



Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

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March						
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			

- 10 Kids Yoga Class

- 11 Direct Give Campaign Ends

- 18 Direct Give Scavenger Hunt Ends


April						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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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

- 12-16 No School - Spring Break

- 27 PTA - General Membership Mtg.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!



Kids Yoga Class

March 10 @ 2:00 PM

Genesee parent Briana Montgomery-Eichbaum, owner of Pure Potential Yoga, will be offering a fun yoga class for students on Wednesday March 10 after early release. Kids will learn stretching and strengthening poses and flows, and learn stress management and breathing techniques while practicing mindfulness. Older elementary age yogis will enjoy a bit more challenge and another level of mind-body connection while still being playful. Music, props and silliness bring yoga to life!! [Sign up in advance here](#) and find the zoom link in the Thursday Bulletin.

DIRECT GIVE
SCAVENGER
HUNT
NOW-MARCH 18



Walk, bike, run, drive, or unicycle around the neighborhood to find Direct Give yard signs, record them, and enter to win prizes! Details are here: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2021/01/29/2021-direct-give-scavenger-hunt/>

Letter From the Co-President



Hello Genesee Hill Families! As we approach March 11th, it's hard to imagine that it's been a year since the last time we were all on campus together. There seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel with more vaccines being distributed and positive case counts going down. This

year has not been easy for any of us and has forced us all to do things differently and school life is not immune to the need for change.

Trying to focus on the positive, a silver lining of having to do things differently is the convenience of virtual meetings. Now, before you think I've lost all my marbles, hear me out. As PTA Co-Presidents, Scot and I attend a lot of meetings each month; monthly Board Meetings, General Membership, Building Leadership Team, Bi-Weekly check-ins with Gerrit & Liz, among many other coordination and community chat meetings. Having them virtually has allowed me more flexibility and saved precious time. Since I am working full time and have 2 kids' schedules to juggle, every minute counts. Being in person is wonderful, but as things start to get busy again, I hope this will continue to be a viable option for future PTA leaders and members.

Another silver lining is the creativity of our Fundraising Team. The pandemic has afforded this team the chance to try out some new ideas, like the Dine-outs that support our local restaurants and our school, themed Fox Boxes filled with treats to surprise our friends, and a fun interactive Direct Give campaign. My family is excited to start exploring our neighborhood to find all the imaginatively decorated yard signs that will show off the Genesee Hill school spirit!

I am proud of the role the PTA plays to support our students, teachers, and families. On behalf of the PTA Executive Board, I want to shout out a HUGE thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, talent, or money this year.



Lead a Virtual Lunch Bunch

We're kicking off a new initiative in which students connect outside of the classroom, during lunch. Participating students chose from virtual cafeteria rooms (like sitting at a cafeteria table with 6-8 peers), solving Disney Trivia on Kahoot, guided drawing, playing Among Us, or, finally, bringing their pet to lunch. We hope to open to Kindergarten – 5th grade in the next few weeks! We need an army of volunteers to pull this off. Would you like to help serve more students and cohorts? [Click here](#) to become a Lunch Bunch presenter. All the details can be found in this [blog post](#). Questions? Contact Kelley O'Connor at 102kelleyo@gmail.com.

Help with Direct Give

Direct Give Campaign volunteers are needed to help make this critical event a success. Volunteer opportunities include fun tasks such as delivering yard signs for our first-ever scavenger hunt and delivering raffle prizes.

Check out the signup:

<http://bit.ly/3uAHh1G>.

Join the Budget Committee

Make an impact by helping develop the PTA budget priorities for the upcoming school year. Meetings will start in March and take place once per month. Contact Greg at:

treasurer@geneseehillpta.org.

If you're unable to join the committee, but wish to contribute thoughts on the budget, please share your input here: <https://forms.gle/aERaxQjkzoLyUCae7>

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



This month, get to know Danielle Bronson, pictured here with her dog, Louie!

What is your current role at GH?

I am the music teacher - I love it because I get to know every student at the school!

What drew you to this type of work?

I have always loved making music – singing and playing instruments were my favorite things to do growing up. When it was time to decide on a career, I knew I wanted to share my love of music with others.

What is your favorite part of your work?

I have the best job! I get to sing, and dance and play with some of the greatest kids in the world! My favorite thing is when I hear kids relating what we did in music to their daily lives, or singing the songs we've learned on the playground or in their neighborhood.

How do you spend your free time?

I love spending time with my family, running, making music, camping, playing with my dog, and baking pies!

ADVOCACY & EQUITY

Kristen Corning Bedford (Equity Chair) and Victoria Bhegani (Legislative Chair) offer monthly updates.

Anti-Racism Challenge

Listen to an interview with Jennifer Harvey, author of *Raising White Kids: Bringing Up Children in a Racially Unjust America*:

<http://n.pr/3b0zySy>

Weekly Challenges - Celebrate & Learn!

If you haven't already, check out the Feb. BLM Weekly Challenges: <http://bit.ly/3aSYlrM>. Let's keep the learning going all year long!

Stories of Genesee Hill: Health Supports

In this [second installment](#) of Stories of Genesee Hill, we're collecting stories about how students access medical and mental health supports through school. Like with the last installment, we'd love to hear about challenges, successes or anything else you'd like to share. Our plan is to share these responses with legislators and our school community in the hope that this will raise awareness and encourage policymakers to pass legislation that promotes better access to health supports for children across our state. See our community responses from installment one [here](https://bit.ly/3e07pNk): <https://bit.ly/3e07pNk>

SPS 2021/22 Budget Deficit Advocacy

SPS is projecting a budget deficit of roughly 48 million dollars for the 2021/22 school year. This is going to mean cutbacks but there are some things we can do to help:

1. If you know anyone with an incoming kinder or a child they plan to re-enroll in SPS for next school year, tell them to register these children **immediately**. This will help protect resources, teachers' jobs and help schools make better plans for an already unpredictable school year.

2. Ask WA state legislators to support two bills currently being read in Olympia. Both will help SPS' finances. [House Bill 1476](#) calls for enrollment stabilization funding and will help SPS optimize its levy revenues. [Senate Bill 5128](#) will provide SPS with 70- 80% funding for bus drivers. In WS, our 34th District state representatives are [Senator Joe Nguyen](#), and House Representatives [Eileen Cody](#) and [Joe Fitzgibbon](#).

BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL

WEEKLY CHALLENGES



SPOTLIGHT ON NOMINATIONS

Help us find the team of officers that will lead next year's PTA! Are you or someone you know looking to give back to our school community in support of GH students and families? If so, please [nominate](#) them for a PTA Board position. All of the positions can be shared with another parent, so invite a friend to co-chair with you! While next year's board will be faced with the challenge of leading in a post-pandemic return to school, they will also have the unique opportunity to pave new directions for our PTA as we strive to fulfill our commitment to becoming an anti-racist organization. We are seeking a diverse team that is representative of our school community and welcome nominees from all backgrounds and lived experience.

We are accepting nominations for President*, Vice President*, Treasurer*, Vice Treasurer*, Secretary*, Fundraising Chair*, Events Chair, and Volunteer Coordinator (* denotes elected position). Submit nominations by March 31 using this [Nomination Form](#). Nominations are non-binding and will be kept anonymous.

While serving on the PTA Board does require an investment of time and commitment, it does come with significant benefits including: first hand (and often advance) knowledge about important issues impacting our school, the opportunity to form close relationships with staff, teachers and other parent volunteers, and the ability to lend your voice to carrying out the PTA's mission to advocate for all students. A board position can also help expand your personal and professional network, grow your leadership skills, and build your resume (particularly useful for parents transitioning back to work after an extended absence).

Interested but don't know if you have the right qualifications or can spare the time? The hours are flexible, most duties can be performed remotely, and you don't need to have any specific skills - just a positive attitude and a willingness to learn. New officers are provided with comprehensive training and resources, plus will have an established team of returning board members to provide guidance and support. So whether you are a stay-at-home or working parent, please consider serving on the PTA Board and being a part of the next generation of leadership for our school!

Questions? Please email the [Nominating Committee](#). Job descriptions for open board positions can be viewed [here](#).

February Fox Boxes - Success!

Valentine's Day Fox Boxes were a huge success! We sold out of our "You're the Bomb" kits. Noirin Lynch and her awesome team did an excellent job putting together a beautiful and tasty treat! We made over \$1800 for Genesee Hill!!! HUGE thanks to all who helped and participated!

Isla proudly displays her chocolate masterpieces from the February Fox Box.



FUNDRAISING

Direct Give Goes to March 11!

Our Direct Give Campaign is off to a strong start! Check out the details and join the fun: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2021/01/29/2021-direct-give/>

Next Dine Out Coming in April

In order to fully focus fundraising efforts on the Direct Give Campaign, there will not be a dine out event in March. Not to worry - we're already planning a fun dine out opportunity for April!

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

I see yard signs in the neighborhood about Genesee Hill. What are they for?

The yard signs are an example of our community supporting our school by saying thank you to our Direct Give donors. Additionally, it gives you a chance to see other nearby Genesee Hill families, and a fun activity to get kids outside as each sign is part of a [scavenger hunt](#).

Should I donate a specific amount?

Donations to Genesee Hill Elementary are voluntary and if you are able to donate, any contribution is greatly appreciated.

What will the DG donations fund?

Examples include: providing school supplies for all students, getting students access to technology in the classroom, professional development for staff, purchasing library and textbooks, and providing specialists (beyond what the District accounts for) to further support our kids in math, reading, art, and SEL.

Will there be other big fundraisers this year?

This is an unusual year! The Direct Give campaign is the primary fundraising effort for this school year since we are not able to see each other in person for an auction that has traditionally been the primary fundraising event.

Why did we approach local businesses for coupons and gift cards when we know most are not in a good position financially?

We tested the waters and were surprised to find that many local businesses were happy to support our community - even with the challenges that the pandemic has created for their business. Our approach was different than years past, and the local business community enthusiastically embraced it. We hope that you will support these businesses the same way that these businesses are supporting our community. [Click here for a full list of our sponsors.](#)



Thank You Genesee Hill Sponsor, All Pro Painting!

All Pro Painting is a full service, interior and exterior painting company that has served Seattle and surrounding communities since 2001. Exceptional quality, honesty and customer service have made All Pro Painting a top rated leader in the industry. Owner Sean Cummings and wife, Alicia, have two kids: Charlee, a GHES alumni and now a 6th grader at Madison Middle School, and Chase who is in 2nd grade. The family loves all things sports, camping, water sports, exploring the PNW and have a sweet dog, Tilly.

Visit us online

<http://allpropainting.com/>

SPONSOR CORNER

What made you decide to become a corporate sponsor?

There have been many challenges this year and we feel blessed to be part of an amazing school and community who have been so creative and continue to support our kids through these trying times.

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