



# Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

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January						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 No School

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- 18 MLK Day - No School

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- Day Between Semesters - No School

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- 28 School

February						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

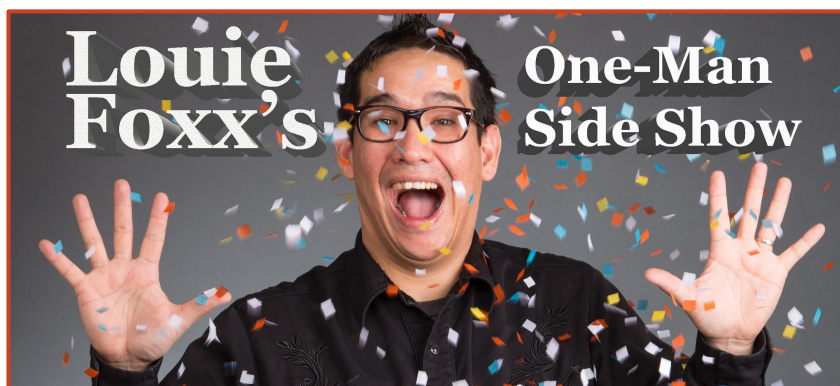
- 4 PTA General Membership Mtg

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- 15-19 No School - Mid-Winter Break

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!



**Date:** Friday, January 22

**Time:** 5:30 - 6:30 P.M.

Join us for an evening of astounding magic tricks, comedy and much more! Louie Foxx's One-Man Side Show is coming to Genesee Hill virtually. Enjoy the 40 minute show and stick around to socialize with friends and neighbors afterwards in breakout rooms. More details are on the blog:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2021/01/05/virtual-magic-show/>



**Dine-Out for Genesee Hill:**

January 24 & 25  
11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Our January Dine-Out will feature Mission Cantina! Enjoy authentic Mexican cuisine on either day and 20% of your purchase will support the Genesee Hill PTA. For more information, see our blog post here:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2021/01/06/mission-cantina/>

# Letter From the Co-President



Happy New Year, Genesee Hill Families! I hope that you all were able to enjoy some downtime away from technology the last few weeks; I know my family has enjoyed the much-needed break and feels recharged to start again!

As we begin the new year, we are looking ahead to the next several months and will begin setting the stage for next year. I want to take the opportunity to remind people that the PTA is a membership organization, where the members control what happens with their voice and vote. The members are responsible for approving the PTA budget, goals, and mission each year. You decide what is important for the PTA, so please mark your calendars for the remaining 3 General Membership meetings where PTA members will nominate and vote on next year's Executive Board and Budget. (**February 4<sup>th</sup>, April 27<sup>th</sup>, and June 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 7pm)

We are looking for one more person to join the Nominating Committee. The nominating committee is responsible for recognizing and recruiting qualified people available for elected PTA positions (President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer). The members of the nominating committee have a tremendous influence on the future of our PTA, making it the most important PTA committee. If you are interested in joining the nominating committee, please email me and Scot at [president@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:president@geneseehillpta.org).

We will soon be forming a Budget Committee to discuss how the PTA funds will be raised and distributed in 2021/22. This is a great way to be part of our PTA and help to influence these important decisions. If you are interested in joining, email Greg at [treasurer@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:treasurer@geneseehillpta.org).

Lastly, to kick off the New Year the PTA is hosting a virtual Magic Show performed by Louie Foxx, so mark your calendars for **Friday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 pm**. The One-Man Side Show is full of unique magic tricks and will be fun for the whole family!

## MEMBERSHIP MATCHUP



VS



To date, we have 88 PTA members, which represents about 44% of our goal of 200 members.

We decided to create a friendly competition with our neighbor, Alki Elementary. The details are as follows:

### Alki vs. Genesee Hill PTA Membership Matchup

- **Goal:** A friendly competition to encourage PTA membership at both schools
- January 19th through February 28th, we'll compete to sign up the **most new PTA members**.
- The number of students at Genesee Hill is about twice that of Alki, so we need 2 new members for every 1 new Alki member during that time period.
- We'll report out membership gains throughout the challenge.
- For the stakes, the losing PTA will honor the winner with a poem shared via social media.

We value every member and your membership fees go directly to supporting State and Local PTA efforts. Here's how the \$15 fee is used:

- \$8.00 WA State PTA
- \$3.50 Seattle Council PTSA
- \$0.75 Transaction fee
- \$2.75 Genesee Hill PTA

### Joining is easy, just visit:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/join-the-pta/>

To request a fee waiver, email [membership@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:membership@geneseehillpta.org).



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

To begin the new year, we caught up with Mr. Turner!

### What is your current role at GH?

My current role is the dance teacher!

### What drew you to this type of work?

I have always loved helping people, and the joy it creates. When I was in high school, I was lucky to take a "Careers in Education" class and worked as an assistant for a third-grade teacher, in *my* old elementary school! Thinking of all the teachers who were kind and accepting to me, who taught me to work hard, be creative, try new things and accept others, made me want to give the same to others. I am so glad I am a teacher, and now I know that we adults learn from kids too, so I am lucky to get to spend time with all GH kids.

### What is your favorite part of your work?

Moving, and getting creative with kids is the best part of my job. Kids inspire me every day with their creativity, thinking of things that I never would have. Getting up and moving is a treat for me, especially when we all (especially adults) forget to get up and move, unless we have to! I am lucky I "have to" spend time dancing, acting like animals, rolling on the ground, and moving in a creative way. If I could choose a bonus favorite part, I would choose a whole class laughing together. There is simply nothing like feeling a part of a small community and feeling big joy together.

### How do you spend your time?

Taking care of my cats of course! They are high maintenance. I've also been doing theater since I was a kid, and I love acting in funny, and important plays! I was even able to act in a play this year, called *Patch and Piper Save the Multiverse*, my first play on Zoom. I have been able to share another joy of mine this year with the whole GH community: gardening! I have

been so lucky to share my balcony "garden," and when I'm done teaching, I often head right out to the balcony to grow some cucumbers, jasmine, tomatoes, eucalyptus, and of course carnivorous plants (I have six)! They are a lot of work! No matter what the plant, it is simply nice to watch something grow. I also like to cook, do yoga, spend time with close friends, my mom, three sisters, and five nieces and nephews.

### Anything else?

I am just so grateful to the whole GH community! This is an amazing place to teach, and the community was so welcoming when I joined in First grade at Schmitz Park as a long-term sub. The GH community has a big heart, does the hard work, and supports each other. I am so glad to be a part of it!

## ADVOCACY & EQUITY

### Anti-Racism Challenge

As we prepare to celebrate Black Lives Matter at School Week in February, take a moment to review the Traits of White Supremacy document referenced in Genesee Hill's Anti-Racism Resolution (<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/anti-racism-resolution/>) and reflect on how some of these traits show up for you personally, at home, work, or school. The PTA and school administration are using this document as a basis for our work this year, and we would love other families to join us!

### Shirts for BLM at School Week (Coming up on Feb. 1-5)

Order BLM shirts for your whole family from the Genesee Hill BLM swag shop (<https://the-tsm-shop.printavo.com/merch/geneseehillblm>). In addition, we're setting up a way to Pay it Forward to get free shirts for teachers and families that request them. If you'd like to request any, please fill out [this form](#) by Monday 1/10.

# SPOTLIGHT ON LEGISLATIVE

At the WA State PTA Legislative Assembly in late October, delegates from Genesee Hill and schools from across our state voted on legislative issues- five of which make up our short term [Legislative Platform](#) for the 2021 legislative session. And now, after choosing these issues, we have come to the exciting part of the year- working with our legislators to address them during the Washington State Legislative Sessions from January 11 to April 25.

For a quick re-cap, below is a diagram of the issues that were selected. As you can see, they are all interconnected and they are all centered on equity.

In this very important year for legislation, it is critical to make sure our voices are heard. Do we want kids to return to school

buildings that have enough school nurses? Do we want students to have access to mental health services? Do we want to ensure that our schools do not face cuts in the coming 2021-22 school year? If your answer to any or all of these questions is yes, please consider taking the following actions:

- Contact me at [legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org) if you'd like to join me in scheduling a virtual meeting with our legislators.
- Describe your family's experience with virtual learning by filling out this [quick form](#) in our first installment of Stories of Genesee Hill (these responses will be shared with legislators)
- Sign up for WSPTA's Action Network Group. These action alerts are quick, easy ways to communicate with our legislators on topics they are actively working on during the Legislative Sessions. [Sign up here.](#)
- Attend a meeting of the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion.
- Join the Genesee Hill PTA!

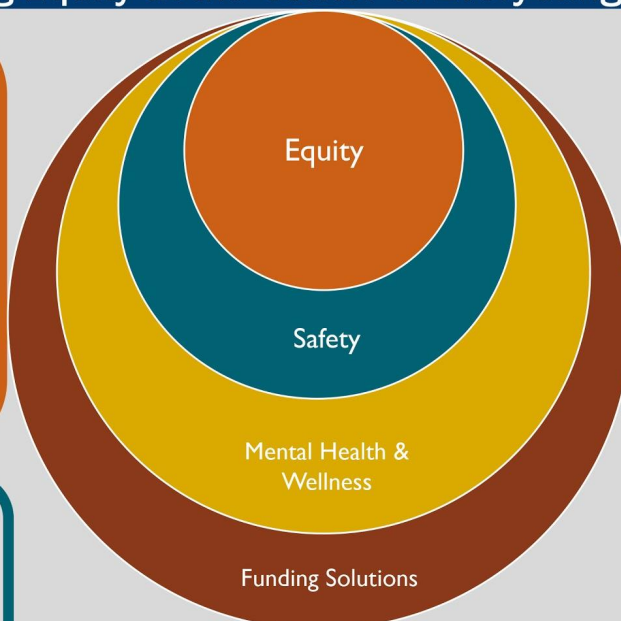
## 2020-2022 Legislative Priorities – Making Every Child’s Potential A Reality Putting Equity at the Center of Everything We Do

### Equity

- Expand connectivity: infrastructure, affordable broadband services and developmentally appropriate devices.
- Remove barriers and increase flexibility with categorical funds to serve students with the greatest needs.
- Achieve equitable access to Highly Capable programs through universal screening.
- Pursue progressive, sufficient, sustainable, equitable revenue sources.

### Safety

- Prevent and reduce gun violence.
- Support emergency planning at schools.
- Mitigate the adverse effects of climate change.



### Mental Health and Wellness

- Increase access to nursing, mental health and social and emotional staff.
- Support suicide prevention and a statewide anonymous reporting system.
- Improve access to multi-tiered systems of support.

### Funding Solutions

- Preserve K-12 funding to ensure learning gaps are closed and students with the greatest needs are supported.
- Fund professional development and training in technology use to support student and family success.
- Prioritize federal stimulus or new state funding to support food security, childcare and one-time costs to reopen schools safely.

## Update From Tracy, Fundraising Chair

Fundraising during a pandemic has been a huge learning experience for EVERYONE! This is my first year as Fundraising Chair and it has been one heck of a start. I am lucky to be surrounded by such a strong team of people working on the many different projects. Every event and item we try gives us new ideas on what works, what doesn't and most importantly, how to do it better! We are grateful for the openness and positive spirit of the Genesee Hill community as we move through this uncharted territory. Your energy has helped us continue to try new and fun endeavors to get the funds needed for our school programs. Thanks so much to everyone for your generosity, patience and excellent humor as we move on in the school year! Personally I would also like to thank everyone who has donated their time, energy and funds to our causes. None of this would work without all of YOU!!

# FUNDRAISING



## Restaurant of the Month

We are thrilled to announce our January Restaurant of the Month- [Mission Cantina](#)! This event will take place on **January 24-25**. Please note that after the MOD Pizza "Where is my Pizza?" party, we emphasized with Mission Cantina the size and enthusiasm of the Genesee Hill Community. They have assured us that they will be able to handle our volume and ensure that everyone is taken care of in a timely and efficient manner. Mission Cantina will generously donate **20% of ALL sales** that the restaurant makes on those days. This includes food, alcohol, gift cards, and Mission Cantina's "Whole Enchilada" take and bake kit.

## Thank You Genesee Hill Sponsor, Carroll Law Group!

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