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<u>March is</u> Women's History Month

Germantown Elementary

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

Listserv: Join and stay up-todate! To sign up, send an email to GES-PTA <u>subscribe@yahoogroups.com</u> or click the Join button on our

website www.ges-pta.org

Patriot Newsletter Editor: Kris daCosta-Warshauer KdacW35@gmail.com



Principal's Message

Dear GES Families.

I am so thankful to be back at Germantown with our students, staff and families! As you know, I was serving as a visiting principal at Julius West MS as our principal intern, Mrs. Walsleben, completed her practicum. I learned a lot in my 8 weeks at the middle school level. It was insightful to see the next stage of education for our students and what to expect for them educationally and socially. I want to sincerely thank and congratulate Ms. Walsleben for her hard work and dedication this year and more especially during her practicum experience as she led our school community.

Did you know that Germantown ES is in MCPS's 1st cohort to implement the new math curriculum? Students throughout the school in grades K-5 will be fully immersed in a new curriculum by Eureka Math. Staff will be exposed to some of the curriculum later this spring and trained this summer. Full implementation will take place this fall.

We are excited about our spring session of school sponsored after school clubs beginning this week. Two clubs started

earlier this week, Tuesday, March 5th. The Nature Club (K-5) is led by Mrs. McKenzie and Mrs. Stevens and Comic Book Club (grades 3-5) led by Mrs. Fuller-Benjamin. In two weeks on Tuesday, March 19, Germantown Girls Run (grades 3-5) led by Ms. Marino, Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Malek is returning. No more registrations are being accepted as all clubs were filled on a first come first serve basis.

Highlighted each month is information contained within the <u>GES Policies and Procedures</u> 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 taking pictures for personal use. It reads as follows:

Parents and visitors are to refrain from taking pictures within the day to day functions of the school day. Parents may take pictures during public events at school such as the Halloween Parade, music concerts, etc., however they should use caution and not post pictures of other people's children on various social media sites without consent from the child(ren)'s parents.

Continued on pg 2...

Dates to Remember

March 10 Daylight Savings begins - Spring Forward!

March 11-12 5th grade MISA testing March 18-19 5th grade MISA testing

March 20 GES restaurant fundraiser @ Zoe's Kitchen

March 21 PTA International Night 7 - 8:30 pm

April 2nd PTA Meeting, 7:15 - 8:15 pm
April 3rd Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm
April 5th GES Spirit Wear Day

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Principal's Message continued ...

We have some **staff updates** to share. We said a fond farewell to evening building service worker, Evangeline Johnson. Ms. Johnson retired at the end of February and moved out to California to be with family. We welcome Mitch Summerour back to GES as an evening building service worker as he has been out on medical leave since the summer. Completing our evening building service staff are Britany Tarpley, a GES alum, and Maria Bonilla. We are thankful to be fully staffed in our building service department! In other parts of our building, we are happy to welcome back Kristyne Brown, grade 3 teacher, from maternity leave. We also send congratulatory messages to Kate Bubser, music teacher, and Tanya Rockovich. 1st grade teacher, as both ladies are expecting babies in the coming months. As always, I'll keep you informed of more staff updates as they come about.

I am signing off for now. Before I go I want to ask you to please save the date for **Kindergarten Orientation (KO)** on **April 26**th. If you or a neighbor have a child that will be 5 years old by September 1, 2019, please call the main office to let us know. We are currently collecting projections for the school year 2019-2020. Please see the survey included in this newsletter (p. 5). We'll be soon setting up appointments for that KO soon! If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via phone (301-353-8050) or email (<u>Amy D Bryan@mcpsmd.org</u>) or email our Principal Intern Carolynn Walsleben (<u>Carolynn Walsleben@mcpsmd.org</u>).

Take care,

Amy D. Bryan GES Principal

Follow us on



@TeamGermantown1



GES Restaurant Fundraiser!

Take a break from cooking and enjoy quality time with your family at Zoe's Kitchen in Germantown (Shops at Town Center & Century Station). The restaurant will donate a % of sales to GES Community.

Wednesday, March 20th

Main event this month to mark your calendars:



PTA International Night: Another GES traditional event will take place on Thursday, March 21st from 7 – 8:30 PM, PTA International Night to be held in the All Purpose Room. A flyer was sent home with students. Cultural Arts chair Renee Walker is the lead on planning the event. Families interested to represent their home country or culture are welcome to join with a booth. For details, please reach out to Renee Walker. Renee also will appreciate volunteers, she needs many hands to help. SignUpGenius is posted on the GES PTA website. We look forward to having you join us at the event!

Additional School News

Emergency Weather Make-Up Schedule:

Recent inclement weather forced MCPS to close schools on four days. The 2018–2019 MCPS school calendar includes 182 instruction days, two above the minimum required in the state of Maryland. As a result of these closures, MCPS will need to use two designated make-up days to ensure that it meets the State-required number of days. The school year has been be extended to June 14, 2019. In addition to June 14, students also will attend school on June 5 which was originally scheduled as a professional day. Any additional school closures for emergency weather will result in the need to use additional make-up days. MCPS will continue to closely monitor for severe weather and provide updates on any impact it may have to the school calendar. For more information on the MCPS school calendar, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

Career Day Update:

Friendly reminder... we are looking forward to our annual Career Day here at GES. **Please save the date for Tuesday, April 16th!** 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,

<u>Jennifer T Atanda@mcpsmd.org</u>, 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/



Earn money for GES!

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

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Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program:

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment (MISA) is for Grade 5 only. This assessment is a measure of student achievement in science. See the chart for testing dates and times.

Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) is a measure of Math and English/ Language Arts to determine whether students are on track to be successful in college and careers. Testing will take place in the morning and afternoon. Please see the chart for your child's testing times and plan accordingly. The evening before testing a child should get a good night's rest and then a nutritious breakfast the morning of testing. Thanks for your on-going assistance and support! The following will be the testing schedule for GES:

Maryland Integrated Science Assessment Schedule: Grade 5



Monday, March 11 th	Tuesday, March 12 th
5 th Grade Science	5 th Grade Science
• 10:30	• 10:30

Monday, March 18 th	Tuesday, March 19 th
5 th Grade Science	5 th Grade Science
• 10:30	• 10:30

Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program Schedule: Grades 3-5

Monday, April	Tuesday, April	Wednesday, May 1st	Thursday, May	Friday, May 3 rd
29 th	30 th		2 nd	
		3rd & 4 th Grade Math		
3rd & 4 th Grade Math	3rd & 4 th Grade Math	• 9:45	3rd & 4 th Grade Math	
• 9:45	• 9:45		• 9:45	
		5 th Grade Math		
5 th Grade Math	5 th Grade Math	• 12:30	5 th Grade Math	
• 12:30	• 12:30		• 12:30	
Monday, May 6 th	Tuesday, May 7 th	Wednesday, May 8th	Thursday, May 9th	Friday, May 10 th
	3 rd /4 th Grade Reading			
	• 9:45	• 9:45	• 9:45	• 9:45
	5 th Grade Reading			
	• 12:30	• 12:30	• 12:30	• 12:30

2/26/19

2019-2020 Kindergarten Survey Germantown Elementary School



Please help us more accurately predict the number of students who will attend kindergarten at Germantown Elementary during the 2019-2020 school year, as we prepare for Kindergarten Orientation.

According to Maryland State Law, a child must be five years old by **September 1, 2019** in order to enter kindergarten for the 2019-2020 school year. If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten in the fall, please complete the form below and return it to the school office as soon as possible. If you have neighbors or friends with children that are kindergarten age, please pass on this information sheet to them or ask them to call the school office at 301-353-8050.

Kindergarten Orientation is scheduled for April 26, 2019. (Please note school for current K students will be closed that day.)

Your Kindergarten Orientation booklet will be sent home with your student or be available in the office when the booklets/materials are delivered from MCPS.

If your child is not a US citizen, please contact the Residency and International Admissions Office at

301-230-0686 to begin the enrollment process. Child's Last Name: Child's First Name: Child's Middle Name (Initial): Date of Birth: Gender: Race: Home Address: Home Phone #: Parents/Guardian: (Mom): Cell #: (Dad): Cell #: (Guardian): Cell #: Email: May we send your Kindergarten packet home with a sibling or with one of your neighbors? If so, please complete the information below.

Please return to the GES main office by April 5, 2019.

Teacher:

Child's Name:

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Patriot Student of the Month

(February 2019)

Kindergarten		Third Grade	
Mrs. Malek	Uriel-Andy	Mrs. Brown	Allyson
Mrs. Savino	Vani	Mrs. Lea Andrea	
Mrs. Wysong	Skyler		
		Fourth Grade	
First Grade		Mrs. Kahn	Jaslene
Ms. Horvath	Emma	Mr. Kaigler	Trisha
Mrs. Minehan	Callum		
Mrs. Rockovich	Aron	Fifth Grade	
		Mrs. Boucher	Mary-Ann
Second Grade		Ms. Marino	Amirhossain
Mrs. Booth	Zoya		
Mrs. Edmundson	Juliana	Patrol of the Month	Judith
Mrs. Kissal	Summer		
SCB Ms. Farrell	Adam	SCB Ms. Gray	Alex



MCPS Invites You to Attend: The Clarksburg, Northwest, and Seneca Valley Clusters Boundary Options Presentation

Meetings

Lome and learn the multiple options, present reedback, learn of the
online google form.
☐ The same information will be presented at each of the meetings.
You may attend any one of the three meetings to receive the same
information.
$\hfill\Box$ Spanish and Chinese interpretation will be provided at the meetings.
☐ Any questions or concerns please call the Division of Capital Planning

Presentation of 1st Round of Options

Monday, March 11th

at 240-314-4700

Clarksburg High School Auditorium

or

Tuesday, March 12th

Northwest High School Auditorium

or

Wednesday, March 13th

Seneca Valley High School

Auditorium

All Meetings 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Additional information will be available at the following website:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/UpcountyHSBoundaryStudy.aspx

MCPS Les Invita a Que Asistan a las:

Reuniones de Presentación de Opciones de Límites Geográficos para las Zonas Escolares de Clarksburg, Northwest y Seneca Valley

□ Vengan a conocer las múltiples opciones, aporten su opinión,
conozcan el formulario Google en línea.
☐ Se presentará la misma información en cada una de las reuniones. Ustedes
pueden asistir a cualquiera de las tres reuniones donde obtendrán la misma
información.
☐ En las reuniones se proveerá servicio de interpretación en español y en chino.
□ Para cualquier pregunta o inquietud, por favor llamen a la División de
Planificación de Capital (División of Capital Planning), teléfono 240-314-4700.

Presentación de la 1ra. Ronda de Opciones

Lunes, 11 de marzo

Auditorio de Clarksburg High School

0

Martes, 12 de marzo

Auditorio de Northwest High School

0

Miércoles, 13 de marzo

Auditorio de Seneca Valley High School

Todas las Reuniones Serán de 7:00 a 9:00 p.m.

Habrá información adicional disponible en la siguiente página web:

http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/planning/UpcountyHSBoundaryStudy.aspx

PTA News

Dear Patriots Family,

A warm welcome back to **Principal Bryan!** We are thankful for **Principal Intern Carolynn Walsleben**'s dedicated leadership in Principal Bryan's absence. Additionally, a big 'thank you' goes to **Ms. Fuller-Benjamin** for her coordination of the Black History Month presentation on February 27, and to the volunteers who assisted Ms. Fuller-Benjamin with organizing the event.

We have a couple upcoming events to remind everyone of. The PTA International Night is at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21. Please contact Cultural Arts chair Renne Walker if you are interested to volunteer or represent with a booth. Next, Ms. Atanda is looking for parent volunteers to help at Career Day on April 16. You may contact Ms. Atanda at jennier_t_atanda@mcpsmd.org. Check out the PTA website at gespta.org for more information about upcoming events, ways that you may support the organization and other important information. We are very pleased that our PTA volunteer, **Becky M**., keeps our website updated, professional and truly exceptional!

Calling all teachers and staff! Do you know of a parent who is particularly helpful in the classroom or who tends to volunteer often? They may be a perfect candidate for one of our PTA leadership position next school year! With the parent's permission, please e-mail me privately your personal recommendations for parent-leaders. You may e-mail me directly at LLydiarose@aol.com.



PARENTS! The next PTA Meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:00 PM in the GES Media Center. Currently, Bar-T has been offering free childcare for parents who wish to attend PTA meetings. We are beyond grateful for Bar-T for their suppor while *you*, parents, can participate with us during the PTA meetings each month. We need your support and are open to hearing new ideas for GES community and the PTA.

I hope to see everyone at International Night and as always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at the e-mail address below.

Sincerely yours,

Lydia Rose, GES PTA President

LLydiarose@aol.com

"Let's make a difference one child at a time."

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PTSA News from Roberto Clemente MS

Connected Digital Families Community Event

Thursday, March 14 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Roberto Clemente MS (Germantown, MD)

Roberto Clemente MS PTSA (18808 Waring Station Rd, Germantown, MD 20874) is a proud recipient of the PTA Connected with Facebook: Digital Families Community Grant awarded to just 200 PTAs in all 54 state congresses. With the Facebook sponsored grant, we are excited to host a free Digital Families community-wide event dedicated to supporting good digital citizenship in our ever-changing world by:

- * helping family members understand each other's online experiences
- ensuring safe online interactions, and
- setting reasonable guidelines for device use and online habits

This event is geared towards those ages 7+ and includes the following topics:

- 1. "Student Expert Station" student volunteers share their skills and learnings using different social media platforms.
- 2. "Password Creation Game" password safety, new password creation methods and updating passwords for online security.
- 3. "Privacy & You" learn to decide how and what to share online.
- 4. "Understanding & Sharing the Feelings of Others" determine how sharing other people's stories or images online can impact them.

Below is the evening's schedule of events:

6:30-7:00 - Refreshments for ALL attendees (Cafeteria)

7:00-7:30 - General Presentation for ALL attendees (Cafeteria)

7:30-7:50 - Breakout Session #1 (attendees select one topic to attend during this timeslot)

7:50-8:10 - Breakout Session #2 (attendees select one topic to attend during this timeslot)

8:10-8:30 - Breakout Session #3 (attendees select one topic to attend during this timeslot)

<u>SIGN-UP HERE</u> for any of the breakout session topics listed above. When signing up, please include # of adults & children. If your plans change and you are unable able to attend, please update your sign-up so space is made available for others to participate.

More information on the National PTA sponsored Digital Families Community Event is available for public interest, visit https://www.pta.org/home/programs/connected/digital-families

Montgomery County Communications:

Join Us for Discussions on Safety and Security

MCPS and the Montgomery County Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (MCCPTA) are hosting a series of community conversations on safety and security.

The meetings will feature Ed Clarke, chief safety officer for MCPS, and Dr. Christina Conolly, director of MCPS psychological services. They will discuss school safety issues, student mental health concerns, and lockdown with options protocols.

The community meetings will be held:

Wednesday, March 13, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Paint Branch High School 14121 Old Columbia Pike, Burtonsville, MD 20866

Thursday, March 21, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Northwood High School - Cafeteria 919 University Blvd., West Silver Spring, MD 20901

Tuesday, March 26, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Clarksburg High School Cafeteria 22500 Wims Road, Clarksburg, MD 20871

RSVP here: www.mcpsliveevent.org/ and visit www.mcpsliveevent.org/ and visit www.mcpsliveevent.org/ and visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/security/resources/ for more information on MCPS safety and security.

Board of Education Adopts Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget (English and Spanish)

The Board of Education voted unanimously to adopt a \$2.66 billion Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020. This includes an increase of \$65.56 million from FY 2019. The budget will allow MCPS to manage growth, maintain high levels of achievement, and eliminate opportunity gaps. A majority of the \$65.56 million spending increase will be used to maintain services for a growing student population; manage increasing operational costs; fund ongoing salaries and benefits; and invest in key areas of work to close opportunity gaps and improve academic excellence for all students. The budget also includes funding for key bodies of work that will strengthen the district's efforts to improve programs; increase access to strong academic and career opportunities; extend learning; provide language opportunities; focus on physical, social and psychological well-being; hire and retain an effective and diverse workforce; and strengthen operational excellence. To learn more about the Board's adopted budget, visit <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=

El Consejo de Educación adopta el presupuesto operativo del año fiscal 2020

El Consejo de Educación votó por unanimidad para la adopción de un presupuesto operativo de \$2.66 mil millones para el año fiscal 2020. Esto incluye un aumento de \$65.56 millones con respecto al año fiscal 2019. El presupuesto permitirá a MCPS administrar el crecimiento, mantener altos niveles de logros y eliminar brechas de oportunidades. La mayoría del aumento del presupuesto de \$65.56 millones se utilizará para mantener los servicios para una creciente población estudiantil; administrar los crecientes costos operativos; financiar sueldos y beneficios; e invertir en áreas clave de trabajo para cerrar las brechas de oportunidades y mejorar la excelencia académica para todos los estudiantes. El presupuesto también incluye fondos para cuerpos de trabajo clave que

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fortalecerán los esfuerzos del distrito para mejorar programas; aumentar el acceso a oportunidades académicas y profesionales; extender el aprendizaje; proporcionar oportunidades de lenguaje; centrarse en el bienestar físico, social y psicológico; contratar y retener una fuerza laboral efectiva y diversa; y fortalecer la excelencia operativa. Para obtener más información sobre el presupuesto adoptado por el consejo, visite <a href="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode="https://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/press/index.aspx?pagetype=showrelease&id=8287&type=&startYear=&pageNumber=&mode=.

Provide Feedback on Draft MCPS Strategic Plan

The Draft MCPS Strategic Plan for FY 2019–2022 is now available and MCPS is seeking your feedback. This Strategic Plan represents the district's continued commitment to the five core values that define what it means to be an exceptional school system: Learning, Relationships, Respect, Excellence and Equity. MCPS is committed to educating students so that academic success is not predictable by race, ethnicity, gender, socioeconomic status, language proficiency or disability. The plan is centered on six outcomes for MCPS that include:

- Students Ready To Learn;
- Reducing and Eliminating Disparities in Student Learning;
- Students Prepared for College and Career;
- A Safe and Healthy Learning Environment;
- Efficient Operations; and
- Highly Effective Employees.

Aligned to each of the six outcomes are program indicators that are monitored using data to determine the achievement of goals as. The draft plan can be found at: www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/campaigns/Strategic-Planning-FY19-22/ and includes a feedback form we encourage you to fill out so that you may share your thoughts about the plan.

New Date and Location for Summer Opportunities Fair (English and Spanish)

Parents can explore a multitude of summer opportunities for school-age children at a fair on March 14. Local and regional providers will be available to talk about summer camps, programs and volunteer activities. Parents can meet program staff, pick up applications, and get information on financial assistance. The fair will be held from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive in Rockville. Register for the fair online at http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/ or call 240-314-4825.

Nueva fecha y ubicación para la Feria de Oportunidades de Verano

Los padres pueden explorar una multitud de oportunidades de verano para niños en edad escolar en una feria el 14 de marzo. Los proveedores locales y regionales estarán disponibles para hablar sobre campamentos de verano, programas y actividades de voluntariado. Los padres pueden reunirse con el personal del programa, recoger solicitudes y obtener información sobre asistencia financiera. La feria se llevará a cabo de 7 a 8:30 p.m. en Richard Montgomery High School, 250 Richard Montgomery Drive en Rockville. Regístrese para la feria en línea en www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/parentacademy/ o llame al 240-314-4825.