



Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

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September						
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			

- 4 First Day of School (1-5)
- 7 Labor Day - No School
- 8 First Day of School (kinder)
- 9 Ice Cream Anti-Social
- 17 Tech Training (tentative)

October						
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

- 8 DMTI Math Night
- 9 In-Service Day - No School
- 13 PTA General Membership Mtg

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!



Date: September 9, 3-6 p.m.
Location: Dakota Homestead

The Full Tilt ice cream truck will serve up some **tasty cones** at Dakota Homestead (across from the GH front parking lot). Cones are \$6 and proceeds support the PTA Supply Drive.

Online Learning Platform



Learn more about the technology your student(s) will be using this year!

Our tentative date for the technology training is September 17. Mark your calendars and keep track of your questions and specific issues your child is experiencing. More details to come!

Letter From the Co-President



Welcome Back to School! As PTA Co-Presidents this year, a year unlike any other, Scot and I are in the same boat as everyone and we want to confirm that the Genesee Hill PTA is here for you. Let me start by introducing myself:

I'm Michelle Comazzetto. My son, Leo will be a 3rd grader, and my daughter will be starting her first year at Madison. When my daughter started Kindergarten I found myself trying to navigate this new world of public school. As a full-time working parent, I'm not able to be at school during the day. I found it hard to build connections with other families and staff at the school. I realized attending the PTA General Membership meetings was a way to get the information and connections I was seeking, It was my way of engaging with the school that worked with my schedule, and now that I'm sitting on the other side of the table, as your Co-President, I want to be a resource to families, just like the PTA was for me many years ago.

Both Scot and I are excited to be leading and working with a wonderful group of people who have volunteered to be Board Members this year. As a PTA, we work to ensure your concerns are heard. We also make ways for families to come together, even when we can't be physically in the same place.

This year, more than ever before, we want to build a solid foundation of resources, communication, and support for the Genesee Hill Community. We want to dispel common PTA myths, especially the idea that there is an "US" and a "THEM". Every voice in our community matters and ALL decisions are stronger when we make them together. If you are interested in shadowing a current Board Member we want to hear from you!



Volunteering at school is a powerful way to make an impact on your child's experience and help our community as a whole. This year volunteerism may look a little different, but we still need many hands to make light work!

◆ **Move-A-Thon Chair:** We're looking for a chair for our super fun FALL Move-A-Thon event. Contact fundraising@geneseehillpta.org.

◆ **Volunteer Coordinator:** Would you like to manage the volunteer efforts at Genesee Hill? The volunteer coordinators, Rene Bibaud and Kiki Elbel would love to teach you the ropes. This would be an excellent role for an incoming Kindergarten parent.

◆ **NEW: Online volunteerism.** It's likely there may be opportunities for parents to assist virtually this year. SPS is working hard to update and optimize it's volunteer on-boarding process. Once it's ready, we will post it on our PTA website at geneseehillpta.org/volunteering. You must register in order to volunteer.

Eager to learn more? Do you have a passion or talent to share? Check out geneseehillpta.org/volunteering or contact Rene Bibaud at volunteers@geneseehillpta.org!

"Meet" the rest of the board at:
<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/about/leadership>



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This month we're featuring Jennifer Watts, our amazing GH Counselor!

What is your current role at GH?

I am Genesee Hill's Counselor.

What drew you to this type of work?

I earned a BFA and spent time in schools teaching art. I found that so much emotional work came with it and I had always enjoyed listening and sharing and problem solving. I returned to school to earn my Master's and become a licensed counselor. I realized during my internship that I wanted to provide a space and be a person who supported students, families and teachers in public schools. I was looking to support social emotional learning in a collaborative environment that all had access to.

What is your favorite part of your work?

Helping kids and adults to feel comfortable and confident as they process and communicate all emotions as we all work to be our best.

How do you spend your free time?

I spend time with my family and play outside (in water as much as possible)! I enjoy learning about people and our ever changing world. I like to travel and explore new spaces, create things (food, art and structures) and I dance a lot!

Anything else?

Looking forward to seeing how we all grow in this very different school year. I am so excited to interact with students, families and all the awesome educators at GH as we continue addressing inequities, pushing for all to be connected and supported in our community with a value for social emotional learning.

First off, thank you for reading this. The fact that you are means that you are supporting public schools and engaging with the issues. In these times, these are no small things. Thank you.

We are Kristen Corning Bedford and Victoria Bhegani. Kristen is the incoming Equity Chair, a newly appointed position to the Genesee Hill PTA. She has a 3rd grader at Genesee Hill and a 6th grader at Pathfinder. After two years serving as the co-chair of the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion, she is tasked with continuing to hold a wider lens of belonging and encouraging everyone to reflect on who is being left behind when we're building community. Victoria is the incoming Legislative Chair and co-chaired the Family Equity Committee with Kristen. She has two kids at Genesee- an incoming kinder and a 4th grader. She is passionate about public education and is excited to represent and advocate for it, and for our school, at local and state levels.

ADVOCACY CORNER



In this part of the newsletter we'll highlight dates, give ideas on how to get involved and share articles. This is community work, so please join the conversation! Find out more on the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion FB page:

www.facebook.com/voicesofgeneseehill.

Also, check out Kristen's recent article on the Genesee Hill PTA Blog:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2020/08/31/should-i-stay-or-should-i-go-a-letter-regarding-academic-pods/>. Here, she addresses pandemic pods and what our children could learn from this time of remote education.

SPOTLIGHT ON MEMBERSHIP



Hello Genesee Hill Community! My name is Dave Conway and I am honored to serve as the Membership Chair. This is my first year on the Board and I am excited to support the important work of the PTA.

The main reason I wanted to volunteer this year is because I realized the value it provides to my kids. The PTA is all about supporting, advocating, and connecting parents and teachers to ensure our children reach their full potential. As I have learned, it's not a social club.

The Genesee Hill PTA Board is a dedicated team of volunteers working to find volunteers, communicate effectively, and grow a sense of community experienced by all students, parents, teachers, and staff. As a member of our PTA, you make the decision on your role. **There is no wrong way to PTA and we invite every family to participate.** It is for dads, moms, caregivers, grandparents, teachers, and the community.

Examples of GHE PTA contributions include providing school supplies to all students, providing funding for teachers for their classrooms, and funding innovative initiatives such as the Passport Program. **We invite you to join us and become a member!**

We look forward to meeting you, answering your questions, and listening to your ideas.

We invite YOU to join, Please visit <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/join-the-pta/>

Hello Genesee Hill Families! This is my first year on the PTA and I am excited about taking on the role as Fundraising Chair for the 2020-2021 school year. My husband, myself, our 3rd grader and my eldest adult son transplanted here from the suburbs of Chicago 7 years ago. At first we lived on the Eastside but very quickly found that West Seattle was where we wanted to call home. We love the active, diverse and inspiring people that we have come to know. I work in sales in the insurance industry and my husband works for the city of Seattle. In our spare time we love to hike, go on day adventures and camp. Being on the PTA helps me give back to the community that I am proud to be a part of. This year will be bring on a whole series of new and unexpected challenges. I know that together the GH community will work together through these issues and thrive!

FUNDRAISING



Fundraising this year is getting started with a flavorful kick! Our annual school supply drive will begin with our Ice Cream Anti-Social at Dakota Homestead on September 9, 3-6pm. The cost will be \$6 a cone with a portion going to the school supply fund. We'll display our new Genesee Hill swag there too. Our Supply Drive goal is \$10,000 which covers the school supplies for the year. If you're unable to join but would like to contribute, please go to: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/supply-drive/>.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Question: We have a new logo? Why? Don't we need to get approval from the district?

Great question! Our former logo was originally created by a parent volunteer for Schmitz Park. Some community members proposed updating the logo to uniquely tailor it to the Genesee Hill community. Principal Kischner approved the idea.

First grade GH parents Jodi Lansky and Etienne Ohl teamed up with third grade parent Amanda Neves to generously volunteer their time and talent to create a new logo to capture some of the special elements of our community.

You'll notice that the trees from the original logo remain in order to represent our lush school grounds. New additions include a globe to symbolizes our Passport program, a musical note to represent our

outstanding music and dance programs, and a book and pencil to illustrate academic learning. The expression of the fox is now smiling, which is meant to capture the essence of our joyful community. Finally, the colors have been brightened and the font has been modernized so that it will look great on shirts and other swag.

Love the new logo? Check out our new swag shop created by this same amazing team of parents: <http://store.geneseehillpta.org>.



Genesee Hill ELEMENTARY

Do you have a question you'd like to see answered in an upcoming newsletter? Email communications@geneseehill.org

The Genesee Hill PTA needs YOU!

Looking for a way to make an impact while serving your school community? Join the PTA Board in the role of **Vice President**.

To learn more, check out the description <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/vice-president/> or contact your PTA Presidents, Michelle and Scot, at president@geneseehillpta.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Need Childcare Support?

To learn about childcare options available in our community, please visit: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/community/local/>. If you are aware of additional childcare options, please send them to communications@geneseehillpta.org so we can spread the word.

CONNECT

CHAMPION

JOIN

PROTECT

ENGAGE

UNITE **PTA FOR YOUR CHILD** GUIDE

VOLUNTEER

INVEST

NURTURE

ADVOCATE

ACT