



# Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

## STAY CONNECTED:



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<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/>



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[facebook.com/GeneseeHillPTA](https://facebook.com/GeneseeHillPTA)

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						

- 1-5 BLM @ School Week
- 4 PTA General Mtg
- 15-19 No School - Mid Winter Break
- 23 Direct Give Campaign Starts
- 24 GH Dine Out at Chipotle
- FCEIGH Panel Discussion on Anti-Racism
- 25

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			

- 11 Direct Give Campaign Ends
- Direct Give Scavenger Hunt Ends
- 18

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!

### PTA General Meeting

Featuring Family Connections: a BLM and anti-racism conversation

### BLACK LIVES MATTER

at  Genesee Hill ELEMENTARY

**Date:** Thursday, February 4

**Time:** 6:30 - 8:30 P.M.

ALL are **invited and welcome** to attend the PTA general meeting! Anyone may log in at 6:30 to participate in social breakout rooms by cohorts for 30 minutes. Official business will start at 7:00. We will be sharing updates on planning for next year's board and budget and how to get involved, current and upcoming fundraising events, and a family connections segment to talk about BLM and anti-racism work. Look for the login in the Thursday bulletin.



### Dine-Out for Genesee Hill

Wednesday,  
February 24  
4-8 PM

Add some spice to the middle of your week! Enjoy your favorite Mexican dishes while supporting Genesee PTA. Order at <https://chipotle.com/order> and be sure to use the coupon code 3VN7GT8, so a percentage of your purchase goes to GHE.

## Letter From the Co-President



It's an old meme but... "Winter is coming."

There's a lot to be proud of with how we've made the most of the paralyzing pandemic. Creative community building and fundraising have definitely brought magic to this school year, sometimes literally. I feel

so much gratitude for everyone's contributions and have hope for the rest of the year!

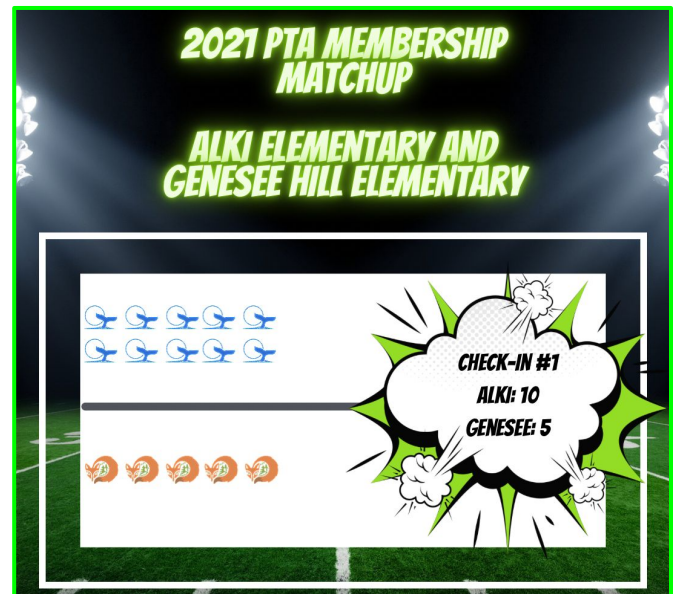
Despite our fortitude, we can't ignore clouds on the horizon. SPS budget choices, a PTA Leadership vacuum, and issues with the transition back to in-person schooling all give me heartburn. Come to our February 4 PTA meeting to learn more.

At the state-level, lower tax revenues during the pandemic will likely result in a \$2 billion shortfall. The effect on Seattle Public schools may not be fully felt next school year but will definitely affect 2022-2023 and beyond. Kids throughout Seattle will feel the pinch with changes to staffing, service availability, and other supports.

In normal years, the Genesee Hill family community supports recess monitors, after-school enrichment activities, staffing not covered the District's budget, supplies for all kids, and more! Donations and fundraising facilitated by the PTA ensures every kid has access to an equitable educational experience. It's why the PTA exists! In this pandemic, though, we have struggled to find volunteers to keep our mission going. All current elected PTA Leaders are stepping down after this year and without new leadership the PTA's support for the school will be put on hold.

And lastly, for Kindergarten and First graders on track to get back in the classroom March 1: We have your back! The January 8<sup>th</sup> community chat was important to hear your voices so we can advocate and get ahead of all challenges.

"Winter is coming" but you can reach out to [president@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:president@geneseehillpta.org) to help tackle these issues!



### Membership Matchup In Full Swing

To encourage PTA membership at both schools, we're competing with Alki Elementary to see who can sign up the **most new PTA members** from **Jan. 19 to Feb. 28** (at a 2-to-1 ratio since Genesee has twice as many students).

As you can see from the leaderboard above, Alki currently maintains a hefty lead. Never fear, fellow foxes - we can rally together and achieve a great turnaround! Joining the PTA today will grant our community bragging rights and support critical PTA initiatives.

**Show your support and join today:**

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

## Volunteer

Thank you to those awesome volunteers that have signed up using our volunteer page:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/volunteering/> Opportunities available range from volunteering on the PTA Board, to supporting our fundraising efforts, to building community, and many other unique opportunities. There's something for everyone! We invite you to consider how to best contribute your time and talent.

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT

From our front office, meet **Valerie!**



## What is your current role at GH?

I am an office assistant at Genesee Hill Elementary. At the front office, we are busy coordinating between students, teachers and parents with all of the day-to-day activities. Lots of questions to answer, phone calls, collecting and dispersing of information and tracking the safety and attendance of all students. We are the check-in point, a (virtual) hub of activity.

## What drew you to this type of work?

I like that this position can be busy and chaotic and requires lots of energy and multitasking. I also wanted to be close to my kids, one is at Genesee Hill and the other at West Seattle High School.

## What is your favorite part of your work?

My favorite part of work is feeling like I'm at the center among the most important people in West Seattle. 😊

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

I like to run, garden, hike, bike and walk around West Seattle. We spend quality time both in Edmonds with my brothers' family and at our family cabin on Hood Canal.

## Anything else?

We have a dog, cat, four fish, a parakeet, zebra finch, two lovebirds, five tame squirrels and plenty of wild birds!

# ADVOCACY & EQUITY

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

## Stories of Genesee Hill

Thank you to all those who participated in the first installment of Stories of Genesee Hill! The second one kicks off today: Student experiences with Health Supports. This installment is asking how children experience medical and mental health supports through SPS. Please participate in it by filling out this form: <http://bit.ly/StoriesOfGH>. The more voices the better!

## WSPTA Resolution

February is Black Lives Matter at Schools. Honor it by reading the powerful resolution, [Dismantling Institutional and Systemic Racism](#) that WSPTA passed in 2020

## BLM at School - Celebrate & Learn:

**Participate** in the weekly anti-racist challenges in each Thurs. bulletin and [here](#).

**Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm:** Attend the next *Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion* (FCEIGH) meeting. Zoom link will be in the Thursday bulletin.

**Thursday, February 25th at 7pm:** Listen to a panel discussion with staff from the GH Equity Leadership Team (ELT) on dismantling racism in our homes and school.



Explore our BLM at School Virtual Living Room: <http://bit.ly/3th57yy>

# SPOTLIGHT ON DIRECT GIVE

We are very fortunate to have an amazingly supportive community and we should all be proud of this! *Genesee Hill Elementary parents, staff and students have proven time and time again that we are all focused on the betterment of, and support for, each other.*

The PTA and Genesee Hill Administration are tasked with making sure the necessary programs are in place for our kids to be successful. Many of our in-person programs are not being funded this year and that has drastically reduced the overall PTA budget. However, we still need to raise an additional \$60K of funds to support the programs our kids are benefiting from virtually that unfortunately are not funded by our school district or the State of Washington. Examples include: providing school supplies for all students, allowing our staff access to professional development, purchasing library books and textbooks, and providing specialists (beyond what the District accounts for) to further support our kids in math, reading, art and social/emotional health.

To meet this need we will be launching our **Direct Give** campaign this month. The fundraising campaign will officially run February 23 through March 11.

## Here are some of the key details:

- **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT!** During the month of February your donation is generously being matched 1-to-1, dollar-for-dollar - up to \$26,000! \$10 becomes \$20. \$100 becomes \$200. \$1000 becomes \$2000. *This is an incredible opportunity- do not miss out!*
- **Yard Signs!** With a minimum of a \$50 donation, you will receive a yard sign delivered to your doorstep. Your family can decorate the sign and create something fun for kids to find. Draw, paint, attach something - the sky's the limit! Once done, put the sign in your yard for Genesee Hill kids to discover.
- **Raffle Prizes!** We are hosting three raffles- every Friday throughout the campaign. Think: gift cards and coupons to local restaurants, bottles of wine, etc. Give early to increase your chances of winning. Raffle winners will be posted each Friday on our [PTA Facebook page](#).
- **Scavenger Hunt!** All Genesee Hill kids are invited to look for Yard Signs as they pop up in the neighborhood. See [this blog post](#) for more details!

*Note: Yard signs are available for the first 300 families who donate*

**SHARE IN THE FUN AT  
#ghedirectgive**



what does  
the fox say?  
Thank You!!

Don't forget to pick up your Valentine's Fox Boxes on Feb. 6, 9am-noon in the front parking lot!

## FUNDRAISING

### January Dine Out for GH - Success!

The Mission Cantina Dine Out fundraiser was a huge success! We generated \$1800 between the two days. This was one of the most successful Dine Out events that we have had. Thank you to everyone for their participation and to Jodi Lansky for setting this up!

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

## Question: What is the Genesee Hill staff doing to work on Equity at Genesee Hill?

Even though this year is challenging in many ways, I'm really energized about the work our staff is doing to become a more anti-racist community. We spend one of our Wednesday afternoons each month solely dedicated to equity-related topics. We have decided to spend the majority of this coveted time in focus groups—we are looking at all aspects of our school from the lens of white supremacy culture (<https://www.showingupforracialjustice.org/white-supremacy-culture-characteristics.html>).

For example, we look at how we communicate with families, how we relate to our students, and our curriculum. Groups 'audit' our community through this lens and then work towards how to become more anti-racist. We also have an Equity Leadership Team made up of staff members who are meeting twice a month to talk about other equity issues, such as Black Lives Matter week at schools and supporting staff members in their equity work. I have seen so much growth in our community in my 3.5 years at Genesee, and, though this work is ongoing, I am excited to see the dedication of our staff to doing this difficult work.

*This month's community question was answered by 1st grade teacher, Erin Munavu. Ms. Munavu sits on the Equity Leadership Team and also serves as a teacher representative on the PTA Board.*

**Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in an upcoming newsletter? Email [communications@geneseehill.org](mailto:communications@geneseehill.org)**

## Thank You Genesee Hill Sponsor, Schoeb Chiropractic!

Originally from Windom, MN, Dr. Ryan Schoeb attended the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse for pre-chiropractic studies and later obtained his Doctorate of Chiropractic degree and B.S. degree in Human Biology at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Minneapolis. After practicing 13 years in Kirkland, he started Schoeb Chiropractic in WS.

## SPONSOR CORNER

Dr. Schoeb is proud to work in the same community in which his children have attended school for the last 3+ years. He is a preferred provider for most health insurance plans. Dr. Ryan utilizes the Diversified Chiropractic Technique meaning he can manually adjust the spine/extremities or use instrument/soft tissue adjusting for a lighter approach. Dr. Ryan and his wife, Molly, have two sons, Cullen (12) and Connor (10). He enjoys time with family, coaching baseball, networking, hiking, camping, snowboarding, longboarding, biking, running with his dogs, and taking road trips around the PNW. He was a past president and treasurer of the Kirkland Kiwanis Sunrisers and past president of a local WS business group. Check him out at <http://www.schoebchiropractic.com/>.

