



Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

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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

January						
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						

- 1 No School
- 18 MLK Day - No School
- Day Between Semesters - No School
- 28 School

UPCOMING EVENTS

PTA GENERAL MEETING

special guest speaker

Please join the PTA general meeting **tonight at 6:30**. Heidi Bennett, our regional Advocacy Chair, will speak about the WSPTA legislative platform. We'll also share updates on Fundraising and Volunteering. Look for the Zoom link in the school bulletin.



4th Annual Unity Night

Wednesday,
December 9
6:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Join us for **live student performances, art, and music**, plus a welcoming space to **connect with other GH families**. All the details can be found here: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2020/12/02/unity-night-2020/>.

DREAM DINNERS.

Dine out for
Genesee Hill



Let Dream Dinners do your meal planning and prep! Deadlines to order for the last two pick-ups are midnight Dec. 3 & 10. More here: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/2020/11/20/dream-dinners-dine-in-december-1-10/>.

Letter From the Co-President



Hi! Happy Holidays!

Before you read this, please do two things:

1. Visit this webpage (<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/digital-directory/>) and access the Digital Directory. To save costs there will be no paper-bound directory this year.

2. Visit this webpage (<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/volunteering/>) and see things we aspire to do this year AND need your help to accomplish!

Can you believe 2020 is almost over? I always try to carve out time in December to reflect on the year and prepare myself for the next. I'm grateful for all parents who make time to support each other, whether it's through PTA work or other community action. I like to say "it takes a community to build a community" and 2020 would've been harder without you!

If you're feeling apart from the Genesee Hill Community then let's get connected! The Digital Directory is a web-based tool that replaces the hard-copy school directory. It's a private app that's only accessible to Genesee Hill Staff and families. Once you get it – add your contact info (which is only visible after you add it), reach out to families in your kid's class, and give feedback to me directly.

Also, to build off Michelle's message last month about Community Building Projects, there are many opportunities if you want to help while staying safe at home. The [Volunteering page](#) includes links to Sign-up Genius pages for each need we've identified.

As the weather gets colder and the days cloudier, it's often a time where we feel bluer than normal. I want to recognize all parents who work tirelessly to help kids with school-from-home, often while doing their own work-from-home responsibilities. Your efforts uplift those around you and make you a valued member of this community.



Give the gift of you!

When you volunteer at Genesee Hill, you give the school community the gift of your time and talent.

We've organized volunteer opportunities under four categories: [Community Building Projects](#), [Fundraising Projects](#), [Board Positions](#) and [Unique Volunteer Opportunities](#). From ongoing leadership positions to one-time contributions - there are opportunities to fit a wide range of volunteer skill sets and schedules.

While there are too many exciting opportunities to list, here's a bite-size sample of what is available:

◆ **Teacher Appreciation:** Our teachers have stepped up to the challenge of teaching virtually this year. We need volunteers to help plan and organize Teacher Appreciation week.

◆ **Community Building Events:** Help bring some online fun and connection to our GH families! Choose one of the many event ideas or create your own.

All community members are invited to join in the volunteering fun!

Visit the Volunteer Page

For a full list of volunteer opportunities, check out the PTA Volunteer Page:

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



STAFF SPOTLIGHT

This month we're featuring the one and only, Ms. Sealey!

What is your current role at GH?

I am the PE teacher!

What drew you to this type of work?

It took me a few years to figure out which career direction to go after being a competitive athlete until 1992. It was when my father said I could get a job at Boeing like him that I realized money didn't motivate me and I needed a job that I had an emotional connection to. That brought me to teaching! I had worked numerous basketball summer camps and I knew I loved working with kids so... a PE teacher it was!

What is your favorite part of your work?

The pay! (Just kidding.) My favorite part is watching kids grow from K-5 and see them achieve skills and talents they didn't know

they had! There is nothing better than seeing a student learn to ride a unicycle after they have said there is NO WAY 😊. And I LOVE seeing every student in the school!

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

When I am away from GH I live part time with my amazing three kids and two dogs! We like to play games, both inside and out! I like to go on walks, play golf and see friends!

Anything else?

I am Canadian. I was a member of the Canadian National Women's Basketball team from 1980-84 and 1990-92. I played in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics where we placed fourth, losing to China for the bronze medal. I coached high school basketball for more than 20 years. All my family lives in England and I love to bake! It has been a dream come true to work at GH. Living in the community I work in is wonderful and I have been loved and accepted by all those I come in contact with in West Seattle. The staff and admin at GH is the best I have ever had the pleasure of working with. I feel blessed beyond measure.

Stories of Genesee Hill

This month we're kicking off a *Stories of Genesee Hill* series. In it, we're eliciting your stories about issues connected to our WSPTA legislative platform. These stories will be sent out to legislators and WSPTA reps. Our goal is for them to use these stories to effect positive change. Your story matters. We welcome you to share it!

Installment 1: In 200 words or less, describe any challenges your child faces in accessing technology for remote learning. Send this to legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org by January 25, 2021. Feel free to include your name or leave it as anonymous.

ADVOCACY & EQUITY

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

Anti-Racism Challenge

One of the pillars of our newly adopted Anti-Racism Resolution is educating ourselves about how we're complicit in systems of white supremacy. If you haven't had a chance to listen to [Nice White Parents](#), it's an incredible podcast, prompting deep thought by examining how the good intentions of white parents contribute to the inequity in our educational system.

ADVOCATE FOR STUDENTS

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

SUPPORT EQUITY AT GHE

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

SPOTLIGHT ON UNITY NIGHT

Cafeteria tables overflowing with kugel, bulgogi, empanadas and potluck dishes from around the globe. Student artwork, family artifacts and live performances. Lively conversations with new friends and longtime pals. These are a few of the characteristics that make Unity Night a treasured event for our community.

Unity Night originated in 2017 from the belief that when a school community honors and celebrates the cultural traditions of ALL families, it helps every student feel valued, welcomed, and empowered to do their best. In learning about, honoring, and embracing our differences, we come together. The staff and family equity teams partner together to lead this well-loved event.

Unity Night will take place December 9 and will be co-hosted by Ms. Sealey and Ms. Bronson. The evening will include live performances, sharing of student work and family traditions along with multiple opportunities to connect and socialize. We'll swap our potluck for take-out from small businesses owned by people of color. Use this form

(<https://forms.gle/Q1WNCoc5BQfQyfZH7>) to pre-order your meal. Another option is to recreate the potluck at home by preparing recipes shared by other GH families in our very first Genesee Hill Community Cookbook (<https://padlet.com/michelequiao/jr9n8f2npqjmr-yw7>). We hope you will join us to build CommUNITY and connectedness while we are apart. All details are in [this blog post](#).



Direct Give Campaign 2020-2021

We are fortunate to have a supportive community and we should all be proud! Genesee Hill parents, staff and students have proven that we are focused on the betterment of, and support for, each other. One of the ways that we help each other is by providing critical resources that our school needs (that are not funded by the State of Washington) through our community commitment to raise funds so that every student has opportunities to grow and learn. Since we are unable to meet for a live auction, our objective to raise these funds looks a little different just like everything else does during this pandemic.

The fundraising campaign will begin **February 2021** and will have fun and exciting elements in the Direct Give campaign to meet our goal of providing the critical PTA funded programs. Be on the lookout for more information soon.

FUNDRAISING

To help support the program, please contact Tracy Smid (fundraising@geneseehillpta.org). To make donations before the campaign, go to <https://geneseehillpta.kindful.com/?campaign=1085530>.

Fox Boxes - Pre-Order Yours Today!

Looking for a great way to start the holiday season? Send a Fox Box, the perfect gift for everybody you know! The winter-themed Fox Box contains gingerbread cookie ingredients in a jar, brain teaser puzzles, a DIY birdseed craft, hot chocolate spoons and more amazing items. Only 100 available! Use this link (<https://geneseehillpta.kindful.com/e/fox-box>) to pre-order **by December 15** to join the fun!

THANK YOU SPONSORS

Thanks to Schoeb Chiropractic and Carrol Law for their contributions!

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

Question: How does the after school enrichment program look different this year?

Due to Covid-19, after school enrichment classes have gone virtual since school closed last March. While we had to cancel many of our classes last Spring, a handful of instructors were able to convert their classes to an online format, allowing students to continue taking enrichment classes from home.

This year, while many schools have put their enrichment programs on hold, our PTA made the bold decision to continue offering after school classes to provide online enrichment options for GH students. Our enrichment partners stepped up to embrace this opportunity and creatively re-designed their class offerings to bring back old favorites such as Jump Rope, Chess, Lego Engineering, and Tae Kwon Do. Many teachers were able to leverage technology to provide more personalized

instruction by using break-out rooms and spotlighting. Even more exciting, our vendors can now make use of the digital format to offer new, interactive classes that provide a private online space for students to collaborate. Two of our most popular classes this Fall are Dungeons & Dragons and Minecraft Creative Build, both offered by BEAM Experiences, a locally-owned small business based right here in West Seattle. We were also able to add a new Machine Sewing class which we were unable to host at school due to space limitations.

By choosing to enroll in enrichment classes, you will be supporting our loyal vendors, many of whom are sole proprietors. Your support during these challenging times will help ensure that these talented and dedicated instructors will be able keep their businesses running so that our school can resume our robust enrichment program when school re-opens. Plus, a portion of each tuition goes to the PTA's scholarship fund for families who need financial assistance to help pay for enrichment classes.

We have an exciting roster of classes planned for Winter session which starts on January 4th. Online enrollment will run from December 14th – 18th, so check the Bulletin and PTA website for more details in the coming weeks.

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

Become a Genesee Hill Sponsor

Have you donated to the auction in the past and are now looking for other ways to support the GHES PTA and get your business noticed? Consider becoming a sponsor! Visit our sponsorship page (<http://www.geneseehillpta.org/sponsors/>) for all of the details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Support GH While Holiday Shopping

Support the Genesee Hill PTA while you shop on Amazon or in our swag stores! Please visit our Shop for Genesee Hill page to get started: <http://www.geneseehillpta.org/shop-for-geneseehill/>

CONNECT

CHAMPION

JOIN

PROTECT

ENGAGE

THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO PTA

VOLUNTEER

INVEST

NURTURE

ADVOCATE

ACT