

Genesee Hill News

June 7, 2022 | Volume 2, Issue 10



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

Mark Your Calendars

June 8: PTA General Mtg,
6:30pm

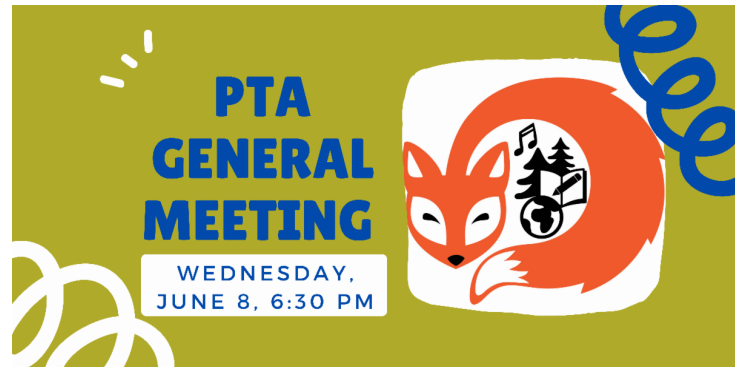
June 9: Elementary
Instrumental Music Concert,
6:30pm

June 13: Awards Assembly,
9:00am

June 14: Field Day

June 16: Fifth Grade
Promotion, 8:30am

June 17: Last Day of School



Final PTA General Meeting of the School Year

Consider joining the final PTA meeting of the year on **Wednesday, June 8 at 6:30 PM**. Topics include: voting in new board members, reviewing and voting on next year's budget, celebrating some special volunteers, and recapping on one-time projects to spend down reserves. We hope to see you there. See last Thursday's bulletin for the link to join.



Field Day is June 14

24 stations of fun with Grades K-2 in the morning (8:45am - 10:45am) and Grades 3-5 in the afternoon (12noon - 2pm). 40 adult volunteers are needed for each time slot -- come support our students and participate in this day of fun! [Sign up here to volunteer.](#)

Letter from PTA Co-Presidents

Hey Foxes!

In another unusual and challenging year, the members of this community came together to make it memorable. Here are some of the highlights:

- Gold membership award for increasing PTA membership by 10% over prior year
- Hybrid auction: 130 in person, 83 virtual, hours of fun had by all
- Kickoff of the Family and Community Engagement for All (F.A.C.E)
- Opportunity grants awarded
- Fund shifting to the West Seattle public school equity fund
- BLM rally and microaggressions workshop
- Legislative representation and communications regularly sent to membership
- Bike to school
- Move-A-Thon
- Numerous cohort events
- Priorities survey for members to share with the board
- School play – The Claw
- Teacher & staff appreciation week
- Golden acorn awards (coming soon)

We cannot say thank you enough to the volunteers this year. Each and everyone is amazing and they are the backbone of this organization. This includes a terrific board. Thank you.

Greg Deviny and Merrick Bodmer

Staff Spotlight

Huge thanks to everyone who has shared their stories throughout the year. It's been wonderful to get to know our amazing GHE staff a little more. This month, for the final spotlight, we have two!

*We're thrilled to introduce, **Aranza Santana***

What is your current role at GH?

Special Education Access Instructional Assistant

What drew you to this type of work?

I had many wonderful teachers that impacted me in my education. I knew I had to do the same and be a positive impact to students. Working with Special Education Students is such a rewarding feeling. They teach me how to enjoy the little things in life daily.

What is your favorite part of your work?

The relationships I build with all the students, parents and colleagues. And Spirit Days!! I have so much fun dressing up for those days :)

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

I am a napper. So, I nap every day after work :) I am a basketball referee for a men's/women's/co-ed recreation league, three days a week. And I really enjoy going to the gym to lift weights. During our school vacations I fly out to Mexico whenever I can and spend time with my 93-year-old grandma, Priscilla. In the summer I am on my boat wakeboarding or just enjoying the peacefulness of the water.

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

I was born in Mexico. We came to Grandview, Washington when I was 4 years old. I am bilingual in Spanish and English. I am one of nine kids in my family: five brothers and three sisters. There are 11 of us total. That is why my favorite number is #11. It was my jersey number in all the sports I did. I played basketball for two years at Columbia Basin College in Pasco, Washington. And two years at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. I love Genesee Hill Elementary! Thank you for having me!



And Michelle Mullin ...

What is your current role at GH?

Instructional Assistant

What drew you to this type of work?

I started as a substitute and enjoyed working with students and staff so much I decided to apply for a permanent position. I have been working at Genesee Hill since the building opened in 2016.



What is your favorite part of your work?

I love watching students grow, learn new things and helping them in any way I can.

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

I spend time with my family (I have two kids, an 8th and 9th grader who went to Schmitz Park and Genesee Hill). I enjoy staying active by working out, gardening, camping, skiing and walking my dog.

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

I grew up in West Seattle and feel fortunate to raise my kids in such a great community with such natural beauty.

Huge shout out to Aimee Riordan who has been the awesome volunteer gathering these wonderful staff stories. Thank you, Aimee!

Equity & Inclusion at Genesee Hill



You are Invited!

This year, Genesee Hill Elementary joined other West Seattle public grade schools to shift PTA funding and create a pooled opportunity of resources. Please join us for the inaugural celebration of fundshifting through the [West Seattle Public School Equity Fund](#). There will be snacks and games, opportunities to connect as a wider West Seattle public school community, and a short presentation about the work we're doing and the funds being distributed. All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

When: Thursday, June 16th, 5-6:30pm

Where: Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, 4408 Delridge Way SW, in the Movement

Room

Questions: Andrea, hello@wspsequityfund.org or Kristen, GH Equity Chair, equity@geneseehillpta.org

Spotlight on Cohorts



After a year of social distancing, Cohorts were thrilled to bring back some beloved events along with some new ones including: S'mores Roasts at Camp Long, summer time playground play dates, beach and park meetups, parents' nights out, picnics, and even a carnival! For many families, Cohort Events were their only in person interaction with the GHE school community. Thank you so much to all the cohort leaders for making these events happen! And a special shout out to our 5th grade leaders: Louanne and Michael Dempsey, Greta Hartstrom, Krissy Harvis, Courtney Hill, and Lindsey Imbier who have been leading the Class of 2029 since their children were in Kindergarten. You will be missed!

A couple of cohort events that are coming up include:

1st Grade S'mores Roast!

Who: 1st Grade Cohort and their Families

When: Tuesday, June 7 from 5:30-7:30 pm

Where: Camp Long Fire Pit

Please [RSVP HERE](#).

5th Grade End of Year Bonfire Beach Party!

Where: Alki Beach Fire Pits

When: June 16, 2022, 5pm

How You Can Help: See the [Sign Up Genius](#) to RSVP and to sign up if you are able to bring s'mores supplies or have time to help the day of

Community Question

What Happened at the Genesee Hill Community Reserves Special Meeting?

This month's community question is answered by PTA Legislative Chair, Victoria Bhegani.

On Wednesday, May 25th, members of the Genesee Hill school community came together to talk about proposals for spending down our PTA's considerable reserves on one-time projects as a part of our efforts to right-size our school's PTA budget. The purpose of this meeting was for idea generation. We looked to school families and teachers for input about the proposals being brought forward and also asked for other proposals. This was one of what will hopefully be a number of opportunities for our school community to discuss one-time spend proposals before they are brought to full membership votes, which could happen as early as fall, 2022.

The bulk of this particular meeting was spent on the proposal for the PTA to donate reserve money to the Urban Homestead Foundation to help it in its goal of purchasing the Dakota Homestead property and build a community garden on it (this property is directly across from our school). This focus was because the proposal is time sensitive, as the value of the land the Foundation wants to purchase (across from the school) keeps increasing. [Rich Shibley](#), President of the Urban Homestead Foundation spoke of how the Foundation needs approximately 50,000 to 100,000 dollars to buy the land from Seattle City Light, which wants to sell the property at fair market value. The Foundation has done fundraising and grant writing but is still falling short of their monetary goal. Their plan is that, once purchased, the Dakota Homestead property will become a community garden that hosts classes and programs for Genesee Hill school, other neighborhood schools, and other members of the community. Following Rich, Karen Hogan, representing Pathfinder K-8 School, described her school's robust gardening program, which has been operating for ten years, and has every child at the school participating in. The feedback after these presentations was overwhelmingly positive, with Ms. Munavu and Mr. Della Pella expressing strong support from Genesee Hill staff. Some points shared were that a garden could build community, support sustainable gardening practices, give teachers a hands-on environmental science curriculum, and teach children (and adults!) to be caretakers of the earth. If you are interested in donating to this organization or being a part of it, please contact Rich Shibley or check out their [website](#).

The second proposal was for the GH PTA to fund Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) training for GH staff and board members. [Kristen Corning Bedford, Equity Chair](#) and Erin Munavu, Chair of the GH Equity Leadership Team (ELT) and GH teacher spoke about it. This proposal for DEI funding could be put together in partnership with GH staff, with the trainings as part of professional development. It could be helpful for teachers, as there is a lot of work they want to do in this area but for now no financial support from SPS. The staff at GH have applied many times for funding to have their own equity team, but as of now have no support or guidance from SPS. The teachers need outside support and would also benefit from the broader perspective an outside facilitator could bring in. Another potential this training has is to show SPS that our school is serious about anti-racism and inclusion, and it has strong partnerships between teachers and school families that want to do this work. This could help us get funding from SPS in the future.

The third proposal was for the GH PTA to fund a mural at the back of the school. [Greg Deviny, PTA President](#) spoke on this topic, and said that it would brighten up our school to have a mural in its back, along the curving cement block wall under the side fence that faces 51st. It could be playful, like the murals in the Junction, and give the kids something not only to look at but wonder over. We could have an artist come in and lead the kids in helping to paint one themselves.

Along with these proposals, we also discussed other ideas that had been submitted on

the proposal form. As the meeting was running over time, we didn't get to discuss all of them, but they will be shared at the upcoming Board meeting on June 6. Many of the proposals supported the idea of donating to the Urban Homestead Foundation. Others are actually being funded in our budget already, and others will be presented and discussed at the next PTA Board meeting on June 6. If the Genesee Hill PTA Board wants to look further into any of these proposals, it will contact the submitter about being a project lead.

The PTA Board very much appreciated everyone who attended the meeting, contacted us with questions, and submitted proposals. As our first foray to discussing these proposals outside of the PTA Board, we felt like it was a success, and we are excited to engage more with our school about these ideas in the coming months. If you have any thoughts or questions, please feel free to contact any of our current project leads (emails above) or [myself](#), as I am currently coordinating this.



Genesee Hill Elementary | 5013 SW Dakota St | Seattle, WA 98116 | 206.252.9700

Genesee Hill Elementary | 5013 SW Dakota St. , Seattle, WA 98116

[Unsubscribe email@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:unsubscribe_email@geneseehillpta.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by email@geneseehillpta.org powered by



Try email marketing for free today!