



# Genesee Hill News

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE PTA

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| June |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su   | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 13   | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20   | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27   | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |

2 PTA - General Membership Mtg

1-4 Move-A-Thon

14 Last Day of Virtual Book Fair

18 Last Day of School

| September |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su        | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
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| 12        | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 18        | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26        | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

1 First Day of School 1-5

6 Labor Day - No School

9 First Day of School Kinder

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**PTA Annual Meeting**

June 2, 6:30 pm



All are invited to join the final PTA meeting of the year tonight. The agenda is packed with important voting and guests from the Special Education PTSA. See the Thurs. bulletin for the meeting link.



**Move-A-Thon**

June 1-4

Dust off those sneakers! The Move-A-Thon is in full swing and will culminate this Friday, June 4, 4-6pm at the GHE playground. See the spotlight on page 4 and [this blog post](#) for all of the details.

**Virtual Book Fair**  
June 1-14



Genesee Hill PTA is partnering with the local bookstore, Paper Boat Booksellers, to offer a virtual book fair. Genesee Hill Elementary will receive a credit of 25% of all sales to spend on books for the school library. Check out the fair [here](#) and fill up on books for the summer.

# Letter From the Co-President



As the school year comes to an end, Genesee Hill PTA would like to thank all of our hard working parents, teachers and students for a successful year that was completed in the face of amazing challenges.

Together we lived as a community, apart, and found ways to share in the elementary school experience that no one ever considered.

To those of you who volunteered in echoing gyms or for PTA events, despite the risks, we thank you.

To all of you who advocated for your daughter or son or any child to have the best year possible, we have your back.

To those who joined any of the community chats or PTA meetings just to know you weren't alone, we see you.

The PTA's mission is to make every child's education experience as equitable as possible, despite the challenges each family faces. I'm proud of the work each PTA member and leader did this year to fulfill that mission – to communicate better with newsletters and more cohort messages, to connect our community and ensure its voices are heard by the school administration, and to support all teachers, students and parents to be inclusive and inspired to be their best humans at Genesee Hill. To know that mission will continue to evolve with a new PTA board, elected June 2, is extremely fulfilling.

I know I could not have done this year without the support of my family and steadfast co-President, Michelle Comazzetto. Looking back, and seeing that our community made progress instead of just keeping afloat, I'm deeply grateful.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer!



## Tracy Smid

"Tracy has worked hard on the PTA the last year to help raise money to support student success and engagement. Her heart is big and her smile is contagious. She has the most school spirit and we are grateful for all her hard work!"

## Rachel Hansen & Amanda Baker

"Organizing fun things for Ms. Pietsch & Ms. Firmand's classes. It's appreciated!"

## Aimee Riordan

"Aimee committed to interviewing and writing the Staff Spotlight for our monthly newsletter each month. She took initiative and followed through. It was always a delight to read and get to know a little bit about our beloved staff at Genesee Hill!"

## Alicia Cummings

"Alicia jumped in this year to help organize and revamp our sponsorship program, she was able to find new and creative ways to engage with our local businesses in an unprecedented year."

## Jodi & Etienne Lansky

"Jodi & Etienne are so passionate about our school and worked hard on many fundraising events this year; Ice Cream social, the new Swag store, Direct Give campaign, and all the Dine-outs. They played a crucial role in helping our PTA crush its fundraising goal this year!"

## Chau Pho Tung

"Chau has worked tirelessly for many years in the GH community and sincerely considers what's in the best interest of students and families alike in everything she does. From her role as Enrichment Coordinator to Room Parent to her work on the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion and Teacher Appreciation week, and everything else in between and out in the community, she deserves a huge shout out! GH will miss you!"

# STAFF SPOTLIGHT



*This month, we're excited to introduce Genesee Hill's Hayley Craig!*

## What is your current role at GH?

I am currently teaching second-grade students who are 100-percent remote, some reading intervention and some special education.

## What drew you to this type of work?

I was drawn to teaching in High School when I learned sign language and worked at a daycare where there were three children who were deaf. I was hired as a nanny for one of the children during that summer and observed his speech lessons. Witnessing the progress that he made and understanding that the speech teacher was effectively helping the child communicate proficiently for the rest of his life made a huge impact.

## What is your favorite part of your work?

My favorite part of this work is when I see the smile on a student's face and their eyes light up the moment they realize that they have worked hard at learning something and now feel confident they now know how to do it.

## How do you spend your free time?

When I am not at GHE, I spend time with my husband, three daughters, two dogs and a rabbit. I enjoy gardening, reading, problem solving and learning, fixing up our house and playing wiffle ball in our backyard.

*Thank you to all of the staff who shared their stories and their photos with us this year. Have an excellent summer, everyone!*

# ADVOCACY & EQUITY

## Celebrating Juneteenth

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States. Today, Juneteenth (June 19th) is an annual celebration of African American freedom and achievement. Genesee Hill Elementary will be recognizing Juneteenth throughout the last week of classes. The PTA and the Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion (FCEIGH) are providing students with a BINGO card, with squares to learn about and celebrate this important holiday. Students can turn in their completed BINGO cards by Thursday, June 17th, to be entered into a drawing for a chance to win prizes from Black-owned businesses! Please join us in celebrating and learning as a community.



## Equitable Return to In-Person School

Looking ahead to fall, SPS plans to return to school in-person. As district leaders prepare for this return, we need to keep advocating that it be equitable for all families. Student busing needs to be restored to pre-COVID levels and families should have the option of choosing before and/or after school child care that is directly connected to their school. If you feel strongly about about this, or if you have a personal need for busing, child care, or both, please contact [Superintendent Jones](#). The more voices that can be involved in the back to school planning, the more likely SPS will adequately serve the needs of our students and families come September.

## SPOTLIGHT ON MOVE-A-THON

The Move-A-Thon activities are virtual this year, but you still get your chance to earn the infamous plastic feet throughout the week. **Activities were released on June 1st, with the FINISH LINE on Friday, June 4th at the Genesee Hill playground from 4-6 pm!** Masked participants can pick up their earned 'feet' along with ice cream for participation. If your grade earns the most feet, your whole



grade will earn a Pajama Day at school – thanks Principal Kischner! [RSVP here for the Finish Line Event.](#)

Here's how it works! Yesterday, an all-school email kicked things off by sharing [the checklist](#) for earning plastic feet. Do the activities at home or in a park with friends. Track your earned feet on the checklist with a maximum of 10 feet possible! Gather pledges as you go and direct friends and family to donate on our [Move-A-Thon donation page](#). Let's get moving!

The PTA has donated \$8,000 to the school for supplies for every child to ensure that each child is able to start school and maintain the year with fresh supplies. We hope to raise the funds for supplies with the Move-A-Thon this year. You might even see our very own Genesee Hill Fox at the Finish Line doing a workout to earn those feet... Will you beat the Fox??

## FUNDRAISING

### Fundraising Update

A gloomy forecast did not dampen participation in our final dine out event of the year. The Lady Jaye event was another great success! We raised \$1,550 from this one-day event, making it our second most successful dine-out event this school year! Please give a round of applause to Jodi Lansky for creating the relationships needed so that we can have these fun and tasty events. Also, thank you to Cohorts and Communications for support!!

### Fundraising Update

We will wrap up the year with two final fundraising endeavors. The first is the Move-A-Thon spotlighted above. The next is the [virtual book fair](#) featured on the front page, which will support our school library.

### Thank You GH Community

While the landscape of the school year was unpredictable and unprecedented, the Genesee Hill community stepped up to support PTA fundraising. Thank you to all those who generously lent their time, talent, and resources this year.

## Share Your Voice

The GHE PTA Board wants to hear what's important to you! As we close out this school year, we want to hear from as many community members as possible about their opinions of our PTA's events and programs. Your input will help inform the work of the PTA Board as we kick off a new year. Let us know what you think in our survey here: <https://bit.ly/34mp9wB>.

**We wanna hear from you!**

# COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

## What is a PTA Budget?

A budget gives the PTA the authority to spend money in a way that reflects the goals of the organization. As a non-profit, the budget must be approved by the board of directors and the membership. It is a way for the membership to give their spending approval while committing to work together to raise the necessary funds. Genesee Hill PTA's mission is to *inspire ACTION, promote INCLUSION, and provide an EQUITABLE educational experience for all students of Genesee Hill School and Community.*

## How does it work?

The budget is developed in the spring for the following fiscal year (July 2021 - June 2022 this year). It seeks to balance funds projected to be raised during that fiscal year with expenses for that year. Each line item is managed by one or more board members, committee leads, teachers, staff or admin.

# MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all of our PTA members! During the 2020-2021 school year, we had 140 members. By simply joining the Genesee Hill PTA, you have not only directly supported our community but also supported the important work at the regional and state levels. All of this work supports the PTA's mission to make every child's potential a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children.

## What is the process for creating and agreeing upon a budget?

Each year a budget committee gathers input from membership and the line item managers and submits a recommended budget to the board. Once the board approves the budget, it is presented to the general membership for a vote. A majority vote by the PTA's membership at the Annual Meeting is required for approval of the budget. **Join us this evening at 6:30 pm for the Annual Meeting to vote on the budget!**

## What is the process for changing the budget?

The budget is only an estimate of expenses and income. Plans will change. Therefore, the budget may have to change or be amended. The budget may be changed by:

- Vote of the membership.
- Board vote in certain circumstances. Our PTA's standing rules state: "The Board of Directors may reallocate funds budgeted for one purpose to another purpose by a majority vote. The Board of Directors shall have leeway to spend up to \$1,000 in discretionary manner based on need."

We hope you found value as a PTA member and were able to participate in some of our PTA-sponsored activities this year. Our Board worked very hard this year to make the best of a difficult situation and many of our members volunteered in various ways throughout the year. We hope you return as a PTA member next year!



*Dave Conway is wrapping up his first year on the PTA Board in the role of Membership Chair. Dave has three children at Genesee Hill.*

**That's a wrap! You've made it through the final newsletter of the school year.** On the comms team, our aim is to offer communication that is welcoming, inclusive, keeps the school community informed and builds a sense of community. As Communications Co-Chairs, we have thoroughly enjoyed engaging with you this year and are excited to return next year. We'd love to hear from you about what worked well for you this year and what can be improved. Share your ideas via the [End of Year Survey](#), or email us: [communications@geneseehillpta.org](mailto:communications@geneseehillpta.org). -Amy and Leigh Ann