

Genesee Hill News

December 7, 2021 | Volume 2, Issue 4



[PTA Facebook](#) | [PTA Website](#)

Mark Your Calendars

12/8: Unity Night, 6pm

12/13: PTA General Membership Meeting, 6:30pm

12/17: 1 hr Early Release

12/20 - 1/2: Winter Break
- No School

12/28: School Nights at The Good Society (Dine Out for PTA) 3-10pm



Join us for Unity Night

Students and families alike are sure to enjoy the 5th Annual Unity Night event **Wednesday December 8, 6 - 7:30 pm**. Hosted by beloved teachers Mr. Turner and Ms. Sealey, the event will feature student performances and opportunities to connect with fellow community members. Check out the spotlight section below for all the details!

PTA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

**Monday Dec. 13,
6:30pm**

All are Invited to the PTA General Membership Meeting

We will discuss our plans for the auction, advocacy, and more! The meeting will include a short presentation from an SPS representative, who will provide an overview of the Educational Programs & Operations Levy and the Building, Technology, Academics/Athletics levy and also answer questions. Check out the Thursday Bulletin for the Zoom link.

Letter from the PTA Co-Presidents

Happy Holidays! We look forward to PTAing with you in 2022.

Greetings Genesee Hill friends and families! Happy Hanukkah to those who celebrated! As we roll into December, the weather is getting colder and we have fewer days of school this month. For many families this means higher costs and less food security. Thankfully, Ms. Clayton has organized a [giving site](#) for families in our Genesee Hill community that still has open sign ups. Many spots are already filled and we thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity. Additionally, Genesee Hill is hosting a food drive. To participate, please bring non-perishable food items to the front office vestibule anytime through Monday December 13th.

Hopefully you have all been informed that the general membership meeting was moved to **December 13th at 6:30**. We apologize for the inconvenience, but look forward to discussions around an important upcoming school levy, the spring auction and an exciting new community engagement program. As we look forward to the new year, we want to take a minute to let you all know how much we appreciate you! We are thankful for this supportive and generous community and look forward to some wonderful events together in the new year.

Genesee Hill Staff Spotlight



Meet a Genesee Hill Superhero - Nurse M.C. Nachtigal!

What is your current role at GH?

School nurse.

What drew you to this type of work?

I wanted to be around my kids during the school week and have a job where I could be available to them. My oldest is in seventh grade and I have been working in the schools four years and being in schools helps work life balance of being a mom and a nurse. I also really like kids and that helps. When I was a kid I thought I wanted to be a pediatrician.

In my role here I get to directly work with the kids, which I like.

What is your favorite part of your work?

Teaching kids life skills related to health care. Knowing that a kid can walk away taking better care of themselves because of my help is a big part of why I like the work.

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

Taking on more projects than I can take in. We have a cabin in Ocean Shores we are working on and we have an off-grid recreational lot in the woods. They keep us busy. I like having a project with an achievable and useful goal.

Anything else you'd like the GH community to know about you?

I have lived abroad in two different countries (Japan and Germany)

for over six years combined. I would love to give my boys this experience of learning about new people and cultures as well. I love learning about new places and people.

Membership Matchup - The Results are in!



Second Annual PTA Membership Challenge

The results are in and Lafayette is the winner! We were a close 2nd place with 163 members joined (compared to 166 last year). Thank you to all of you who have signed up this year and participated in the challenge. We hope to grow on it next year.

And it is never too late to join the PTA. We hope you will [join](#) and PTA with us as much or as little as you want.

Spotlight on Unity Night - Join Us Tomorrow!

Last December, families and staff gathered around their tables and computers to celebrate the Genesee Hill community. While some folks prepared new recipes from the community cookbook, others enjoyed takeout from local POC-owned establishments. From the comfort of their homes, community members “clicked to join” the fourth annual, and first-ever virtual, Unity Night. While swapping the regular school cafeteria venue for zoom added novelty, many familiar aspects of Unity Night remained. Last year’s event proved that Unity Night is an enduring Genesee Hill tradition!

Unity Night is back this year and will take place virtually on **Wednesday, December 8, from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**. This year’s event will be centered around the theme “Many Stories, One Community” and will feature some old and new favorite features, including: an updated Unity Night Virtual Room, student artwork, and student performances. We’ll keep the event fresh with breakout rooms with engaging prompts and student art submissions from the Reflections Program. We’re not organizing meals this year, but we encourage families and staff to create their own potluck by using the [Genesee Hill Community Cookbook](#) or ordering take-out from a local restaurant on this [list of Black-owned businesses](#) to eat during the event. Finally, come prepared with paper and drawing tools to participate in our virtual community art project!

The program is designed to be a fun and welcoming space for students and grown-ups alike. Look in the Thursday bulletin for the Zoom link and room link. In the meantime, visit the Virtual Room to read books, use the jug and pizza to plan your Unity Night meal, and click on the foxes to see students’ Unity Night projects.

All are welcome and we hope you will join and help build commUNITY this year!



Community Question

What is Fundshifting?

Thank you to Genesee Hill PTA's Equity Chair, Kristen Corning Bedford, for answering the community question this month!

Great question! As philanthropy continues to evolve to best meet the needs of our world, there has been a change in practice toward finding and addressing the root of a problem. This change has us asking more informed questions about why certain situations exist, looking upstream to understand who holds power, and dismantling the systems that aren't equitably serving everyone.

In the traditional, charitable model of giving, we didn't acknowledge the impacts of centuries of racism, sexism and ableism on our economic, health, and educational systems. The move toward *shifting* resources is an intentional redistribution of wealth from those who have benefited from centuries of wealth accumulation to those who have suffered generations of systemic racism. So, when we *shift* PTA funds, we are acknowledging, for example, the historical impact redlining had on Black families' ability to create generational wealth, and the challenges schools in these redlined neighborhoods continue to face because of this. Fundshifting asks us to question why we have such an extreme division of wealth between our neighboring PTAs and examine the positive actions we can take toward disrupting systems of oppression.

Updates from Our Fundraising Team

GHE Auction 2022 - We're Back and We Have a Theme!

Set aside your sequins and tuck away away your tux. This year's theme is... **Seattle Glam!** Please join us live and in person for this year's long awaited Genesee Hill Elementary auction! We are so excited to gather with one another again, celebrate another successful school year, and raise funds for our favorite elementary school in West Seattle! Here are the details:

Date: Saturday, March 12, 2022

Location: Brockey Center at South Seattle College

Many more details to come! Please mark your calendars and help us celebrate GHE! Also, we could still use your help making this event shine. We're especially in need of support with live procurement and social events. Check out all opportunities and [SIGN UP HERE](#).



School Nights at The Good Society

Have you ever wished that supporting your school community could be as easy as enjoying your favorite frosty bev? Your dreams are about to come to fruition! Local Brewery, [The Good Society](#) (2701 California Ave SW, Unit A), is offering "School Nights Out." Starting in December and continuing indefinitely, every fourth Tuesday of the month from 3:00-10:00 pm, The Good Society will donate 25% of revenue above their normal Tuesday revenue to GHE PTA.

Get out your calendars, mark down the upcoming "School Nights at The Good Society," and make plans with other Genesee families to enjoy TGS's inviting outdoor space, food, and brew!

- December 28
- January 25
- February 22
- March 22
- April 26
- May 24
- June 28

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