

Genesee Hill News

November 2, 2021 | Volume 2, Issue 3



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

Mark Your Calendars

11/1 - 11/15: Direct Give Campaign

11/4: 6:30-8:30 FCEIGH Book Club

11/8: Picture retakes

11/11: Veteran's Day - No School

11/15: 1st Dose COVID Vaccine Clinic @ Genesee Hill

11/19: Final Day for Membership Drive

11/22 - 11/24: Conference Days - No School

11/25 - 11/26: Thanksgiving Break - No School

12/2: 6:30 PTA General Meeting

12/6: 2nd Dose COVID Vaccine Clinic @ Genesee Hill

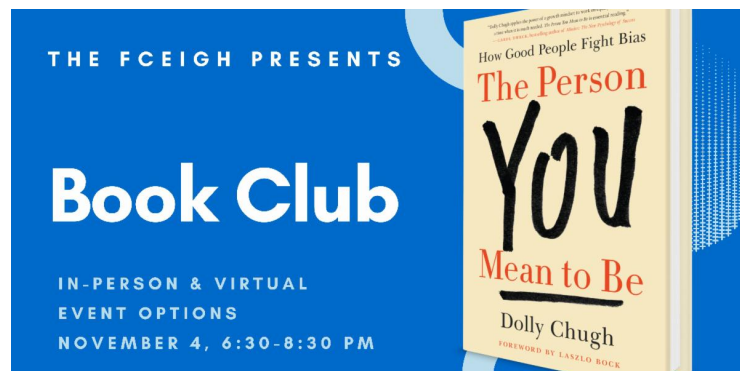
12/8: Unity Night

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



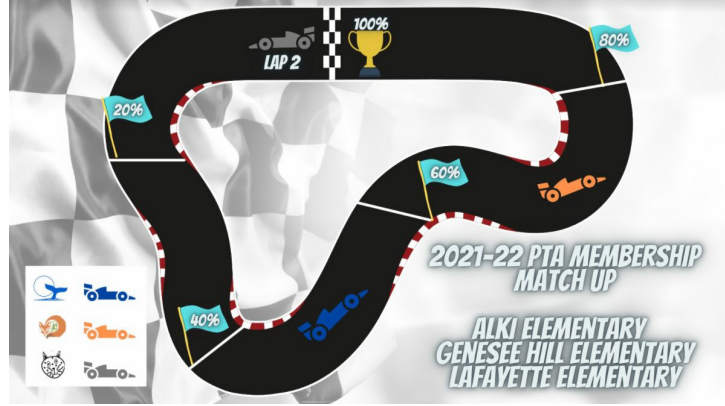
Join in the Direct Give Fun

[Direct Give](#) is back for another year and will run November 1 - 15. This year's event includes small, cheerful signs that you can place throughout the community to share support. Check out the spotlight section below for all the details on how you can participate this year!



All are Invited to this Book Club Event

The Family Committee for Equity and Inclusion is hosting the first book club this school year. We'll discuss [The Person I Mean to Be](#) (recommended by Vishavjit Singh). Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 4, 6:30-8:30! We'll host the meeting in-person and online to accommodate as many people as possible. [RSVP here](#). Check the bulletin for the link to join the virtual event.



Help Genesee Hill Be Victorious

The Membership Matchup is back! Last year, we came close to claiming victory over our friendly competitors at Alki Elementary, but were ultimately defeated. Check out the membership update below to learn more about how you can help our community claim this year's title, while also enjoying the many benefits of PTA membership. [Join here.](#)

PTA News

October Recap

Thank you for PTAing with us in October!

October was a busy month for the Genesee PTA! From six engaging cohort costume events to the Foxes of a Different Breed meet-up, community building was in full force. In a virtual event led by the equity committee, Sikh Captain America, Vishavjit Singh, inspired students to tell their own stories and look beyond assumptions about people. We even kicked off our first Reflections Art Contest and had a wildly successful Dine-Out at Mission Cantina that brought in over \$1,200 for our PTA. Thank you so much to the many volunteers who made these events possible, especially the Cohort Leads who knocked it out of the park with their super fun scavenger hunts, dance parties, costume parades, and even a costumed diaper drive for Westside Baby. We have a truly incredible community of families!

We also had a fantastic first membership meeting of the year! We learned a lot from Principal Dunn's update and Victoria's Legislative update. We also learned about the West Seattle Public School Equity Fund, voted on budget updates, and discussed engagement and fundshifting in small groups. Here is the [Padlet from the discussion](#). PTA members should check their emails for the meeting minutes from our secretary, Margaux. We hope you can join us at our next meeting on Dec. 2!

Volunteer Opportunities



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LEND YOUR TIME, HAVE FUN,
SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY

We Welcome You to Volunteer this Year

Volunteering is back! Have fun while making a positive impact on our school community. Check out the opportunities below:

- **Unity Night Volunteers:** Be a part of making Unity Night 2021 a virtual event to remember on Dec. 8! There's something for everyone as we plan this fun and meaningful community sharing event. [SIGN UP](#)
- **Auction Help Needed:** The auction is back! Woohoo! Sign up to help with the auction planning and procuring; we need all hands on deck to support this amazing event on March 12. [SIGN UP](#)
- **Crosswalk Guards:** Keep our intersections safe during drop-off and pick-up. It's the easiest and quickest volunteer job around! 2 shifts per day, 4 people per shift -- safety vests and flags available in the office. [SIGN UP](#)
- **Outdoor Recess & Lunch Volunteers:** Teachers really need our support to make lunch safe! 2 shifts per day. Shift 1) 10:25 -11:55. Shift 2) 12:50 - 1:45. [SIGN UP](#)
- **General volunteers:** None of this sound right for you but you want to make yourself available if other opportunities come up? Send an email to: volunteers@geneseehillpta.org

Spotlight on Direct Give

Support Direct Give Nov. 1-15!

We are excited to kick off our annual Direct Give campaign for this 2021-22 school year! This is one of the biggest PTA fundraisers of the year, so let's make it count!



You've probably heard of flocking...this year we have outFOXing! Instead of flocking someone's lawn with flamingos, you can outFOX your friends and neighbors by surprising them with a small yard sign. The more you donate, the more signs you can pick up. Write notes on your signs and place them at friends' or neighbors' houses, businesses, or the school. Your signs share support for the school throughout the community!

How to participate: [Give online here](#) between Nov. 1 and 15, then pick up your signs in-person at the Dakota Homestead (corner of 50th Ave SW and Dakota) at designated times throughout the campaign. Remember to request a matching gift if

your employer offers it!

Your PTA donations help provide school supplies for all students, fund events for the whole community, provide tutors and recess monitors, purchase library and textbooks, give more hours with specialists to support our kids in math, reading, and social/emotional health, and so much more.

Thank you — we can't wait to see your support all over our West Seattle neighborhood! Please email our fundraising chairs at fundraising@geneseehillpta.org with any questions.

Direct Give Donation Levels:

2 signs for \$50
5 signs for \$100
12 signs for \$250
25 signs for \$500+

Sign pick-up times:

Thurs. Nov. 4th - 2:15-2:45 pm
Tues. Nov. 9th - 2:15-2:45 pm
Sat. Nov. 13th - 10:00-10:30am
Wed. Nov. 17th - 1:00-1:30 pm

Community Question

What are Opportunity Fund Grants?

One of the budget updates passed by the membership at the October 20 General Membership meeting was adding a \$5,000 line item for an Opportunity Fund. The Opportunity Fund is an idea from the Fall Budget Committee that will allow the board to give grants for one time projects without needing to edit the budget to pay for them. The goal is to offer opportunities for involvement to anyone in the community, not just those most involved in the PTA.

The grants can be up to \$400. Parents, guardians or teachers can apply for grants for one-time student-centered projects, purchases, or events at Genesee Hill Elementary. Students may also submit applications with an adult sponsor. Examples include a gardening project, art project, new club, or unique educational experience. Be creative!

The PTA board will accept grant applications on a rolling basis, which means people can apply at any time during the school year as long as there is money remaining in the fund. Find more details and the application on our new [Opportunity Fund webpage!](#)

PTA Membership

The Membership Challenge is in Full Swing

We are gaining ground on Lafayette! Thank you to the 32 additional members who have signed up since we kicked off the membership challenge! We are now at 128 members and are close to 80% of our total from last year (166). [Join here!](#)

We hope the current membership is finding value in our PTA including the planning, advocacy and support it provides to our community. We also had our first General Membership meeting last week and we had several healthy conversations. We are listening to our members, acting on what we're hearing, and our budget reflects the members' priorities, which include:

- Advocating for students and families
- Supporting teachers and school staff
- Promoting equity and inclusion

A strong benefit of PTA membership is your vote on important topics throughout the year. Members also get added to our MemberPlanet email list where we sent out things like PTA meeting minutes and meeting reminders.

And if beating Alki and Lafayette alone doesn't convince you to join our PTA, please [watch this short, inspiring video](#) from My-Linh Thai, Member of the WA House of Representatives, about the power of the PTA and parent engagement.

The competition will end on November 19th and the third place PTA will write an ode in honor of the winner. We want that ode to the Genesee Hill Foxes!

Even if you were a member in a prior year, you have to renew your membership, but joining is easy and can be done [online in a few steps here](#). Membership fee waivers are available too! Let's grow our membership and make a difference!

Updates from our Advocacy Chair



Legislative Assembly Recap

Victoria Bhegani, GH Legislative Chair

At the Washington State PTA's Legislative Assembly this past weekend, three new resolutions were passed: Improving Literacy and Educational Outcomes, Increasing Access and Affordability of Post-Secondary Education, and Improving Outcomes for Children and Youth in Highly Mobile Populations. There were also some very informative panels. Pediatricians answered the question: What do parents need to know about how the pandemic has affected kids? Policy experts spoke about advocacy for the coming legislative season and about how WA school districts are recovering from COVID. There was also a moving panel where WA high school students spoke about how they and their peers have coped with COVID.

My key takeaway was that the pandemic hit education in our state like a hurricane and experts are just starting to be able to assess the damage. Educators, advocates, health professionals, students, and advocates have all worked incredibly hard this past year and a half for us to be where we are right now vis-à-vis public education, even if where we are is still a tough place.

The other takeaways I had fell into two categories.

Advocacy

- The WA legislative session, which this year runs from January 10, 2022- March

10, 2022, is likely to use a hybrid model. Nothing is finalized yet, but the WS PTSA will keep us apprised.

- Advocacy Week will be in mid-January and Focus Day on January 17. We do not know yet if they will be virtual, in-person, or a mix of both.
- Our state is forecasting a budget surplus, so public schools getting more funding for issues like mental health supports is more promising this session. Last session WA had a budget deficit.
- On November 3, please join me in this special advocacy opportunity. Senate Education Chair Lisa Wellman is speaking on how the education system will change towards mastery-based learning and welcomes families to weigh in on what priorities they have for education. To [register](#), you must be a PTA member. Let me know if you plan to go! legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org

Kid's Health

- On average, during the pandemic, American children's screen time doubled and their time to play outside went from 90 minutes to 25 minutes a day.
- One book recommended by the panel of pediatricians was *The Secure Child: Helping Our Children Feel Safe and Confident in a Changing World* by Stanley Greenspan.
- If parents have questions about health-related issues, including vaccines, they can check out [Healthy Children](#) (sponsored by the American Academy of Pediatrics).
- The University of California San Francisco has a comprehensive [guide](#) to help families assess whether health information is credible and accurate.

If you'd like to get involved with advocacy work this year, please email me at legislativechair@geneseehillpta.org. Thank you!

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