



Genesee Hill News

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May						
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3-7 Teacher Appreciation Week

23 Dine Out for Genesee Hill

31 No School - Memorial Day

June						
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2 PTA - General Membership Mtg

4 Move-A-Thon

18 Last Day of School

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mark Your Calendars!

TEACHER

appreciation week



May 3-7

All community members are invited to participate in celebrating the talented and dedicated staff that are the cornerstone of our school community. Check out the spotlight on page 4, or [this blog post](#), to find out more about the variety of opportunities taking place this week. Whether you “adopt” a staff member, write a message on the Jamboard, contribute to the staff coffee fund, or share a photo to include in our appreciation video - find a way to celebrate.

Dine Out for Genesee Hill

May 23, 2-7:30 PM



There are so many delicious ways to join in the May Dine Out for Genesee Hill event! Reserve a patio table and dine in, place a take out order, grab Lady Jaye's special Take and Bake, or purchase a gift card to use at your leisure. 20% of all sales on this day will be donated to the Genesee Hill PTA. For all the details, check out our latest [blog post](#).

Letter From the Co-President



As my time serving as Co-President begins to wind down and this being my final contribution to the newsletter, I want to say THANK YOU! I consider it an honor to have the opportunity to work with the children, parents, and faculty of Genesee Hill.

One of our goals as Co-Presidents was to increase communication this year and I believe we have been successful at achieving this goal. Early on into our leadership role we heard from many people that they wanted to hear more from the PTA and feel connected to the school community. This was a difficult challenge this year especially without opportunities to connect in person. Starting last summer, we hosted community chats and continued these throughout the year, increased our general membership meetings, created a monthly newsletter, built a new digital directory for families to connect, updated our PTA website, amplified our social media presence, and utilized our cohort communication channels to disseminate information on a smaller scale. We wouldn't have been able to achieve this without the help of a lot of people, and I appreciate ALL of them, and I hope you do too!

We had an unprecedented year and had to re-think the way we have traditionally done things. I have learned so much over the past two years and I couldn't have done it without my Co-President, Scot. Thank you so much for your support. I would also like to thank Mr. Kischner and Ms. Dunn, it has been a pleasure to work with you and I thank you for your support of our PTA. A special thank-you to the Executive Committee and all the committee chairpersons and volunteers for helping to make this year a success! No matter what role you played, large or small; each of you was an important contributor. Your continuous support ultimately benefits the children in our school and helps to make a difference in their lives and will make our school and community a better place.



We are lucky to have a school community with so many wonderful volunteers. Here are a few individuals who were given shout outs:

Stephanie Holloway

"She did such an amazing job with the Direct Give. It was a lot of effort and energy. Not to mention a ton of innovation. This was a very unique campaign that got a lot of positive feedback. Additionally the framework she created can be duplicated in the future. She is incredible!"

Noirin Lynch

"Noirin always goes above and beyond to create amazing experiences and community building opportunities. I know when she accepts to help with something it's going to be incredible. She brings expertise and passion and attention to detail that makes individuals feel seen and appreciated. Every time I work with her I walk away lighter and happier. She's just a stellar human being and GH is so lucky to have her!"

Chau Pho Tung

"Chau is wonderfully supportive! From room parent to enrichment coordinator and everything in between, she is always there with ideas to include everyone and keep things together."

Have a Volunteer to Shout Out?

Use this form to help us recognize the volunteers that make our community great: <https://bit.ly/31DYxFN>

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



This month, please meet Genesee Hill's one and only, Craig Garretson!

What is your current role at GH?

I serve as support staff for our K-5 Access program, and for the school as a whole.

What drew you to this type of work?

Beginning in college, I discovered an increasing enjoyment in helping other people grow and learn. While this started in church settings, I also worked with kids off and on throughout my (younger) adulthood alongside my work as a professional singer. Between this and seeing my wife work as a bilingual I.A. for three years, I felt that Special Education could be rewarding and stepped into my first classroom in 2007!

What is your favorite part of your work?

I love finding ways to adapt a lesson or concept in ways that different learners can engage with. (Touch Point math rocks!) One highlight was a Genius Hour a couple of years ago, where I led a small group art lesson on creating an expressionist painting together. You can see the result hanging in our ground floor hallway!

How do you spend your free time?

My wife and I get out in nature with our kids as much as possible with paddleboards and bikes, and are exploring state parks throughout Washington. My work in music keeps me busy as well, both with the Seattle Opera Chorus and as a church music director and soloist.

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

When I first joined our staff in 2013, it was with the beautiful Schmitz Park as a backdrop and my first-grade daughter by my side. This is a truly wonderful place to both teach and learn.

ADVOCACY & EQUITY

The WA legislative season just wrapped up a week ago and below is a heads up on some of the bills that were passed that are of interest to WA public elementary schools. The bills are all now sitting on Governor Inslee's desk.

SB 5092- Operations Budget- 2021-2023

1.7 billion dollars is coming to WA schools to aid with their reopening plans and address learning loss. A capital gains tax on WA's top investment earners will generate a 415 million gain for WA, and much of this revenue will be used for early education programs.

SB 5030- Developing comprehensive school counseling programs

School counselors will be required to spend 80% of their time on student services, not on administrative tasks.

SB 5128- COVID 19 and school transportation funding

Normally public school transportation funding is based on student ridership. This became a problem with remote learning. This bill proposes a new formula for use in emergencies, where districts apply for additional funding and use older data to calculate ridership and therefore adequately fund school transportation.

SB 5044- Concerning professional learning, equity, cultural competency, and dismantling institutional racism in the public school system

This bill aims to add equity, diversity and inclusion to the public school system by giving anti-racism training to school board directors and staff.

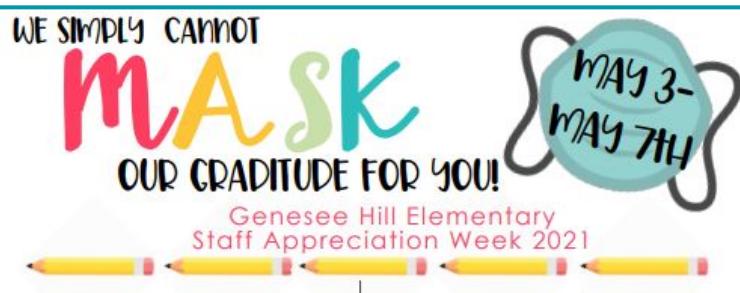
HB 1476- Addressing enrollment declines due to COVID

The state intends to provide stabilizing funding to districts that have seen temporary enrollment declines due to COVID. This bill also gives districts some flexibility with school levies.

Save the date! Join us in conversation with Anita Morales, co-founder and facilitator of Racing to Equity, for a learning session on **Anti-Bias, Implicit Bias and Micro-aggression**. The event is Thursday, May 20th, at 7pm. The link to register will be shared out soon. *This event is hosted by the Madison Middle School PTSA and Racial Equity Team.* We hope to see you there!

SPOTLIGHT ON TEACHER APPRECIATION

This week, the week of May 3 - 7, is Teacher Appreciation Week. While teaching has always been a profession that requires deep knowledge, tremendous skill and a big heart, this year has also required our educators to possess unwavering perseverance and adaptability. This is especially true of our caring and talented Genesee Hill educators. This is not the year for us to mask our appreciation; this is a year to hit unmute and dial up the volume on our gratitude. We invite all to participate in the initiatives listed here.



FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Chair, Tracy Smid, provides an update on fundraising successes this year.

Fundraising Update

Hello everyone! Spring is finally here and it is looking to be glorious! A lot of super positive things are happening at Genesee Hill! The Fundraising team has been busy all year and were successful in their endeavors. We have already hit the goal of \$100,000 that was set out for us during the 2020-2021 budget sessions. We navigated the difficulties of Covid-19 by creating a wide variety of activities that made raising funds for the school possible. The energy of this group is amazing and as I say often, I am honored to be working with such wonderful people. We are continuing to raise funds for the remainder of the year.

Teacher Appreciation Initiatives:

We love our teachers a Latte! Staff can stop by Hotwire coffee any day this week for a drink of their choice. How You Can Help: donate any amount via PayPal (paypal.me/dawnfranklin1) or Venmo (@Dawn-Franklin-6)

Teaching is a work of heart! How You Can Help: [click here](#) to head over to our Jamboard to have your student leave a heart-filled note to our staff.

The greater the storm the brighter our staff shines! How You Can Help: [sign up here](#) to help shower our staff with gifts of gratitude.

Let's sing out our praises for our amazing staff. Snap a photo of your student with a note of thanks to be included in our video to staff. Send photos to Noirin at hapachik@mac.com by Wednesday 5/5. [Click here](#) for photo ideas (video edited for student privacy).

Dine Out for Genesee Hill @ Lady Jaye

Jodi Lansky has planned another amazing dine out opportunity! Our May event at Lady Jaye will take place Sunday May 23, from 2 - 7:30 PM. Genesee Hill will receive 20% of all sales on this day. This includes takeout orders, dine in, gift cards, drinks and the Lady Jaye special Take and Bake. Check out our [blog post](#) (<https://bit.ly/3h6Wa7D>) for all the fun details!

Move-A-Thon is BACK! June 4

Amanda Baker is putting together an awesome virtual event! The funds raised will go towards school supplies. Every year the PTA donates \$10,000 to the school for supplies for every child. This ensures that each child is able to start school with fresh supplies. Normally we raise funds for this in the fall but that came up a bit short (pandemic!). Amanda is creating a fun-filled event that everyone will enjoy and help us achieve this goal.

COMMUNITY QUESTIONS

What is happening with the Dandelion Initiative this year?

The Dandelion Initiative is still plucking dandelions!

As you may recall, the initiative began in the spring of 2019 to coordinate weeding and put focus on our lovely landscaping that was choked by weeds. Beautiful native plants were put around our school when it was built, but no budget was set aside to maintain the plantings. A few of us parents created the initiative, quickly pulling in Erin Munavu, a 1st grade teacher. We had several very successful weeding and mulching events, Study Club and classrooms got involved, and we could see our plants again!

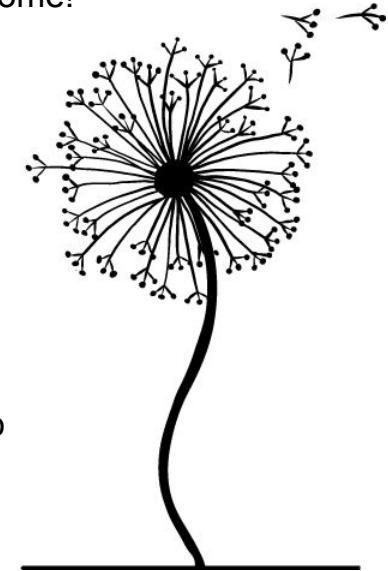
Who are CHAMPSS? What do they do at Genesee Hill?

CHAMPSS stands for *Connection Heart Advocate Mentor Proactive for Student Success*. These paraeducators provide recess monitoring and classroom support. About 6 CHAMPSS work around 15 hours a week each. This group is trained to tutor all students in all subject areas. Since they have a flexible schedule, CHAMPSS are able to provide quick daily tutoring that interventionists aren't able to provide. They are currently helping with the return back to school and keeping the safety protocols in place, such as monitoring the number of students in bathrooms and common areas. They are the extra set of hands when a teacher or staff member needs them.

With the onset of Covid lock downs, Dandelion as an initiative went dark and we canceled all our spring 2020 weeding events, including an Earth Day celebration. But invasive plants continued to grow, and people continued to weed! Many school neighbors and families came by the school on their own schedule, and piles of plucked weeds accumulated, ready to be picked up. Maybe weeding was a nice ritual for folks tired of being stuck at home!

We are slowly starting up again, and a few dedicated volunteers worked to clean up the front part of the school for the first day back in-person. Thank you, volunteers!

Everyone is welcome to come for one last event on **Sunday, May 16, 10am-12pm**.



In order to specifically fit our school's needs, CHAMPSS are trained in-house. For example, last year Ms. Fazzini worked with those specifically assigned to Kinder and 1st on how to deliver phonics interventions. Ms. Dunn works with them for morning "check & connect" needs. In past years, Assistant Principal Henn worked closely with CHAMPSS assigned to the green room on ways to help kids with emotional regulation and how to help kids on the playground work through conflicts. Many CHAMPSS move on to become IAs at the school.

CHAMPSS are funded 50% from the PTA budget and 50% from the school budget. Our current CHAMPSS are Jennifer Hill, Amy Taylor, Tara Calvo, Ellen Bannon, and Terry Gilioli. You probably know them by face, if not by name!

CONNECT

CHAMPION

JOIN

PROTECT

ENGAGE

THERE IS NO WRONG WAY TO PTA