

GATOR GRAM



William B. Gibbs, Jr Elementary School
12615 Royal Crown Drive, Germantown, MD
www.gibbsespta.org

February 2010 Volume 1, Issue 6

President's Message

By Sue Amick

Enough! I'm sure we are all sick of this snow. It was fun at first, but now it's time to get back to work and school. As soon as I hear anything about how these snow days will be handled, I will send something out on the list serve.

We have a few events this month. The Mother/Son Movie Night will be February 19th. This is an activity for Moms to spend some time only with their sons. Please register for this event since we do have to follow Fire Code laws. We do have other events that are Family Fun Nights. The next one is the Spring Dance on March 12.

Our REACH week fundraiser will occur from February 27th through March 5th. Please see the article with more details. Thank you to Jen Sengbusch and Karen Ward for all of their hard work to get this up and running.

Thank you to all of the wonderful Gibbs volunteers. Whether you are helping in the classroom, attending a field trip or helping with a PTA event, your help is noticed and appreciated!

Staff Appreciation

By Nikki Haddad

On January 22, the staff appreciation committee treated our wonderful staff to a cup of soup mix and oyster crackers packaged in cute bags with tags reminding them what a "SOUPER" staff we think they are! Just our way of saying "thank you" for all they do for our children. Hopefully the soup came in handy during the long hours the staff had to put in while working on grades and report cards. Thanks again to all the Gibbs families who made this little treat possible.

Mother/Son Date Night

By Nikki Haddad

On February 19, the PTA will be sponsoring a Mother/ Son date night! This will be a very special evening set aside just for mothers and their sons to share some one on one time together. We will be showing the movie, "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs." Everyone is encouraged to bring along blankets to toss on the floor to sit on and relax during the movie. You may also bring a lawn chair but we do ask that these be placed around the perimeter of the room so that the movie can be seen and enjoyed by all. Doors will open at 6:30- the movie will begin at 7:00pm. Come early and plan on enjoying a corn dog, nachos, some freshly popped popcorn or a bag of candy from our colorful candy buffet! A backdrop (I Love Mom!) will be available for pictures- you bring the camera, we'll supply the photographer. And don't forget to bring along a canned good or two for Germantown Help...for every item donated, children will get a free guess at how much candy is in the candy jar(s). The winner of the candy jar(s) will be selected at the end of the evening. Cost of the event is \$5 per family- mothers and sons only, please. Get your reservation in if you haven't already...the **deadline for registrations is Feb.12**. Space is limited so we'll be unable to take walk ins. Please contact Nikki Haddad with any questions at NikkiJayH@aol.com or 301.528.4135

Five Below

By Jennifer Sengbush

Thank you to everyone who shopped at FIVE BELOW during our fundraiser. We were able to raise \$100.01 for our PTA.

A Night to Remember

Kathryn Hoffpauir

It was a night to remember as Dad's came out with their little darlings to dance the night away. The girls all looked so beautiful and the dad's were mighty handsome in their Sunday best. It was a wonderful time that was had by all. Melvin the DJ entertained everyone with music and games.

Thanks to the PTA volunteers- Tierni Ladas, Kathryn Hoffpauir, Gayle Maurantonio, Val Lufsey, and Helena Yowell, for the many hours they put in to make this dance so successful. Also, a "thank you" to the many moms who baked cupcakes for the dance and made our cupcake table look spectacular. A special recognition goes out to Jennifer Sengbusch for the beautiful heart-shaped center piece cake that was enjoyed by all.

Yearbook Sales...EXTENDED

Debbie Free

Yearbooks sales have been **extended to February 28th**. If you haven't had a chance to order your copy, please do so soon. Attached is the order form. There are also extra order forms in the turn style by the front office.

If anyone has pictures from the many events we have had at Gibbs Elementary this year, please put the on a CD and mark them "yearbook pictures" and put them in the PTA yearbook mailbox no later than February 26th.

If you have any questions please e-mail debndonfree@verizon.net

Car Magnets

Jennifer Sengbusch

We still have a limited number of car magnets for sale. Please download a copy of the order form at www.gibbsespta.org under fundraising or contact Jennifer Sengbusch at jsengbusch@verizon.net.

Thanks for you support!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Sandra Nail

Donne your green and put on your dancing shoes for the Gibb's first annual Spring Dance scheduled for March 12th from 7-8:30 p.m. Registration information should be coming home within the next week. Register early because space is limited.

Counselor's Corner

David McCord

This February our character trait will be fairness. This month we will discuss justice, equity, and equality. We will learn that is important to only draw conclusions after considering all sides of the story, what fair play is, and how we use it. Finally, we will learn why we should not judge a book by its cover. We will also discuss bullying behaviors, the reasons people bully, and ways students can address the issue when it happens.

Our Student Government Association will be selling Valentines that students can purchase and send to the person they care about. The SGA representatives will be selling the valentines 2 for \$1.00. The valentines will include either a pencil or lollipop, your child's choice. The valentines will be on sale during lunch from February 16th to February 19th. All money raised will go to the American Red Cross Haiti Relief Fund. This is a great opportunity for students to send a valentine and help the victims of the earthquake. Also, the schools safety patrols are selling carnations for \$1.00 each. Parents can purchase carnations for their student or any staff members. Carnations can be purchased by sending in the carnation form sent home last week.

On May 21st, 2010 William B. Gibbs Jr. Elementary School will challenge our students to think about where this journey through education will take them, what lies in their future. Will they become a nurse, doctor, or another health care professional? Will they work in education? Perhaps they will help build our infrastructure, such as homes and businesses? Will they work in our legal system? Or maybe they will own their own business. Our Career Day will be a chance for the students of Gibbs Elementary, to experience different career opportunities. We are looking for parents, friends, or family members of parents who have a career they would like to share with our students. If you are interested in sharing your career or want more information, please contact me at school at 301-353-0800 or via email at david_w_mccord@mcpsmd.org.

On a final note, our SGA will be celebrating a Gibbs Spirit Day Friday February 26, 2010. This Spirit Day is called Grade Level Color Day. Each grade level will wear a color to show their spirit. PEP, Pre-K, and Kindergarten will wear red. First grade will wear orange. Second grade will wear yellow. Third grade will wear green. Finally, fourth grade will wear blue.

Summer Camp

Have you decided which camp to register for this summer? Consider Global Children's Center. Located at Gibbs Elementary School, Global Children's Center offers themed camp sessions (Math Mania, Sports, Nature Explorer, Science Fun, etc.), weekly field trips, before and after care, and reasonable rates.

Camp registration is available on-line at <http://www.globalchildrenscenter.com/> For questions regarding camp sessions, please contact Monika or Steve Utrecht at 301-972-5982.

Mark Your Calendar

February

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| 15 th | No School |
| 19 th | Mother/Son Date Night |
| 28 th | Yearbook orders due |
| 27 th | Start of REACH week |

March

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| 12 th | Spring Dance |
| 29 th | Start of Spring Break |

REACH WEEK FUNDRAISER: “REACH TO READ AROUND THE WORLD”

About REACH

Gibbs Elementary School PTA is excited to sponsor our first-ever R.E.A.C.H. Week campaign. REACH stands for **READING EDUCATION AWARENESS IN THE CHILD'S HOME**. This campaign is a literacy promotion to reinforce the value of reading with our students at home and at school. We are excited to bring REACH to Gibbs as this program offers a positive approach to fundraising and supports our educational goals. R.E.A.C.H. Week has been a big success at other schools and we hope it will be successful at Gibbs too. Our efforts will help provide funding for the important educational programs and equipment necessary to maintain the quality of education that benefits all children at Gibbs.

How does it work?

This program is easy! Simply address 5 sponsor letters to people (out of the community, state, and internationally), send them back to school, read (or be read to) for 300 minutes in one week (at school and home combined), students will win prizes and raise money for the PTA. That's it! Prizes include: magic wand AND choice of a magic kit, creative kit to design your own masterpiece or book, or a \$10 Target gift card. In keeping with our 'around the world' theme, students can track where in the world our donations are coming from on two large maps in the school's main hallway.

Upcoming Events:

February 17th Joe Romano the magician will hold a mini-assembly to captivate the students with a few magic tricks and to explain the program. Students will bring home 5 sponsor letters in their packets. Once the completed letters have been turned in to their teacher, students will get their first prize- a magic wand! The classroom with the most participation will receive a prize too!

February 24th ORANGE home reading time cards will be sent home

February 27th- March 5th Read 300 minutes

March 1-5 REACH week activities

Monday, March 1 Students and Staff wear RED for READING

Tuesday, March 2 Read Aloud Day

Wednesday, March 3 REACH Night: “READ Around the World”

Listen to stories from each of the 7 Continents; world maps completed by students will be displayed this evening; 6:30-8:00 p.m. Gibbs Cafeteria; sign up sheets coming soon.

Thursday, March 4 Teachers wear funky hats while reading

Friday, March 5 Wear your favorite PJs to school; turn in completed ORANGE home reading time cards

Questions?

If you have any questions please contact: Jennifer Sengbusch @ jsengbusch@verizon.net or Karen Ward @ wardkk@msn.com

Thank you in advance for your support!

Attention Parents and Students

Now is the time to order your yearbook. Order today and guarantee your child a yearbook. We will order a few extra yearbooks over the number of pre-sold orders. These extra books will be sold on a first come basis.

This yearbook is expected to be the best ever. The yearbook will be packed full of the best collection of photographs representing the school year. It will be a collection of the best candid, group photos, individual portraits of all students, faculty, and pictures of all your special friends having fun while they learn.

We want you to have a copy-reserve one now. **ORDER NOW-DON'T BE DISAPPOINTED.**

For the next several days your yearbook will be on sale. You may order as many copies as you wish. Please fill out the order form below. Yearbooks will be distributed at the end of the school year.

Cost per copy: \$20 (\$18.80 + \$1.20 tax)

Make checks payable to: William Gibbs Elementary, PTA

Order Return Deadline: January 31, 2010

Get your order in as soon as possible.

Return form and payment to your child's teacher in an envelope marked "Yearbook"

Yearbook Order Form

STUDENT'S NAME _____

SCHOOL NAME William B Gibbs, Jr Elementary School

GRADE _____ TEACHER'S NAME _____

NUMBER OF COPIES REQUESTED _____ TOTAL PAID \$ _____

Don't delay order now!