

# Genesee Hill News

October 5, 2021 | Volume 2, Issue 2



[PTA Facebook](#) | [PTA Website](#)

## Mark Your Calendars

**10/8:** State In-Service Day - No School

**10/11:** PTA Membership drive begins

**10/15 - 10/31:** Cohort Fall Events (details coming soon)

**10/18:** PTA Equity Speaker - Vishavjit Singh 6:30pm

**10/19 & 10/20:** [Dine out](#) @ Mission Cantina 4pm-10pm

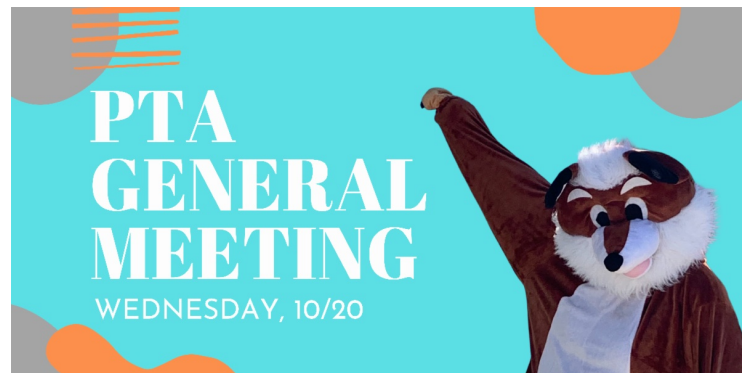
**10/20:** First PTA General Membership Meeting 6:30-8:30

**11/8:** Picture retakes

**11/11:** Veteran's Day - No School



The whole family is welcome to join virtually **Monday, October 18 at 6pm** for an evening of humor and inspiration! [Sikh Captain America](#), Vishavjit Singh, is an illustrator, performance artist and diversity speaker, who began cartooning Sikh Captain America after 9/11 when he found himself a target of hate/bias crimes because of his beard and turban. He uses storytelling for all ages to create a space for challenging conversations around identity, race, bias, vulnerability and how to be agents for change. Link to the event will be sent in the Thursday bulletin.



All are invited to join the first PTA General meeting of the school year **Wednesday, October 20 at 6:30pm!** We'll build community, hear an update from our principal, discuss updates to the budget, and facilitate discussion around how the PTA can best support your family, our school and our teachers. Plus, there will be fun prize giveaways! All community members are welcome to join and participate. In order to vote, you must be a PTA member. [Join here](#). Look for the meeting link in the Thursday bulletin.



While we may not be able to gather in-person for our traditional Monster Mash, we can still celebrate the season! Our grade-level cohort leaders are putting together some fun and spooky events, which will take place **October 15 - 31**. Keep an eye out for more information coming from your cohort leaders in your email and cohort FB group.

## PTA News

### Letter from the PTA Co-President



Dear Genesee Hill community,

My name is Merrick Bodmer and I'm proud to be a co-president of the PTA this year. I have two sons currently at Genesee Hill and know firsthand the power of parent, teacher and staff collaboration. We have already been hard at work, partnering with the school this fall. Fall enrichment is up and running thanks to our new enrichment coordinators,

Megan Muhlenkamp and Julie Phares! The PTA purchased extra play equipment for cohort get-togethers and t-shirts for all our new students. We are providing crossing guards at arrival and dismissal to ensure that students are safe in our neighborhood and we are working closely with the building leadership team to ensure that lunch time is sufficiently supervised and students are safe. Please sign up for a time slot if you can (links below). **The school needs our support to make it as safe as possible.** As we continue our work this year, we are committed to listening to the voices and needs of our community. We invite you to join us on October 20th for the General Membership Meeting where we will continue the conversation about what is most important to you. How can we best meet the needs of our students, staff and greater West Seattle Community? Your voice matters! We look forward to seeing you there!

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### Staff Spotlight



#### Meet Elizabeth Owen

*Genesee Hill is thrilled to welcome a new staff member - Elizabeth Owen. Ms. Owen is the newest addition to our kindergarten team. Let's give Ms. Owen a warm fox welcome as she takes the charge of inspiring Genesee Hill's youngest learners!*

### What is your current role at GH?

I am a Kindergarten teacher.

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

I think it is important that each kid gets an opportunity to start their school career feeling valued. That they have something to share and say, and that people care about what they think. This job provides an opportunity for me to create a space for children to do this.

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

Seeing kids grow over the year. Seeing how they become independent thinkers and learners. Also, how they can explain their thinking to others.

### When you're not at GH, how do you spend your time?

I enjoy being with my family (three kids) and dogs (Glo and Coco). I like to be in nature, read, and do yoga.

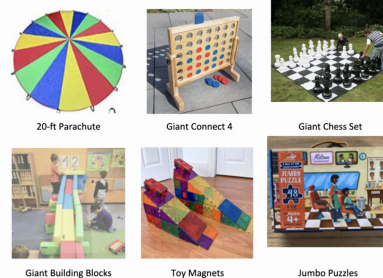
### Anything else you'd like the GH community to know about you?

I am happy to be here with this wonderful community, and I am looking forward to the opportunity to learn and grow as an educator at Genesee Hill.

## Spotlight on PTA Cohorts

### PTA Purchases Games for Cohort Events

Did you attend a play date with other families from your child's grade on the school playground this summer? That event was organized by grade level Cohort Leaders. Cohort Leaders are parent volunteers who organize social, service, or educational events meant to connect families within a grade level. The PTA understands that a strong school community where people know each other and feel connected helps maintain a culture of collaboration, respect, and volunteer teamwork.



The PTA recently purchased a mix of competitive and collaborative toys for children to use at grade level cohort events. These include Giant Connect Four, Giant Chess, Oversized Puzzles, Foam Blocks, Magnet Tiles, and a Parachute. Leaders recently attended a virtual meeting to plan upcoming events for their grade level. Look for an email from Leaders soon announcing your next event or stay connected via your Cohort Facebook Page. Links to the pages can be found on [our website](#).

## Equity & Inclusion at Genesee Hill



### Disability History & Awareness Month

October is Disability History and Awareness Month! The Seattle Special Education PTSA has developed two amazing virtual reading rooms for students and families to learn about disability history. Let your kids explore the [Kids' Disability History and Awareness Virtual Reading](#)

[Room](#) and visit the [Teen and Adult Room](#) yourself to learn alongside them.

### Join us for a Fall Book Club

In addition, the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion is hosting a Fall book club for parents and caregivers of Genesee Hill students. Our selection (suggested by our October equity speaker, Vishavjit Singh) is [The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias, by Dr. Dolly Chugh](#). Early November, date TBD. Pick up a copy now to participate, we'd love to see you!

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## Updates from our Advocacy Chair

My name is Victoria and I'm the legislative chair for the GH PTA for the second year. Advocacy is at the heart of PTA, and this means we need to hear about what's important to you! Please get in touch with me at [legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org).



Here are a few updates:

### SPS Contingency Plans for Increased Community COVID Transmission

What will happen if cases go up at one particular school or in our community at large? <https://www.seattleschools.org/news/covid-19-planning/>

### Call for Voting Delegates and Attendees for 2021 WSPTA Legislative Assembly

The GH PTA currently has a few positions for delegates to vote for our PTA at the upcoming virtual [Legislative Assembly](#) on October 23/ 24 but the deadline to submit new entries is closing soon. If you'd like to be one, please email me fast! Alternatively, you can also go as a [non-voting attendee](#).

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## Volunteer Opportunities

### We Welcome you to Volunteer this Year

Volunteering is back! Have fun while making a positive impact on our school community. Check out the opportunities below:

- **Crosswalk Guards:** keep our intersections safe during drop-off and pick-up. 2 shifts per day, 4 people per shift -- safety vests and flags available in the office. [SIGN UP](#)
- **Outdoor Recess & Lunch Volunteers:** 2 shifts per day. Shift 1) 10:25 -11:55. Shift 2) 12:50 - 1:45. [SIGN UP](#)
- **General volunteers** -- none of this sound right for you but you want to make yourself available if other opportunities come up? Send an email to: [volunteers@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:volunteers@geneseehillpta.org)

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## Fox Fundraising

Dine Out @ Mission Cantina is Back

Mark your calendars - Dine Out for Genesee Hill is back at Mission Cantina! The event will take place Tuesday, October 19 for K-2 families, and Wednesday, October 20 for 3-5 families. 20% of all sales from food, alcohol and gift cards go to GHE. "The Whole Enchilada" kits are back by popular demand and will be available again this year for \$60 by pre-order. Enjoy great food while supporting a local business and our school community. For all the details, check out [this blog post](#).



### **Direct Give is Coming Soon**

We are so excited to be bringing the Direct Give campaign back this November. Look out in the coming weeks for a fun way to support our amazing school and outFOX your friends and neighbors!

### **The Fundraising Team Needs your Help**

Every year it takes dozens of volunteers to meet our fundraising goal through events like Direct Give, Move-a-thon, the auction, and more. Even just a few hours goes a long way for our school.

Please consider helping us by contacting [fundraising@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:fundraising@geneseehillpta.org) or [fill out this form](#) to let us know how you can participate.

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## **Community Question**

**Is Genesee Hill PTA is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization? If so, are you able to provide documentation for tax purposes?**

Yes, Genesee Hill PTA is a 501(c)(3). [This link](#) notes our designation and also provides our tax ID reference, which should be a helpful reference for tax purposes. Additionally, when contributions are made to Genesee Hill PTA, the donor receives a donation receipt that has our tax ID number and the amount of the donation that's tax deductible.