Meet your new school principal and learn more about your new school.
3. Learn about helping children make successful transitions.
4. Meet other families and PTSA leaders from your school community.

**Due to limited parking availability, shuttle bus transportation provided to Seneca Valley HS beginning at 6:15 p.m**

**from Roberto Clemente MS & Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. MS parking lots.**

**Spanish Interpreters Available**

**RSVP at: [SVHS Community Building Meeting](#)**

