



Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

STAY CONNECTED:



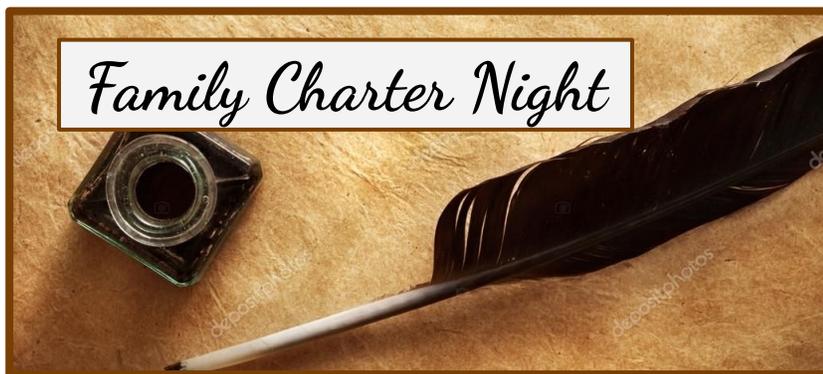
CHECK THE WEBSITE
<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/>



LIKE US ON FACEBOOK
facebook.com/GeneseeHillPTA

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!



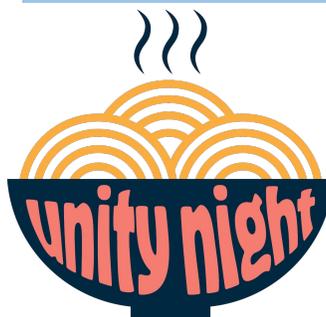
Date: November 10, 7:00 P.M.

Crafting classroom charters, followed by the opportunity for families to pen their own charters, is a cherished Genesee Hill tradition. Please join our virtual Family Charter Night. Email Ms. Watts if you're interested!



Date: November 17, 7:00 P.M.

All are invited to join Principal Kischner and special district-level guests for an informal, virtual community chat. Check the Thursday Bulletin for the event link.



Coming up:

Unity Night will take place **December 9**. Check the December newsletter for details!

November						
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					

- 11 Veteran's Day - No School
- 23-25 Conferences - No School
- 26-27 No School - Thanksgiving Break

December						
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		

- 3 General Membership Mtg.
- 9 Unity Night
- 21-31 Winter Break - No School

Letter From the Co-President



Fall is my favorite season, I just love the crispness in the air, the bright orange, yellow, and red colors against the gray Northwest sky, and the earthy smells as the plants hunker down for the winter.

With two months of virtual learning behind us, hopefully a sense of a new routine has begun to settle into your homes and provide a feeling of calm during these uncertain times. I want to focus this month's letter around community building. At our PTA Membership meeting last month it was brought up that there haven't been any community building events to volunteer for. I admit, the Board has been busy with kicking off the school year, focusing on improving communications, codifying the Anti-Racism Resolution, and re-imagining fundraising, that we haven't dedicated the time and emphasis on community building.

The Board brainstormed in early August and came up with some creative ideas, but with only so much time in a day, and without Events and Volunteer Chairs, it has been difficult to get these ideas off the ground. Over the next month, we will start to define some of these Community Building Projects and create ways for you to sign-up to help plan and execute the ideas that you find interesting. We love when our parents get involved, and there are opportunities for both working & non-working parents. Please reach out to me and Scot at President@geneseehillpta.org if you are interested in learning more about how you can help the PTA. We will find a place for you.

The PTA continues to focus on improved communication with parents. We hope you will continue to read our newsletter, check the weekly bulletin, visit our site often at www.geneseehillpta.org for updates, or find us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/GeneseeHillPTA>. On behalf of the PTA Executive Board and all the volunteers who give their time so freely and enthusiastically, I thank you for your support.



Stay Up-to-Date with current volunteer opportunities by bookmarking www.geneseehillpta.org/volunteering. Here are some highlights:

◆ PTA Nominating Committee

Help build a strong, diverse PTA that will support our Genesee Hill community. We're seeking a volunteer to join our nominating committee which will work toward connecting community members with PTA Board leadership positions. We have two awesome volunteers already, so you'll be in great company! Email president@geneseehillpta.org to learn more.

◆ Unity Night Planning

The Unity Night committee is looking for volunteers to help plan and organize this year's event. Since Unity Night will be virtual this year, we'll need lots of helping hands to make this popular event as welcoming and fun on Zoom as it is in person. Email lindsaycd@gmail.com if you have any questions or to volunteer.

◆ Volunteering Online:

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

◆ PTA Vice-President Role:

Want 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.

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



*Meet
Genesee
Hill's very
own Dorothy
Wells ...*

What is your current role at GH?

I am a resource room teacher. I usually work with students in grades K-3rd.

What drew you to this type of work?

I became a teacher because I know what it means to struggle in school. I realized as I got older that I wanted to support students who also struggle in the classroom and there is no shame in this. Students need to know that yep, their teacher has been there too and couldn't read until she was in 4th grade. I knew that I needed to help students love school and learning. I also knew there is a need to teach tolerance and to have all learners celebrate differences. What is someone's gift can be someone else's challenge and vice versa.

Thank you to everyone who joined the PTA. Joining the PTA is a great first step to advocating for all students. After joining, you can take it as far as you would like.

The PTA Board and members have been working very hard to **plan student activities, raise funds to support our investments, build a foundation to actively dismantle racism, and grow our community.**

By simply joining the PTA there are several discounts made available to you by Washington State PTA and National PTA. For example, there are discounts at:

- FedEx Office
- LEGOBags
- Office Depot
- Avis Car Rental and Budget Car Rental
- And more...

All paid PTA members should have received an email with the discount codes.

What is your favorite part of your work?

My greatest joy in my job is working with the kids. I know all teachers say this, but it is so true for me. I love kids' energy, their perseverance and their love of life. I say that I have done my job well when we can have honest laughter during the day.

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

Hmmm... I'm a teacher, I find I'm always at work 😊. When I get pulled away, I spend the time with my children camping in our RV, out on the water in our boat, riding on our quads, lazing in our backyard. I love to garden but the only thing I can grow are flowers.

Anything else?

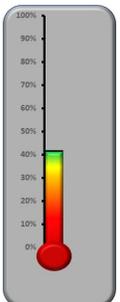
I love having friends join in the resource room, or as I call it, the campground. The kids have playdates, movies, do art and other fun stuff. I also love when adults come in and talk about different aspects of their jobs. I want the students' worlds to open up and to see possibilities that are out there for them.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

The Genesee Hill PTA will waive the \$15 membership fee if you request it. Please visit our Membership Page for instructions!

Reach out to any PTA Board member if there is something the PTA could do to convince you to join. We're always looking to improve and grow our membership.

We are at 42% of our goal of 200 members for the year, as shown on our Membership Thermometer! Help us reach our goal and join the PTA or encourage your friends to join, or both!



Renew your PTA membership today!
<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/join-the-pta/>

ADVOCACY & EQUITY

Advocate for Students

As we families are getting involved in our kids' education in new ways, many of us are also becoming more engaged with the PTA. And with a 4.4 state budget shortfall and cuts to education on the horizon, the role PTAs play in advocacy is more crucial than ever. Last weekend three delegates from Genesee Hill attended the WSPTA Legislative Assembly to vote on and engage in this important work. To read about this, the Top 5 legislative issues voted in and next steps for our school to take to support advocacy work (spoiler: we're forming a new committee!) check out my post here:

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2020/10/29/wspata-legislative-assembly-recap/>.

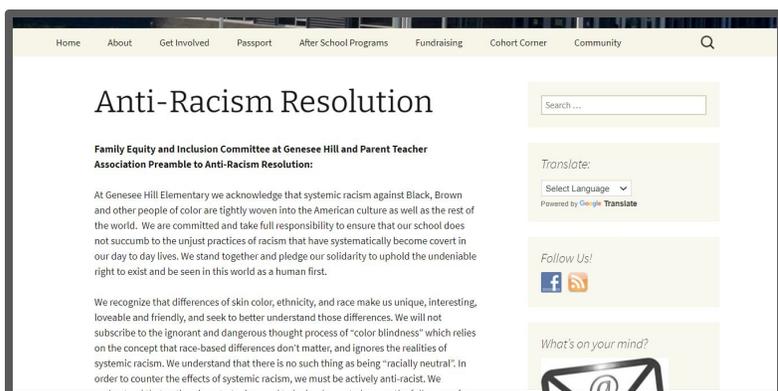
Please remember that **your voice matters!** If you have feedback about remote learning or other issues- share it! SPS Superintendent Juneau (206-252-0167), Director Leslie Harris (leslie.harris@seattleschools.org), or Council member Lisa Herbold (Lisa.Herbold@seattle.gov) are some contacts. And you can always contact me too, Victoria Bhegani (legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org), our school's PTA legislative chair. Thank you!

Anti-Racism Resolution

On Monday, October 26th, at a special meeting of the PTA, the Anti-Racism Resolution was passed unanimously. This resolution has now been adopted by both the PTA and the Genesee Hill staff, making it a schoolwide statement of intent that we will work on together to ensure all families, students, teachers and administrators work to dismantle the white supremacy culture that creates barriers to education and limits access to positions of leadership and influence. Some of the ideas that came from the discussion at Monday's meeting were: prioritizing PTA board leadership nominations representing our Black, Brown, Indigenous and other families of color; creating separate caucuses for white families and families of color to educate, listen and support each other in our anti-racism journeys; and supporting our teachers in implementing curriculum that represents all students. If you would like to join the conversation, and help develop and prioritize anti-racism action items, please join the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion (FCEIGH) at their next meeting on **November 12th at 7pm**. For more information, join the FCEIGH listserv [<https://groups.google.com/g/fceigh>], or email the PTA Equity Chair, equity@geneseehillpta.org.

Read the Anti-Racism Resolution

<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/anti-racism-resolution/>



Anti-Racism: “ The opposite of racist isn’t ‘not racist.’ It is ‘anti-racist.’ What’s the difference? One endorses either the idea of racial hierarchy as a racist, or racial equality as an anti-racist. One either believes problems are rooted in groups of people, as a racist, or locates the roots of problems in power and policies, as an anti-racist. One either allows racial inequities to persevere, as a racist, or confronts racial inequalities, as an anti-racist. There is no in-between safe space of ‘not racist.’” Ibram X. Kendi, *How to be an Antiracist*.

SPOTLIGHT ON DIGITAL DIRECTORY

Staying connected this year is so important, yet it is more challenging than ever before. As such, Genesee Hill is bringing our community members the family directory in a new digital format!

The digital directory is a web-based tool that community members can access on their phones. It has the same favorite features of the paper directory, but also has the added benefits of being accessible at all times and enabling users to call or text others directly from the app. The directory is private, accessible only to Genesee Hill staff and families with an email address on file.

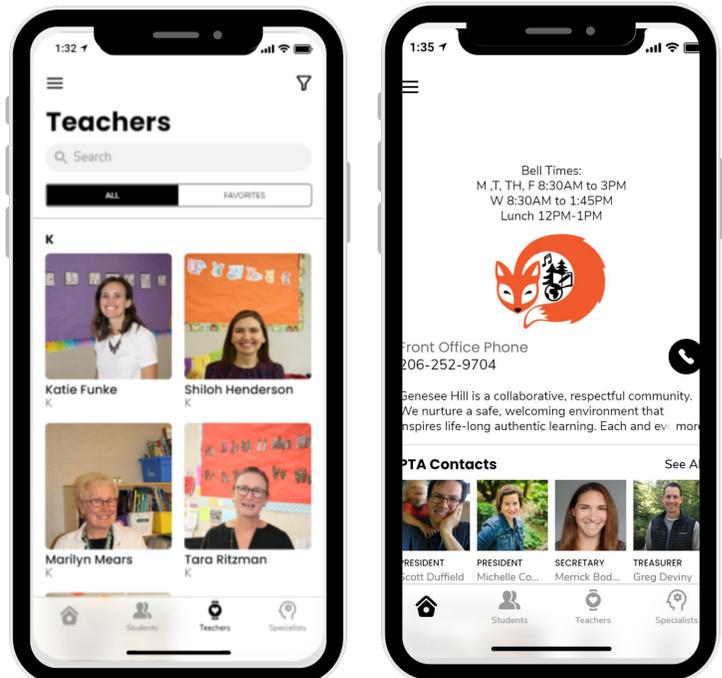
Possible uses for the digital directory are endless. Want to reach out to families in your student's class? Inspired to connect with your grade level cohort? Need to get a hold of the front office or reach your student's enrichment instructor? The digital directory will support you in making these connections quickly and easily.

The 2020-2021 school year is in full swing and holy moly, we are all working together as a community to be successful in our remote learning and socially-distant world. PTA fundraising is one of the things that needs a different approach this year. Traditionally, we have relied on an in-person auction which is not a possibility this year. We will be asking for your help as we utilize the Direct Give campaign as a primary resource for donations to fund the initiatives to support our students and school.

The Direct Give campaign will begin February 2021 and will have some exciting elements to meet our goal of providing the critical PTA funded programs. If you'd like to help support the program, contact Tracy

Also available on the digital directory are PTA Board member profiles. Use the directory to share ideas and submit feedback to the PTA at the click of a button.

To get the directory set up on your phone or computer, find instructions at: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/digital-directory/>. Your family's contact information, besides e-mails, will only be visible to others after you add it to the directory. Check out your student's profile and make the additions you wish to include, like phone numbers and addresses.



FUNDRAISING

Smid (fundraising@geneseehillpta.org) or Stephanie Holloway (stephanieholloway@gmail.com).

If you'd like to make a donation this year for tax purposes or to maximize a company match for the 2020 calendar year, the Direct Give campaign is officially open and any contributions you make now will qualify you for prizes in the February 2021 Direct Give campaign. Please go to the link below <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/directgive/>.

Finally, thank you to **Schoeb Chiropractic** and **Carroll Law Group** for leading the charge in Sponsorships this year!

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Question: Where do the proceeds from the BLM shirts go?

This August an outstanding team of parent volunteers designed a new school logo and set up a swag shop that included Black Lives Matter T-Shirts with the new Genesee Hill logo. In the new swag store, a small portion of each sale goes toward supporting PTA initiatives.

In September, after a Genesee parent posed the above question on the Genesee Hill Facebook page, the PTA board revisited where the money spent on each BLM at GHE shirt would go to ensure that it is consistent with the philosophy of Black Lives Matter. Specifically, the money should go toward anti-racist work that benefits communities of color. That meant both defining where the PTA funds would be used and looking at the business producing the shirts.

The PTA board and Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion decided the proceeds from all BLM shirt sales will be earmarked for anti-racist work at Genesee Hill. While the details are still being worked out, the funds may be used to obtain anti-racist children's literature written by Black authors for the school library.

Additionally, we've begun partnering with The Tshirt Men Company to create the BLM shirts and sweatshirts. The TSM Shop is a small, Black-owned business located in Tacoma that does great work for their local community:

<http://thetsmshop.com/about>.

Please visit the new shop here to show your support for Black Lives Matter at Genesee Hill:

<https://the-tsm-shop.printavo.com/merch/geneseehillblm>



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

New! Dine out for Genesee Hill!

On November 18, enjoy MOD Pizza (4755 Fauntleroy Way SW, Suite 150) between 10:30 A.M. and 10 P.M. and support the PTA. Use the link <https://www.groupraise.com/events/169150> and enter the GHE specific code of GR169150G and 20% of your meals price will be donated to the Genesee Hill Elementary School PTA.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Seattle Public Library Free Tutoring

Seattle Public Library has launched **free virtual tutoring** for students. Tutoring is available in most subjects. This service will be available seven days a week in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Learn more at: <https://www.spl.org/programs-and-services/learning/student-success/virtual-tutoring>.

CONNECT

CHAMPION

JOIN

PROTECT

ENGAGE

UNITE **PTA FOR YOUR CHILD** GUIDE

VOLUNTEER

INVEST

NURTURE

ADVOCATE

ACT