

# The Patriot

NEWSLETTER



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[Facts and Stats](#)*

*[Brain care for children  
and Adults](#)*

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Germantown, MD 20874  
Phone: 301-353-8050

**GES Website**  
[montgomeryschoolsmd.org/  
schools/germantownes/](http://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](http://www.ges-pta.org) and click blue button GO

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## Principal's Message

Dear GES Families,

As we march into spring, we are thankful to enjoy warmer temperatures. We are also happy to share more information about our spring/second semester of **after-school clubs** that will begin in late April. There will be 7 sessions of clubs meeting from 4:10 to 5:10pm on Tuesdays or Thursdays after school. Tuesday clubs will be Coding, Germantown Girls Run, Math Games, Nature, and World Percussion. Thursday clubs will be Kindness and STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math). That's right, we will offer 7 different club options this semester...the most our school has ever offered thanks to the commitment and high interest of our wonderful staff who sponsor the clubs. Be on the lookout for registration materials in the coming weeks!

As a school system, this is the time of year that school receive their **staffing allocations for the next school year** (barring no enrollment changes). Our staffing allocation for teachers primarily remained the same except for a reduction of 0.5 teacher for Home School Model (HSM) Teacher. However, we do have some other staff updates to share. **Amy Taylor**, acting assistant principal, shared

her plans to return to her previous role as GES's reading specialist. Ms. Taylor assumed the acting AP role when Mrs. Walsleben left to serve as acting principal at another school in early October. I sincerely thank Ms. Taylor for taking on this role for the rest of the year but am also pleased that she'll be able to return to her former role that she truly loves next school year. As such, we'll be in search of a new assistant principal for the 2020-21 school year. A few staff shared their plans outside of MCPS for the future - **Amy Ho** (PEP 5 teacher) will retire at the end of June while **Marcella Fuller-Benjamin** (HSM teacher) and **Hannah Srour** (grade 3 teacher) will be resigning from the school system as they plan to move out of state. We will be so very sad to see these staff members move on but we, of course, wish them well in the next chapters of their lives!

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 **lost and found**. It reads as follows:

*Continued on back...*

### Spirit Wear Give Back:

If families have gently worn **GES spirit wear** that your children have outgrown and you wish to donate, please send the GES spirit wear clothing items 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.

Principal's Message continued ...

All stray articles are placed in the Lost and Found Collection, which is located between the cafeteria and gym. Inquiries may be made at the school office regarding articles lost or found. Occasionally, unclaimed articles will be displayed at school functions. It is recommended that all coats, hats, gloves, boots, and lunch boxes be **labeled with the child's name**. This will reduce the number of unclaimed articles in the Lost and Found. Unclaimed articles will be donated to a charitable organization at the end of the winter and/or at the end of the school year.

At last night's PTA meeting, Ms. Cole and Mrs. Kissal gave a presentation on the new math curriculum called Eureka Math. Our students have been applying the new math practices. GES is expecting another curriculum update. Next year, we will implement a new reading/language arts curriculum called Benchmark Reading. Stay tuned for more information!

Last week the school was informed that there were students crossing the busy street before school close to Cherry Bend area. Two different cars almost hit these students as they **crossed the street without looking both ways or using a cross walk**. Obviously, this was very dangerous. We made announcements at school to alert students of the danger; please talk to your child and be a role model for your child when walking as well. The safety of all our students is of the utmost importance to us all.

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)



Self respect and responsibility – crosswalks are safer, look both ways before crossing street.

Follow me on  @TeamGermantown1

### Dates to Remember

<b>Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>GES Spirit Wear</b>
Thursday, March 19 <sup>th</sup>	PTA International Night, 7-9 pm
Mon + Tues, March 23-24	Grade 5 MISA Test
Friday, March 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Early Dismissal @ 1:15 pm</b>
Weds, April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Science Fair @ 7 pm
Friday, April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Career Day
Week April 6-10; Mon, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Spring Break - schools closed
Tuesday, April 14 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Meeting @ 7 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/>

### Colgate Van – Free Dental Screenings

The George B. Thomas Saturday School at Northwest High School (NWHs) will offer free dental screenings and dental kits to students within the Northwest Cluster aged 2-12. The screenings will take place on the Colgate mobile van from 9-11am on March 28<sup>th</sup> @ NWHs in the upper parking lot. The free screenings are a collaborative effort between Colgate Bright Smiles Bright Futures and the Patuxent River (MD) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated (which Principal Bryan is a member and helped to organize).

**Upcoming Testing dates from Ms. Cole and Ms. Taylor:**

5th Grade MISA (Maryland Integrated SCIENCE Assessment) testing is confirmed for March 23-24.

TENTATIVE – other testing dates for the Maryland Comprehension Assessment Program (MCAP) MATH and ENGLISH/LANGUAGLGE ARTS are as follows:

<b>grades 3-5 Math</b>	April 21, 22, 29 30
<b>grades 4-5 Reading</b>	May 4, 5, 6, 7
<b>grade 3 Reading</b>	May 11, 12, 13, 14

**Announcement from art teacher Mrs. Kennedy:**

Selected GES students’ artwork will be on display at the **BlackRock Reception and Art Show** starting on **Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>**. Visit their artwork and see the exhibit anytime during the 10 days thereafter! Congratulations to the following students who have artwork being exhibited at BlackRock:

**Grade 1**

Mason Lowery

**Grade 3**

Matthon Nottam

Nicole Kim

\*Jaxon Vaughn

\*Kyra Miller

\*Julia Cruz

\*Khlevlan Brown

**Grade 4**

Allyson Chandiwana

Modou Jagne

\*Winning Akpala

**Grade 5**

Lana Nottham

Anita Lin

Troy Massuda

Jayden Pesseh

Thuc Anh

**School Community Based Program**

Collaborative artworks by Ms. Farrell’s and Ms. Mathous’s SCB classes:

**SCB Grades 1-2**

Nikolas Luna Rivas

Bradley Nguyen-Beardsley

Isabel Thredeh

Elisa Velasquez

Gregorio Boatwright.

Elijah Jean

Jaia Mason-Williamson

**SCB Grades 3-5**

Gabe Dela Cruz

Adam Wada

Eden Alvarez

Hannah Ankomah

Bryce Goldblatt

Jeremiah Lopez

**Announcement from grade 3 teacher Mrs. Lea:**

The GES Science Expo will be held *before* spring break on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**. More information is available on the GES web page if you need help deciding on a topic. Registration form (blue paper) went home to students. Need another blank copy? The form is included on last page of this newsletter (p. 8). Please complete the registration form and return it to Mrs. Lea by March 20<sup>th</sup>.



**During morning drop-offs and pick-ups**, 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 nor summon** 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.**

## Hear ye! from Patriots newsletter editor Kris daCosta-Warshauer:

What is happening next month with the GES PTA? The Patriot newsletter is a great outlet to keep abreast of upcoming PTA events and school activities. Who collects GES Patriot information and puts together in the school newsletter? A parent volunteer pitches in as the EDITOR - duties include minimal tasks, all on the laptop and online.

As the editor, during the last week each month, I send out email to the PTA board and our school principal for letters, flyers, blurbs, web links to include in the newsletter. I work on drafting the newsletter. As you may notice the Patriot newsletter is attractive and fun to read! The newsletter layout is easy to work with, move contents around, edit the contents, copy/cut and paste images to make it attractive and easy to read. Principal Amy Bryan reviews the final draft, we make last minute edits and additions, and then she approves the Patriot newsletter before going out to you!

Come June, the newsletter will be my last issue to edit. The GES PTA is seeking a new editor to fill the Patriot editor's boots and wear a colonial hat filled with creativity. Do you enjoy writing? Editing? Researching via the Internet? Corresponding through emails? Work on newsletter layout and features? As the volunteer editor, expect 10-15 hours per month to work on the Patriot newsletter. Interested? Email to Kris [KdacW35@gmail.com](mailto:KdacW35@gmail.com) or to GES President at [gesptapresident@yahoo.com](mailto:gesptapresident@yahoo.com). If you know of a parent you know would be perfect to volunteer as the Patriot newsletter editor, share with us!



# PTA News from GES PTA President and President-elect

GES Families,

*March is here and spring is around the corner!*



We have the beloved **PTA International Night** coming up on **March 19<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**. We hope you will sign up to share food, dress, ritual and so much more from your national heritage, or a country of your choosing. You are welcome to share as much, or as little, as you would like. It's a great way for the kids (and parents too) to see all the uniqueness that makes up our amazing little school. This year we would like to host a talent show in conjunction with the event. If your child would like to share a song, dance, poem, or other talent, please sign up. Parents are welcome to accompany their student on stage. I can't wait to see how talented our students are. Seeking volunteers to help with this popular event!

[www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044cadad2fa2ff2-19th](http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e044cadad2fa2ff2-19th)

Next month the PTA is scheduled to provide a little TLC to the little red school house with the **annual Grounds Beautification on April 21<sup>st</sup>**. Danielle and I are happy to assist in this day of agricultural, but are not the most horticulturally inclined. We are looking for a parent, or teacher, to take the lead on this event. If you have a green thumb, or any interest at all, please contact us and we will provide assistance on this endeavor. We aren't looking for a complete landscaping overhaul, just little refresh.



I'm sure many of you have noticed the hardship that is the pick-up line after school. My family is fortunate enough to be "walkers" but we have noticed the line of cars growing in the street over the past few months. This backup creates issues for walkers when crosswalks are blocked, as well as other motorist unable to pass by the school due to the cars line. I encourage families to walk if they are able, use the provided busses if you live near bus stops, and carpool if it is necessary to drive. This will not only help the pickup line, but the environment as well. And of course, if you do have to drive to GES for pickup, make sure you are following the school rules and laws of the road. **Our primary focus is on the students' safety.**



PTA Board will meet in mid-April. Join us on Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> @ 7 pm. Enjoy the week off with your children and loved ones during Spring Break. Travel safe!

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 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 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.

*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.



*Kids hungry? Packing for a trip, hike, sports event?*

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

(February 2020)

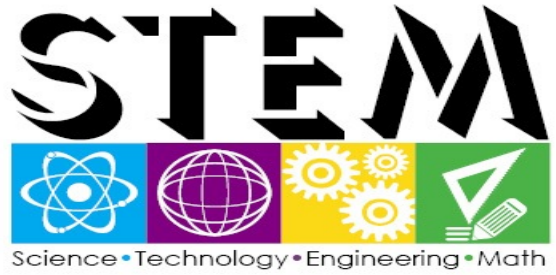
<b><u>Kindergarten</u></b>		<b><u>Third Grade</u></b>	
<i>Mrs. Malek</i>	Hanifa Bah	<i>Mrs. Lea</i>	Audrey Morel Echererria
<i>Mrs. Savino</i>	Jaelle Kalala	<i>Mrs. Srour</i>	Cayden Herbert
<i>Mrs. Wysong</i>	Thomas Flores Ortiz		
		<b><u>Fourth Grade</u></b>	
<b><u>First Grade</u></b>		<i>Mrs. Brown</i>	Jeremias Chavez Calero
<i>Mrs. Evans</i>	Riley Njonjo	<i>Ms. Kiernan</i>	Daniel Njomo
<i>Mrs. Fox</i>	Alexandra Reyes Serpas		
<i>Mrs. Minehan</i>	Rafaei Puerto Bustus	<b><u>Fifth Grade</u></b>	
		<i>Mrs. Boucher</i>	Nick Chrobak
<b><u>Second Grade</u></b>		<i>Ms. Marino</i>	Sevval Aydin
<i>Mrs. Booth</i>	Glory Kikwata		
<i>Mrs. Edmundson</i>	Chrissa Wilson	<b><u>SCB</u></b>	
<i>Mrs. Kissal</i>	Sophia Naguib	<i>Ms. Traore</i>	Natasha Abarchi
		<i>Ms. Farrell</i>	Elisa Velasquez
Patrol of the Week	Nusaiba Naina	<i>Ms. Mathous</i>	Jeremiah Lopez
Peacemaker of the Week	Alvine Njonjo		

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

**Mrs. Kissal's class  
Mrs. Srour's class**

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!

\*\*\*\*\*



The Germantown Elementary School Science Expo will be held before spring break on **Wednesday, April 1, 2020**. Participation is open to all students in grades K-5. The goal of the Science Expo is to provide an opportunity for children to gain some experience answering a science question of personal interest. All participants who complete a display will receive an award noting their achievement.

- Each participant must submit an entry form with a parent’s/guardian’s signature.
- The project should include a research question, hypothesis, data and conclusion.
- A three-segment display board is recommended for the presentation.
- Each participant is responsible for setting up and dismantling his/her own display. Set up is in the media center before school at 8:45 AM on Wednesday morning.
- The awards ceremony takes place at 7:00 PM Wednesday evening.
- Hands-on S.T.E.M. activities will also take place, so even if you don’t complete a research project come and try out your engineering skills!

I look forward to seeing you! -- *Mrs. Lea*

Project Ideas can be found by using the links on the GES Web page. For example: Science Buddies explains the scientific method in kid friendly terms [www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-fair](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/science-fair)

If your child is interested to participate in the Science Expo, please complete and return this entry form to Mrs. Lea *by March 20, 2020*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade and Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

Project Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_