

# GATOR GRAM



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

March 2010 Volume 1, Issue 7

## President's Message

By Sue Amick

This school year is flying by! Although we still have three and a half months until the end of the school year, it is time for the PTA to start planning for next year. All of the PTA Board terms are for one year with a maximum of two years. This means that all current Board members can be elected for next year but we are not obligated to do so. We have a nominating Committee consisting of Karen Ward ([wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com)), Poullettee Cabrera ([poullettee69@yahoo.com](mailto:poullettee69@yahoo.com)), Kim Cox ([kim.cox@verizon.net](mailto:kim.cox@verizon.net)), Janet Sanchez ([sanchezwarrior@gmail.com](mailto:sanchezwarrior@gmail.com)) and Jen Sengbusch ([jsengbusch@verizon.net](mailto:jsengbusch@verizon.net)). If you are interested in serving as a Board member (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary or MCCPTA Representative) contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee.

Since this is the first year for the Gibbs PTA, we would like some feedback about the events and activities the PTA brought to the community. This is your PTA and we want to provide events that your family finds worthwhile. We will send out a survey shortly after we get back from Spring Break. Of course, you don't have to wait for a survey. You may e-mail me anytime with comments.

I hope everyone has a safe, relaxing Spring Break.

## Staff Appreciation

By Nikki Haddad

On February 17<sup>th</sup>, the REACH committee held a meeting to review the program with staff members before school in the morning. The staff appreciation committee provided a light continental breakfast for the teachers prior to the meeting. Thanks to all the donations provided by the Gibbs families we were able to put out a nice spread of goodies which included coffee, juice, bagels, granola bars, sweets and fresh fruit.

## Mark Your Calendar

### April

12-19	Scholastic Book Fair
15 & 16	Dads & Donuts
16 <sup>th</sup>	Around the World Night
28 <sup>th</sup>	Truck Day

## Mother & Son Event

By Nikki Haddad

On February 19<sup>th</sup> the PTA sponsored a Mother/Son Date Night at Gibbs. It was a great evening that allowed time for some mother/son bonding. Blankets and beach chairs we sprawled throughout the AP room as moms and their boys enjoyed snacks, fresh popped popcorn, and a large candy buffet. The lights went out at 7pm and the feature presentation "Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs" was played. Both moms and sons were very patient as we experienced minor technical difficulties with the movie. Kudos to all who attended for their patience and understanding as the committee and staff members who were present resolved the situation...the committee really appreciates how everyone handled the short delay. I would like to extend a special thank you to the staff members that stepped in to help. The committee would also like to thank all those who brought canned goods for Germantown Help...yet another opportunity to teach our children the importance of community outreach. The evening wrapped up shortly before 9pm and as folks were greeted out the doors several commented on how much fun the event was and asked when we'd be doing it again!!!

## Global Children's Center

The summer camp website is open for registration. Also, we're open spring break...it's not too late to sign up.

Interested in our Before and After care program?  
Our program features:

- Special Clubs and Activities
- Designated Home work time
- Convenient Hours and location
- Highly Qualified Staff
- Open most days during school closings and early releases
- Indoor and outdoor play
- Gym Time with special sports activities!

Pls. call us @ 301.972.5982 or 301.972.5882 Steve and Monika Utrecht (Directors)

## Vision & Hearing Screening

Karen Ward

A big thank you to our parent volunteers who helped out at our Hearing & Vision Screening – Annette Bell, Tania Allinger and Charlene Midolo.

## Picture Day

Karen Ward

Picture day was a big success!! Thank you to our parent volunteers – Xindy Luo, Shanik Cannady and Ankita Joshi.

## Box Tops

Karen Ward

Thank you to all students (and parents) who collected and turned in their Box Tops!! We collected 4,510 box tops since the beginning of the school year. The winning class who collected the most Box Tops is Mrs. Granofsky's class collecting 758 box tops. They enjoyed an ice cream party sponsored by the PTA.

Please continue to bring in Box Tops and deposit them either in your classroom boxes or in Roxanne the Robot in the lobby. We thank you for your continued support!!!

## Counselor's Corner

David McCord

This month our character trait is being honest. Students will discuss the importance of honesty and the impact that dishonesty can have on the trust between friends and family. Kindergarten and first grade students will see a puppet show of "The Little Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Students will then hear the story "Have You Filled a Bucket Today?" This is a story about the importance of spreading happiness to those in our lives. The story illustrates and encourages everyone to use positive words and actions to those we care about. Classes will then do an activity to brainstorm ideas of what they can and will do to fill someone's bucket.

The Gibbs Elementary 1st Annual Career Day is May 26th, 2010. We are looking for parents and family members who have a career, that they would like to share with our students. Career Day is a wonderful opportunity for students to experience the world of work and dream about their future. Career Day is scheduled so that students get to visit with several career speakers. Volunteers would talk about their career, why they chose it, and what they had to do to achieve their career. Career Day speakers would see approximately 4 to 5 classes. Career Day activities will be held in the morning. Please contact me to sign up, [david\\_w\\_mccord@mcpsmd.org](mailto:david_w_mccord@mcpsmd.org).

On behalf of the SGA I would like to thank everyone who helped us raise \$241.83 to go to the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The students really enjoyed giving and receiving the valentines.

## Scholastic Book Fair

Anita Burgdorf

How is your appetite, for reading that is? You are invited to our Scholastic Book Fair, an exciting, fun-filled event for students and families, scheduled from April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup>. Please stop by anytime between 8:30am – 4:00pm to see what we've cooked up!

Our newest theme, *Book Fair Diner: All You Can Read*, serves up exciting activities, creative decorations, and great books in an atmosphere of fun and literacy.

A Book Fair connects students with books at affordable prices and makes reading a positive experience. Children are more likely to read the books they personally get to choose. It's one of the best ways to get more kids reading, and kids reading more.

Please join us to make this Book Fair the BEST our school has ever seen. I look forward to seeing you at the Fair!

I am excited to announce that Michelle Rasmussen has graciously agreed to give of her time and efforts to co chair the book fair. If you would like to share your time and efforts to volunteer to work the book fair please contact Karen Ward at [wardkk@msn.com](mailto:wardkk@msn.com).