

Notes
PTA Meeting
Georgian Forest ES
October 5, 2015
6:00 – 7:00 pm

Attendance: *Board:* Johanne Saintime (PTA President); Bethania Rodas (PTA Vice President); Jodi Goldreich (PTA Treasurer); Kathy Lorenzo (PTA Secretary); *Staff:* Kim Rogers (Principal), Joshua Fine (Assistant Principal); Donna Mulrine (Kindergarten teacher); Meghan Patrick (1st grade teacher); Tamara Auger (ESOL); Lekkia Mazyck (Speech Pathologist); Claudia Goldman (Parent Community Coordinator) *Parents:* Laura DeWeese; Ana Vargas; George Corbin; Kate Monzo; Sandy Zolotor; Fitzgerald Saintime; Nekfar Kosimi; Aissata Sacko; Euphemia Engusin.

Welcome – Johanne Saintime, PTA President welcomed the membership and thanked members for their participation.

Principal's Update:

- Updated us on the various assessment tests that have been going on at each grade level.
- Reminded us of Parent-Teacher conferences on November 11th and 12th; please sign up for a time to come talk with your child(ren)'s teacher(s).
- Explained the Quarterly Showcase to which parents are invited. It occurs each quarter and is an opportunity for each grade level to recognize students for various achievements and showcase activities that the students have been working on that quarter.
- Open house schedule for October 12, 2015 from 9:30 – 3:30. Parents are invited to visit the school and the classrooms. A Principal's Coffee will be presented in the media center and the topic is effective parent-teacher conferences.
- Planning a Fall Family Day for a Saturday in November.
- Planning a Math Night and a Reading Night for early 2016.

Classroom Updates: We had members of several grade teams join us to provide updates to what they are doing in their classrooms. Kindergarten, First Grade, ESOL and Speech Pathology.

Volunteering: Ms. Patrick, First grade teacher, spoke about the need for volunteers in the classrooms. Teachers are looking for parents, grandparents or guardians who can help in the classroom and/or provide help with tasks at home. Please contact your teacher to see how you can help. Chaperones for field trips are needed as well. We discussed the Wednesday Parent-Connections group that used to meet on Wednesday mornings for about an hour to complete tasks for teachers. Claudia Goldman said she is planning to send a flyer to try to revive interest in the group.

PTA Membership/Participation: Membership is up this year by about 20 members. Assistant Principal Josh Fine informed us that English Classes are provided on Tuesday evenings at the same time as the PTA meeting. There are many parents that attend these classes and accordingly cannot attend the PTA meetings. It was raised that we should coordinate with Linkages to Learning and perhaps start our meeting slightly later. Bethania Rodas, Vice President, PTA went to the classrooms to introduce herself to the parents and inform them of the PTA.

Finances: Jodi Goldreich, PTA Treasurer presented the budget and gave an overview of our expected expenses and revenues. It looks like the PTA many have more funds than anticipated. It was raised that at the November meeting the membership should discuss possible ways to spend the funds. The guidance counselors requested funds of approximately \$80 to purchase additional materials needed for Second Step, a social-emotional learning program that is used at every grade level during classroom guidance lessons. The membership voted to provide the funds.

Fundraisers: Laura DeWeese, PTA member, explained the Lavender's catalog fundraiser and indicated that our budget is relying on a \$2000 net from the fundraiser. The fundraiser runs from October 5th until October 27. Kathleen Lorenzo, PTA Secretary, reminded us of "Painless Fundraisers", ways we can help raise money for the school at no extra cost to us through programs such as Giant A+ Rewards, Amazon, and Box Tops for Education. We are seeking a volunteer who can coordinate a Box Top collection.

Parent Community Coordinator - Claudia Goldman spoke to us about her role as the parent community coordinator, a new position at Georgian Forest. Her duties include acting as a liaison for parents and children as well as planning programs to involve parents and the community in school affairs.

Linkages to Learning – Nancy Lazo, Community Site Coordinator, gave an overview of the educational and social services that they provide to students and families including family intervention services, mental health services, tutoring, after school clubs, parenting classes, nutrition classes, and ESOL classes. Initial contact with Linkages is primarily established by referral. More information can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/georgianforestes/linkages.aspx>

Upcoming Events:

- **Fall Family Day**—November 21st, 11:00 am - 1 pm. There will be a games/activities and food.
- **Book Fair**—November 11-12 from 9 am to 5 pm. The Book Fair allows the PTA to earn Scholastic Dollars which allows us to give the Media Center the opportunity to purchase books and also provide teachers with Scholastic Dollars to buy books for their classrooms. Essentially, for every two books purchased at the fair, the school gets one book. We still need volunteers for the event.
- **Restaurant Nights**—we are planning another restaurant night in December. We had a very successful restaurant night at Chipotle in September. Restaurant nights are nights that we invite the school to gather at a particular restaurant for

dinner and a portion of the proceeds spent at the restaurant that evening is donated to our school.

If you have any questions about PTA, feel free to email the PTA at infofespta@gmail.com

The next **PTA meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm** – either in the Media Center or STEM Room.