STAY CONNECTED:
CHECK THE WEBSITE
http://www.geneseehillpta.org/
LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/GeneseeHillPTA

UPCOMING EVENTS:
Mark Your Calendars!

ALL ARE WELCOME
1st PTA General Meeting of the year
share your voice

Date: Tuesday, October 13
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 P.M.

Genesee Hill families and teachers are invited to join us virtually for the first PTA General Membership Meeting of the school year! Check the Thursday Bulletin for the Zoom details!

Cohort teams are planning events to build community this year. One example is the 5th grade cohort Harvest Festival Parade designed for students to get outdoors, enjoy the crisp fall weather and show off costumes in a fun, safe and physically-distanced way. Keep your eyes open for info in emails from your grade level cohort team and in your cohort FB group!
Letter From the Co-President

One month is done and I am exhausted! I’m Scot Duffield, Co-President of the PTA with Michelle Comazetto, and I have heard a lot of parents talk about all it takes to parent, coach, and keep the rest of our lives in order while our kids school-from-home. I’d like to say I had realistic expectations when we started the school year… and I was wrong! I’m sure you’re experiencing challenges as well.

Since my wife and I moved to West Seattle four years ago, we’ve grown to appreciate everything that Genesee Hill families and the school do to support our 3rd grader’s development. I got involved in the PTA because I was interested in state-level education issues but have been impressed by supports that our school and PTA partner on together.

Suffice it to say, gifts of time, talent, and donations from you and other parents apply far beyond well-known school and PTA programs. School supplies for all kids and financial support for school staff, including investing in a psychologist only partially funded by the school district, are critical to support kids struggling this school year. I’m thankful for PTA involvement because of the real actions implemented for kids who are furthest from educational justice or developmentally challenged.

With September behind us, we hope that our increased communication to you, our school community, has been noticed. Because the PTA represents the voice of all students, please join us at our first General Membership meeting on October 13th to make sure that we have our priorities in the right place. PTA members and non-members should attend to help our community get stronger as we advocate for our kids together.

Any other thoughts? Email Michelle and me: president@geneseehillpta.org.

Renew your PTA membership!
The PTA is for moms, dads, teachers, grandparents, caregivers and community members. Renew your membership today at: http://www.geneseehillpta.org/join-the-pta/.

We still need you!
Volunteering may look different this year, but it remains a valuable way to make an impact on your school community while lending your time and talent. Here are some ways you can get involved:

✦ Please bookmark www.geneseehillpta.org/volunteering to see updated opportunities, or email volunteers@geneseehillpta.org to offer your help and get involved.

✦ Room Parents: We still have a few open spots available. If you would like to assist, please reach out to your child’s room parent to let them know. To register, sign up here: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4aabaa2ba3fa7-room1.

✦ Volunteering Online:
Our new volunteer system is finally ready for new volunteers! Please go to geneseehillpta.org/volunteering and click "Get Set Up."

As we discover ways for families to volunteer, we will post them on the volunteer page of the website and update the bulletin.
What is your current role at GH?  
I assist our hard-working principal and assistant principal with many of the behind-the-scenes duties such as: being available in the office for parents to pick up needed items and supplies, answering phone calls and maintaining student records. There are three of us who support the teachers and staff. We’re currently working in a rotation to keep the numbers down for social distancing. It’s much quieter in here. I think we all miss the kids in the building!

What drew you to this type of work? 
I have volunteered at the school for the past three years. During pre-COVID times, I filled in for the nurse the days she was not at Genesee Hill.

What is your favorite part of your work?  
The kids! I’m also lucky to work with such a great group of teachers, staff and families.

When you’re not at GH, how do you spend your time?  
Hanging out with my family, baking and running. I love to travel, when we’re not social distancing.

Anything else? 
I’m a Washington native and have lived in West Seattle for 17 years. My husband Joel and I have two sons: Elliot (3rd grade in Mr. Della Pella’s class); Nolan (2nd grade in Mr. Perez’s class). I’m lucky to live close by and can walk to work on nice days!

ADVOCACY & EQUITY

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

Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion at Genesee Hill (FCEIGH)

Come join fellow parents and caregivers in championing equity and inclusion initiatives at Genesee Hill Elementary. This committee, working in partnership with the staff Equity Leadership Team, puts on events such as Unity Night, Equity Family Forums and book clubs throughout the year. Consider joining our Google Group (https://groups.google.com/u/1/g/fceigh?pli=1) and follow our Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/voicesofgenesehill). Our first meeting of the year will be Thursday, October 8th at 7:30 pm. Join the Google Group or email Kristen, the PTA Equity Chair, at equity@geneseehillpta.org to get the zoom meeting details.

WSPTA Legislative Assembly 

On October 24-25 PTA delegates and members from all over Washington state will join together virtually to choose the Top 5 legislative priorities for the 2021 and 2022 legislative sessions, and also vote on resolutions and principles. To help your PTA delegates from Genesee Hill vote according to what priorities are important to you and your family, please fill out this survey by Oct. 9: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K69HHT6. If you’d like to attend the upcoming assembly as a member, email Victoria Bhegani at legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org.
SPOTLIGHT ON COHORTS

Nearly 20 Cohort Leaders gathered online one smoke-filled evening in September. It was nearing the end of the first full week of school with the full daily online schedule. Adults supporting learners at home were feeling the effects and stress of virtual school. Between isolation due to Covid and confinement due to poor air quality, parents and caregivers were admittedly running out of bandwidth. Yet here they were, oversized wine glasses in hand, hiding in cars and bathrooms, to spend a couple of hours brainstorming and thinking about how they can support fellow Genesee Hill families this year.

At nearly 600 students, getting to know other people at Genesee Hill can be daunting. Enter the Grade Level Cohort! Working in teams of four or five per cohort, these intrepid volunteers have taken on the role of creating a supportive community for families and students through social, academic, and service events. Learn more here: http://www.geneseehillpta.org/cohorts/.

To help with information sharing, we have approval to set up private Facebook groups for each cohort. This is another place for conversation regarding remote learning and anything else related to our cohort. Only parents/caregivers in that grade can join the Facebook group. Look for a link for your group in an email from your cohort leaders.

We are looking for 1-2 people to take on the role of group administrators. Admins should be frequent Facebook users, as you will need to approve/manage new member requests. Groups have been created and we will assist in getting you set up in your role. Email cohorts@geneseehillpta.org if interested.

Ice Cream Anti-Social Success!
We want to send a HUGE thank you to all of those that were able to join us for the Ice Cream Anti-Social. Around 500 community members showed up to build community, celebrate the start of the school year, and support the supply drive. The event was SO successful, we sold out the Full Tilt ice cream truck! If you'd like to contribute, go to: http://www.geneseehillpta.org/supply-drive/.

Move-a-Thon
Our Move-a-Thon will be moved to spring. Stay tuned for details!

Support GHE PTA while you shop!
Did you know that 4% of your eligible Amazon purchases can go toward supporting the Genesee Hill PTA? When shopping on Amazon, use this link: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1252753.
COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Question: How can families get involved in education here in Washington?

There are many ways that you can get involved. Here are a few ideas from our Legislative Chair, Victoria Bhegani:

1. Get involved with the PTA
Join the Genesee Hill PTA. Stronger PTAs can better advocate for better schools and better school systems.

Learn about PTA initiatives by following the Seattle Special Education PTSA (https://seattlespecialeducationptsa.org/) and the Seattle Council PTSA (https://scptsa.org/).

Give input on the WA PTAs legislative priorities by filling out this survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/K69HHT6

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

Global Passport Program Note:
The Genesee Hill Global Passport Program will look different this year. While we won’t have the formal Passport checks of previous years, there are many resources for keeping Passport going at home with your student(s). Learn more here: http://www.geneseehillpta.org/global-passport-program/.

2. Advocate for adequate state funding
Understand WA school funding basics: http://stand.org/washington/about/what-we-do/education-policy-advocacy/education-funding-101

Contact your State Senator about fully funding education-
District 34, Senator Joe Nguyen. Template: http://paramountduty.org/call-your-legislators/

3. Give feedback about school re-openings
WA State
Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Superintendent Chris Reykdal at OSPI. Chris.Reykdal@12wa.us
WA State Board of Education: sbe@k12.wa.us

Seattle Region
Seattle School District, Director Harris, District 6: leslie.harris@seattleschools.org
Seattle City Council, Councilor Herbold, District 6: Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov


ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 email president@geneseehillpta.org.

THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO PTA