

Genesee Hill News

brought to you by the PTA

September 7, 2021 | Volume 2, Issue 1



Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars!

September

September						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
			1		3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	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						

October

October						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
8 No School - In-Service						
13 PTA General Meeting						
18 Equity Speaker						

2021 - 2022

WELCOME BACK FOXES



September Highlights

Welcome back! Our main focus this month is supporting our students, staff, and community in achieving a seamless, safe, and joyful start to the 2021-2022 school year. If you haven't already, check out the [School FAQ Page](#) to stay up-to-date on the current procedures. Cheers to the beginning of another great year, fox family!

The Fox Features



Letter from the PTA Co-President

Hey friends, it is really happening, the students are back in school! It's not a pre-Covid "normal," but we are going to make it work, and work well. Welcome to the new students and families; this is a great school and we are excited to meet you! Merrick Bodmer and myself have stepped into the President role this year, and we are both committed to listening to our community and supporting the school and students.

The PTA has carefully analyzed the spring survey results and we intend to let your voice drive our work this year. What really stood out to us was the desire for community events and opportunities to learn and grow together.



Check it out! School supplies for all 550+ students, ready to be put to use!

With that said, we plan to organize several safe, smaller events through our amazing Cohorts and some larger all-school events virtually. We look forward to bringing you diverse opportunities to engage with the school, other families, and our wider community!

Additionally, the PTA offers programs, events and opportunities to support the educational experience, development of social skills and emotional well being of all students. Please take advantage of the opportunities that speak to you. Not all of them will, as we offer a variety of experiences to reach as many students and families as possible. In fact, the PTA recently purchased, unpacked, and sorted the school supplies for our 550+ students. Because of you, our students and teachers are off to a great start! Please consider joining our PTA to keep the momentum going. Thanks and we look forward to meeting and being in community with you all!

PTA Newsflash

Get to Know the PTA Board

This year's PTA board is excited to get to work! We have ten new board members this year, including two new teacher reps, all of whom have shared bios on our [PTA Board Members page](#). Read them to get to know us a bit and say "Hi" next time you see us!

Events Chair Needed

Are you looking for a way to exercise your creativity, have some fun, and contribute to your school community? If so, please consider joining the PTA Board as Events Chair. While events will look different this year in order to comply with safety regulations, we are still hoping to offer fun and safe opportunities for the GH community this year. Interested candidates can reach out to our PTA presidents at president@geneseehillpta.org.

Stay Up-to-Date with PTA Communications!

Welcome to a new year of communications from the PTA! You can get PTA news and info through many channels besides the school's weekly bulletin, including our [website](#), our [Facebook](#), and our [monthly newsletter](#) (emailed the first Tuesday of each month). Please check out our new [Communications FAQ page](#) for information on our comms channels and how to get us info to share with the community. Thanks for reading! - Amy and Leigh Ann, Communications Co-Chairs for the PTA.



Drum up some excitement, and warm up those pipes to sing in celebration of a new addition to our fabulous school staff! Janelle Murray is Genesee Hill's new music teacher. Welcome to the community, Janelle!

Staff Spotlight

What is your current role at GH?

Music Teacher. I am currently teaching 2 -5th

What drew you to this type of work?

I have been playing piano since I was five years old and basically never stopped making music with other people, and learning about music. When I got into high school I realized I enjoyed collaborative music experiences and decided to study music education in college. All of the opportunities I have had working with students and music has encouraged me to keep perusing this career, and each time I do it, my heart is filled.

What is your favorite part of your work?

I really enjoy being able to connect with many different types of students across grade levels. I love working with a variety of students and I always learn from them. I really enjoy to be able to facilitate a community where students can come together and learn about music, which is part of everyone's culture and experiences.

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

I am enjoying being able to play my new electric piano at my apartment. I really enjoy playing piano for Seattle Girls' Choir. I like to play music just for fun. I enjoy



spending time with my partner and our three pets (two cats and a dog). I like going to movies when it is safe. I am also excited to be joining a kickball team soon. I also enjoy nature.

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

I am really excited to get to know the new community that I am working in, and I am very open to families input. I will be sending out a meet the music teacher letter and some communication about music class during the first weeks of school.



Spotlight on PTA Membership

Hello Genesee Hill Community! My name is Dave Conway and I am honored to serve as the Membership Chair. This is my second year on the Board and I am excited to support the important work of the PTA. I am lucky enough to have three daughters attend Genesee Hill. In my free time, I enjoy coaching their sports teams and trying new experiences with them.

Our PTA is diverse, inclusive, and is all about supporting, advocating, and connecting parents, teachers and students to each other and to ensure our children reach their full potential. As I have learned, **it is not a social club**, and I can attest to this personally.



The Genesee Hill PTA Board is a dedicated team of volunteers working to find volunteers, communicate effectively, and grow a sense of community experienced by all students, parents, teachers, and staff. It is for dads, moms, caregivers, grandparents, teachers, and the community. As a member of our PTA, you make the decision on your role. There is no wrong way to PTA and we invite every family to join. With your membership, you receive a vote, including on the budget priorities, at membership meetings.

Examples of GHE PTA contributions include:

- Supporting cohort and other community-building events
- Providing school supplies to all students
- Providing resources for teachers for their classrooms and,
- Funding innovative initiatives such as the Passport Program.

We invite you to [join us](#) and become a member! We look forward to meeting you, answering your questions, and listening to your ideas.



Lastly as a reminder, even if you were a PTA member last year, memberships need to be renewed each year. The good news is it is really easy to sign up through the [link on our website](#) and we offer membership scholarships!

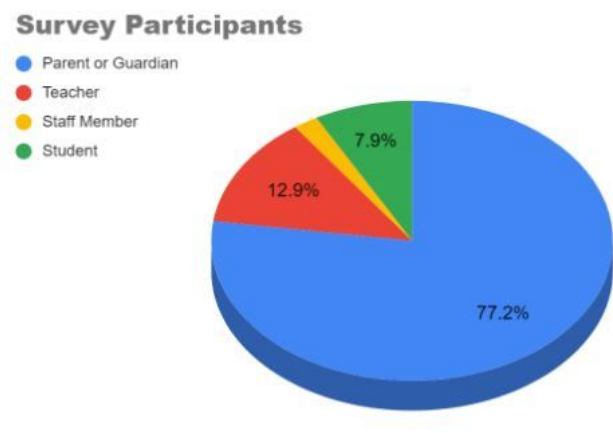
Together we can be stronger. Together we can be louder. Together we can build community. Together we can accomplish more for our children.

Together we can...

Community Questions

What were the results of the June 2021 PTA Community Survey?

First of all, thank you so much to the 98 Genesee community members who took the time to respond to the survey! We can feel more confident that these results represent our community because so many responded. And though the majority of the respondents were PTA members, 33% were not (or not sure), so we got a wider range of feedback. Here's a quick look at who filled out the survey:



These are the top three responses for the main multiple choice questions:

What do you view as the most important work of the Genesee Hill PTA?		
98 Total Responses	# responses	% responses
Advocating for students and families	68	69.40%
Supporting teachers and school staff	65	66.30%
Promoting equity and inclusion	63	64.30%

Which PTA events and programs were most enjoyed by or important to you this year?		
93 Total Responses	# responses	% responses
Teacher/Staff Appreciation	60	64.50%
Black Lives Matter at School Week Activities	44	47.30%
Unity Night	41	44.10%

Which traditional PTA events or programs did you miss the most this year?		
91 Total Responses	# responses	% responses
Monster Mash	44	48.40%
Cohort Events	41	45.10%
Auction	37	40.70%

If you'd like to see the full list of responses, please visit [this spreadsheet](#).

The answers to the question "What ideas do you have for PTA events and programs that you'd like to see? Or not see? Or change?" are more challenging to summarize because the responses were so rich, creative, and plentiful. But some things stood out. Though most answers were one-off ideas, 19% of the responses asked for our PTA to fundshift some PTA-raised funds to other schools with smaller PTAs. And 17% of the responses asked for more community building from the PTA. The other responses held similarly big picture ideas for fundraising, events, and programs, some of which we'll pass on to Genesee teachers, staff, and administration, while others will be worked on within the PTA.

As for the question "What can the PTA do to better represent you and engage you?" the most common answer called on the board to ask the community for more input. The other answers were wonderful ideas around meetings, events, communication, equity and advocacy, which have been shared with all PTA board members.

As for the question around communications, we heard loud and clear that folks prefer this newsletter to be embedded in email, so here it is! Please see this month's president's letter above to read more about how the PTA board is using the survey data.



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