

Greenbelt Elementary School
PTA Meeting, December 2, 2008

President's Report - Anne Gardner:

- Picnic table building postponed until Spring Fair.
- A petition has been sent to state officials expressing support for state budget for the Middle School building refurbishment. Encouragement for other schools to send letters also.
- Maryland PTA sent us plaque for 25% increase in membership.
- PTA assemblies are planned: Dec 18 - blue sky puppets will perform "Barber of Seville." "Reverb," all-male a cappella group who sing about African-American history.
- The GES school store is in need of donations appealing to boys
- Our lost and found currently housed on stage is proving difficult to display. We are in need of a clothes rack, which can be displayed during school events. Unclaimed items will be donated to goodwill
- The Scholastic Fair is happening this week. Please bring in money for students to purchase books. Thursday evening will open the doors for families to view and purchase books. Volunteers are always appreciated.
- Also, Thursday evening will show artwork created by our new arts programming provided by the PTA in classes. Letters will be written and collected to be sent to the President-Elect in support of the arts.
- Fundraiser on Dec 13th at Bankey's Nursery--PTA receives a percent of purchases.
- After Christmas, there will be a need for chairs and committees to plan Spring events: Multicultural Dinner and Spring Fair.
- The PTA Board is looking for nominations or volunteers to join the board.
- The PTA currently does not have an events chair and an arts chair. The events chair will receive all necessary information from Anne, and will be able to take much off her plate. The arts committee is a new and exciting venture for the PTA, as we move to support arts integration.

Principal's Report - Kim Seidel:

- GES has been identified as an "Exemplary" school . 53 out of 200 in PG county schools, scoring above 80% in the MSA. There is a display in the foyer and in the newspaper noting this.
- We can take donations to provide PBI (positive behavior points) pizza parties for grades/ classes successful in the program. 80% of students are in the positive behavior territory, 10% and 5% falling in the lower two categories, respectfully. Students consistently show pride in their awards of positive points.
- New technology acquirement: Six intrawrite boards are in the school at this time.
- 6th grade is traveling to Camp Schmit this Spring, Feb 26-27. Anyone with PG county clearance is encouraged to chaperone.
- 4th grade has weakest scores (68% reading). We will implement after-school project called "interstate highway" with a goal to increase scores to 90th percentile.
- Teachers really appreciate PTA's financial support of grade-level field trips.

Treasurer report - Susan Breon:

(Summary sheet and detailed expense report distributed.)

- Month of November:
 - o 1) Spaghetti dinner nets almost \$450. Great!
 - o 2) PG Arts Council funding

- o 3) 5th grade field trip funding

Update on the Scholastic News Magazines that PTA decided to provide to classes by collecting and managing the money instead of teachers: \$1300 income, with expenses almost even, when you include \$1000 in vouchers provided by the PTA.

Presentation:

Arts Education in Maryland Schools (AEMS)

John Ceschini, Executive Director, former principal in PG schools.

"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire." --
William Butler Yeats

62 studies of multiple arts show how teaching through the arts works.

How it works: spatial reasoning, conditional reasoning and interpretation are needed skills that are developed and engaged through the arts. Also, Imagination, persistence and resilience are qualities that the US values and can be recovered through arts work. Social skills like empathy and socialization are emphasized through the arts. Some states have realigned their curricula towards this arts thinking.

Arts integration occurs when there is a blending of content and skills between an art form and a co-curricular subject. Art is not used simply as a means to another content end (ex., singing a song to learn the state names). Instead, social science, language arts, drama, etc. are woven together to develop skills in multiple areas. All classroom teachers are trained (Maryland Arts Teacher Institute) to work with the language of the arts, so that they can better integrate traditional subjects with arts terms and concepts.

A next step to implement this program from AEMS is possibly another presentation by John, or sending a team of teachers from GES, which can include a parent, to attend the teacher institute offered this summer. (July 4-11) The state teacher conference will offer a mini-MATI for teachers on February 23rd.

There are several arts integration schools in PG county. These schools are sites where other school teams could visit to understand how this kind of program is implemented.

Book/ Study available:

Third Space: When Learning Matters

Next PTA Meeting is the second day of school in January!