

# GATOR GRAM



William B. Gibbs, Jr. Elementary School  
12615 Royal Crown Drive, Germantown, MD  
[www.gibbsespta.org](http://www.gibbsespta.org)

September 2011 Volume 3, Issue 1

## President's Message

Welcome Back To School!

Welcome back to all our returning families and a big Gator **WELCOME** to all new families. We are very excited the new school year has begun and to be serving as President and Executive Vice-Presidents of the PTA.

The PTA welcomes you to join our meetings. We will talk about the wonderful activities we have planned, listen to teachers and staff tell us all the exciting things they are doing at school, and get the latest information on what is happening to state and county education funding and what the PTA is doing to help. You will have an opportunity to contribute your ideas and talents to better our school and we are hoping to have special outside guests talk to us or even have activities we can participate in! Meetings are held on the first Tuesday each month in the media center. All meeting dates, agenda, and activities will be posted on our website [www.gibbsespta.org](http://www.gibbsespta.org) and reminders will be sent via email.

All we need is you! For the PTA to be effective and truly representative of the school, everyone's participation is essential. Many parents feel that they cannot participate in the PTA because they cannot come to meetings or be at school during the day. Whether you have 30 minutes or a couple of hours, your ideas, your time, and your talents are truly needed. We can match your time constraints and

interests to needed tasks. We have many ways in which Moms, Dads, Aunts, Uncles, and Grandparents can contribute.

This year, more than ever, the PTA needs YOUR help. With the budget crisis, PTA support is more critical than ever before. Money raised through PTA membership, fundraisers like the Fun Run, and bag and cup sales will help fund class trips, all cultural arts assemblies, classroom supplies, and much, much more. Over 90% of our money goes directly to our school community! As the new school year begins, we would like to ask for your support so that we can continue making resource and learning opportunities available to all our children.

We would like to thank you in advance for your support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Jen Sengbusch and Kim Cox  
Gibbs Elementary School President and  
Executive Vice-Presidents 2011-12

## Gibbs ES Parent Teacher Association Officers

President — Jen Sengbusch  
Executive Vice President — Kim Cox  
Vice President — Christie Chan  
Treasurer — Kate Wabik  
Secretary — Sandy Nail

## Gibbs PTA... All that's missing is you!

If you have not had a chance to join the PTA, please consider joining since it is never too late



to become a member. We have many exciting events planned for the school year. The PTA also does so much to support the school and the staff. Some of the PTA funds help cover the cost of Scholastic News and/or Weekly Readers for every child and help to off-set the cost of school field trips. Being a member of Gibbs PTA is also a great way to stay informed about school related issues. With budget cuts affecting many of the school activities across the county, it is even more important than ever to remain involved with the PTA and your child's education.

If you have already joined the PTA, THANK YOU!

## 2nd Annual Clarksburg Cluster Fun Run 5K

by Karen Ward

The Clarksburg Cluster schools will again be hosting their 2nd Annual Clarksburg Cluster 5k Fun Run on Saturday, October 15, 2011 beginning at 8:00 AM. The course will be 3.1 miles in the Milestone Community starting and ending at Gibbs Elementary. A registration packet was sent home the first week of school, so please look in your child's backpack.

Since this event was such a huge success last year, we decided to do it again this year in the hopes of raising even more funds for educational and enrichment programs for all the students in their respective schools as part of the PTA/PTSA's tactics. Clarksburg Cluster would also would like to send a strong message about effectively working together to advocate for all the children, as well as living a healthy lifestyle by exercising, drinking lots of water and eating healthy.

This PTA "FUNdraiser" will generate the startup income needed to cover activities for our students such as cultural arts assemblies, supplement each grade level field trips, host all of our PTA planned events such as Fall Harvest, BINGO, Around the World Night,

Talent Show and Family Picnic.

We will have raffle prizes (\$1.00 per ticket), so don't forget to bring your dollar bills to enter to win any of the fun prizes.

The cost of registration is \$20 for adults; \$10 for students (under 18) and \$40 for a family fun pack (3-7 members). T-shirts will be given to each student who registers by September 30.

We hope you will join us in this 5k Fun Run event!!!! Come out and get healthy!!!!

**If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Karen Ward at [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com) or 301-540-0037.**

## Back by Popular Demand: The Fall Harvest Festival returns to Gibbs!

by Karen Ward

Bring the entire family out on Friday, October 28th for our first "Family Fun Night" this school year! Dress the kids up (no scary costumes please) and come on out for a fun family evening! We have many exciting activities for you to enjoy with your little ones!

More information will be coming home in the next couple of weeks. Please be on the look-out for the flyer and send it back to reserve your spot for this very popular event.

If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Karen Ward at [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com) and let her know you would like to help.

We look forward to a great night with many of our Gibbs families!

## Hands On Science

By Tricia Felrice

We have already begun registration for the Fall session. The focus of the classes will be on natural, non-solar energy. Grades K-1 will



explore the physics of movement in playful ways. What energy makes a jumping bug jump? Students will get to create a gravity finder. Grades 2-3 will explore physics. Students will have the opportunity to turn a full cup of water upside down without a spill, and make a balancing cat. Grades 4-5 will study samples of volcanic rock and ash. Students will take them home after modeling a volcano and watching it blow. Classes begin the week of October 10. If you have any questions, please contact Tricia Felrice at [tfelrice@comcast.net](mailto:tfelrice@comcast.net)

## Calling all Volunteers!!

The Gibbs PTA gladly welcomes volunteers in many areas. Throughout the year, volunteers will be needed for our many PTA events such as the 5k Fun Run, Fall Harvest Festival, Bingo Night, Family Picnic, Read Aloud Day to name a few. We also need help with staff appreciation events and help with fundraisers. We'd love to have YOU join our fabulous team of volunteers. If you are able to help in any capacity, please email Karen Ward, Gibbs PTA Volunteer Coordinator, at [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com). We'll add you to our database and be sure to contact you when volunteer needs arise. You will then be able to choose to volunteer (or not) on a case by case basis as your schedule and availability allow. We are looking forward to having you join our team!

-- Karen Ward, Gibbs PTA Volunteer Coordinator

## PTA Calendar of Events for September and October... Save the Dates

**Wednesday, September 21st Chick-Fil-A Spirit Night:** Bring the family out to enjoy dinner at Chick-Fil-A and a portion of the proceeds will go to Gibbs PTA. A fun and easy way to support the many events the PTA sponsors! The PTA will also be selling 2012 Chick-Fil-A calendars. Every month you will

have a coupon to get something for free. The calendars will be sold for \$6.50 (a \$22 value) with the profits going directly to our PTA.

Tuesday, October 4th PTA meeting in the library: Mr. Benco (our PE teacher) will be the guest speaker.

## October 12-November 1st we will have two PTA Fundraisers:

**Mixed Bag Fundraiser:** This is an exciting fundraiser that can help us all go green by using bags that are made from eco-friendly recyclable material!

**Brax Spirit Cups Fundraiser:** Support your PTA and your favorite football, baseball, college teams or the Military at the same time.

**Saturday, October 15th** is the third annual FUN RUN. Get your running shoes on and come join the community in this fun and healthy event. The fun run will take place in our Milestone community again this year. This is a fundraiser for our school, so please consider making a donation to the event even if your family is unable to attend. For more information, please contact Karen Ward @ [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com) or visit [www.clarksburgcluster5k.org](http://www.clarksburgcluster5k.org).

**Wednesday, October 19th- Spirit Night at Baja Fresh.** Help support our PTA by going out for some great food with other Gibbs families. A portion of all food sales will be donated to the PTA.

**Friday, October 28th- Fall Harvest Festival** The Fall Harvest Festival is the first Family Fun night of the year. Have the kids dress-up in a costume and come out to play some games, do a few crafts, eat and have a great time. Please be on the look-out for more information on how you can volunteer and/or sign up to attend this wonderful event! If you are able to volunteer, please contact Karen Ward @ [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com).

## FLES

Information about after-school Foreign Language Program for K-5th graders has been sent home or can be found at <http://www.gibbsespta.org/>. If you are interested in enrolling your child in the Spanish Class ( FLES Class ), please return the FLYER and payment. Spanish Class will be offered after school. For Interested parents the schedule is in the registration form. Registration is due on September 17, 2011. PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ONLINE PAYMENT PROCEDURE.

For more information contact Nayda Depaz ( PTA-FLES Coordinator ) at (240) 418-0910, email [nayda10@comcast.net](mailto:nayda10@comcast.net) or go to [www.fles.org](http://www.fles.org) .

## Brax Spirit Cups

Excited about football season? Gibbs PTA will be running a Brax Spirit Cup fundraiser in conjunction with our Mixed Bag fundraiser from October 12 – November 2. These 18 ounce 3-D holographic cups feature logos from 32 NFL teams, 30 MLB clubs, 90 colleges, and 5 US military branches. Best of all these sturdy cups are top rack dishwasher safe and great for all cold beverages. Proceeds from this fundraiser will go to support family fun nights like the Fall Harvest Festival and afterschool activities such as the homework club. Look for your brochure to come home with your student on October 12 and stop by our fundraising tables at the Fun Run on October 15!

## Staff Appreciation

We need your help! To Show parent and student appreciation for our wonderful Gibbs ES staff, there will be several lunches and special activities throughout the 2011-2012 school year long with Staff Appreciation Week events. To show your support we are asking for a minimum \$5.00 donation (cash only please) toward these luncheons and events. Our staff work hard through the year this is our way of saying "Thank You". We would like to collect the money now so the funds received can be equally distributed for each of the events.

Please contact Sandra Nail at [gibbs.staffappreciation@gmail.com](mailto:gibbs.staffappreciation@gmail.com) with any questions.

Thanks for your help!

## Chess Club

Chess Club will begin on Monday, September 12, 2011 with Coach Ross Pancoast and Coach Omar Pancoast from 8am-9am in the Gibbs library. All classes are held on Monday mornings and there will be a fall, winter, and spring session. Students will receive group instruction and will participate in organized play at each class. This club is fun and educational for both new chess players and those who already know how to play the game. Any questions about Chess Club can be sent to Erika Bragger at [erika@bragger.net](mailto:erika@bragger.net). We look forward to seeing you!



## What were those Fabulous Bags at Back to School Night?

On October 12, the PTA will be offering a NEW Fundraiser featuring this great range of Reusable and Eco-friendly Bags by Mixed Bag Design.

These are super gifts for the upcoming holidays! There are reusable bags, cell phone covers, laptop/iPad cases, stationery products, totes and lunch bags to name a few.

Look in your child's backpack in October for brochures and order forms.

## Counselor's Corner

Hello and welcome Gibbs Gators,

We at Gibbs are excited to start our 2011-2012 school year. The first thing I want to let you know about is our school counseling intern, Alicia McAdam. Mrs. McAdam is a graduate student at Johns Hopkins University who is working on her Master of Science in Counseling. She will be working with us from August until December, helping the students at Gibbs with their social, emotional, and academic needs, under the supervision of Mr. McCord. Mrs. McAdam and Mr. McCord will be working hard to provide individual and group counseling, guidance classes, Bully Blockers, Red Ribbon Week celebrations, and other programs to meet the needs of our students.

Some new programs this year will be addressing the number of office referrals during lunch and recess, as we continue to improve our school through our PBIS program. A new addition to our lunch and recess program is an increased presence of administration and the school counselor. A second change is our walking club. Similar walking clubs in Orchard Grove Elementary in Frederick County, MD have shown to increase test scores while reducing the number of office referrals during their recess. Mrs. McAdam will be spearheading this program with the collaboration of the Gibbs Wellness Club and our PBIS committee. More information will be forthcoming.

In Guidance Class this September, we will discuss and review school wide expectations, practice how to be courteous and make new school year resolutions. As always, if you have any concerns or questions about Gibbs or your

child please feel free to contact us at 301-353-0800 or email Mr. McCord at david\_w\_mccord@mcpsmd.org.

Thanks,

David McCord and Alicia McAdam



## Get Connected... with a Just Between Friends (JBF) account!

Did you know that JBF is one of the easiest ways for you to get connected with the Gibbs community? It is one of the major avenues of communication of the Gibbs PTA and Mrs. Bosnic, Gibbs Principal. If you would like to have a JBF account please **email Dana Walker at ddkowalker@verizon.net.**

*Also, if you previously thought you had signed up and are not getting the emails from Kim Cox and Mrs. Bosnic please email Dana Walker at ddkowalker@verizon.net. Unfortunately, there may have been a problem getting your email address correct from your original form.*

If you would like to sign up with JBF please email us your name, phone number, and the name and grade of each student you have at Gibbs this school year. We will generate an invitation for you to join. Once you have validated your email address in the system you will begin to receive emails. If you are already receiving emails through JBF there is no need to contact us as members are carried over year to year until their child graduates from Gibbs.



William B. Gibbs Jr.  
Elementary School PTA



All that's missing is you!

Join by September 8 and receive a discount on your membership!

**Reasons To Join Your PTA:**

- Brings parents, teachers, and students together and connects you with your child's community
- Discover great educational resources
- Hear about ways our school improvement team is working to make Gibbs even better
- Provides a forum to ask questions and receive information about your child's education
- Provides information about school policies, state funding, and test results
- Show teachers how much they are appreciated
- Enjoy member discounts from companies such as Metlife, Parenting Magazine, Sharp Electronics, T-mobile, and more.

**Where your PTA funds go:**

- Cultural arts assemblies
- Weekly and/or scholastic readers for all grade levels
- Family friendly events throughout the year
- School activities and programs: STEM conference, safety patrols, newspaper club, homework club, red ribbon week activities, and Greater Gator Program
- To offset the cost for your child to go on field trips
- Staff funds for purchase of classroom supplies

*PTA Membership 2011-2012*

Please make PTA membership check payable to: Gibbs PTA

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_ Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Member Name (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Address

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$25) \$22 Two-Person Membership includes directory & reusable Gibbs Gator bag

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15) \$13 Individual Membership includes directory & reusable Gibbs Gator bag

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$10) Gibbs Teacher/Staff Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$50) \$46 All-Access Membership\* includes directory & reusable Gibbs Gator bag

\_\_\_\_\_ (\$15) Gibbs Student Directory

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Gibbs PTA, please indicate the amount you would like to donate and include Donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*All Access Membership This includes a 2-person membership, a printed Gibbs Directory, a reusable Gibbs Gator bag, and free family admittance to most PTA sponsored Family Fun Nights. (Excludes fundraising events such as the Family Fun Run and the Talent Show)