

THE GAYTON GAZETTE

February 2009
Issue 2

www.gaytonpta.com



CONTENTS

- President's Letter
- Principal's Letter
- Electronic Gazette
- Tardy Procedures
- Adults in the Building
- Notes from the Clinic
- Lay Advisory Committee
- Spirit Wear - Sale!
- Reflections
- Take your Family to School
- Jump Rope for Heart
- Gator Giving Fund

President's Letter

Your PTA has had a very busy year so far. We've been selling new Spirit Wear and Yearbooks, sponsoring Teachers' Luncheons and the Book Fair, supplying volunteers, organizing spirit nights, sending representatives to County level meetings (County Council of PTAs and the Lay Advisory Committee) to monitor various issues (Redistricting, Superintendent search and Budget), and working with the faculty to provide educational tools, materials and programs to benefit the students.

We are very close to meeting our goal for the Gator Giving Fund this year - we're about \$500 short. No donation is too small. I know that we are facing difficult economic times; however, one of the goals of the PTA is to supplement tools, materials, and programs that the school cannot obtain from the County or the State because of budgetary constraints. Please remember that every dollar you donate goes directly back to the school and these donations are tax-deductible. Further, many employers will provide matching funds - to date, we have received matching funds from Altria, Pfizer, Capital One and

Genworth. We attached a chart of employers that, to our knowledge, have provided matching funds in the past. If your employer is on this list, please inquire about having them match your donation. If your employer is not on the list, ask someone in your Human Resources department. If you have not donated yet, please see the website for the One Stop Shopping Form and make your donation to Gayton.

In addition to your monetary support, we love to have you volunteer your time and talents. Room Parents are always in need of help and I know many of them are not shy about asking for help with enrichment programs and science labs. If you do not know where to start, please contact Pam Mason, who is coordinating our Volunteers this year. The Spring Carnival is fast approaching - please contact Jen Harper if you want to help. She has a great crew of folks helping her - with more help, the more the Carnival subcommittee will be able to get accomplished.

The Carnival is scheduled to be on April 17th and it has an Earth Day theme. I'm excited and can't wait to attend.

In February, we have Take Your Family to School week, and Jump for Heart. The Science Place will be visiting multiple grade levels in the coming months. Our second book fair will be in the Spring as well.

A big "thank you" to all parents, faculty, staff and community members that support our organization - we couldn't be successful without you. As always, feel free to contact me with any questions, comments or suggestions.

With all best wishes,
Frank Lynch, PTA President
270-0688
flynch10@verizon.net

Principal's Letter

Dear Gayton Family:

I can hardly believe it is already 2009! The first half of the school year has certainly flown by— with great excitement for teaching and learning. Enrichment in the classrooms, Reflections, After School Enrichment, our NBA program, Veterans Day Assembly, etc., etc., etc. has added to the curriculum. None of this could happen without you so generously volunteering your time and talents. So, on behalf of all of us at Gayton, "Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!"

As we begin this new year, let us remember the message that our NBA (No Bullies Allowed Club) promotes—"Living together in friendship and working together to solve problems."

I count my blessings each and every day as I work with you, your sons and daughters, and our staff at Gayton. It is so rewarding to visit the classrooms and see the joy on the faces and in the eyes of our students.

Sincerely,

Peggy Wingfield

Electronic Gayton Gazette

Want to help the PTA save money and time spent sending paper copies sent home? How about signing up to receive the Gayton newsletter electronically! Receiving it electronically reduces the amount of time and money the PTA spends on copies, which ultimately helps save money, trees and reduces pollution.

To join the rest of the Gayton school family currently enjoying the Gazette electronically, simply follow this link:

<http://gaytonpta.com/newsletters.html>

Tardy Procedures

In order to ensure success, students are expected to attend school each day on time. Since instruction begins at 7:50 a.m. each day, it is important that your child is in the classroom and ready to learn when the teacher begins the day's lesson. As stated in the Gayton Handbook, any student not in the classroom by 7:50 a.m. is considered tardy and must be accompanied to the office by the parent. Once signed in, the child will receive a green tardy pass and proceed to class. If assistance is needed we will be happy to walk him/her to class for you.

Adults in the Building

Between the hours of 7:20 a.m. and 2:05 p.m. all adults who enter the building are required to come to the office and identify themselves. Parents and other visitors are asked to sign in and wear a yellow visitor pass while in the building. The safety of your children is a top priority and when there is an unidentified adult in the building we are very concerned. We also must have a written list of who is in the building so that if we would need to evacuate, emergency personnel would know how many adults to account for. We ask that you do not accompany your child to class in the morning. If your child needs help with a large item, please sign in first, and then you may walk your child to his/her classroom. Thank

you for your assistance with this important safety matter.

Notes From The Clinic

If your phone number or address has changed since September, please let the clinic know as soon as possible. If your child has a health emergency, we must be able to contact you quickly, so we like to know all of your contact numbers (home, work, cell). You may send a note in with your child.

Please remember that the clinic is not allowed to give your child any medication (including cough drops!) without the proper Henrico County forms being completed beforehand. Over the counter medication cannot be given for more than three consecutive days unless there is a note from the doctor.

Lay Advisory Committee

In 1956, the Henrico County School Board created the Lay Advisory Committee (LAC) to facilitate communication between itself and the lay people of Henrico County. With county-wide representation, LAC focuses on issues of broad interest which affect the educational welfare of many students.

LAC is available to you. If you would like to present a concern for Lay Advisory consideration, please contact Karen Rader, your local LAC

delegate, at (804) 364-0150 or karen_rader@hotmail.com

Spirit Wear **Winter Clearance!!**

“Hey Gayton Parents Out There, It's Winter Clearance For Spirit Wear”! Every Friday is Spirit Day! All Spirit Wear is **50% or 75%** off so hurry and call to place an order:

Kim Bartley @364-9206

or email: barts5@verizon.net

Limited sizes in all merchandise so there is no guarantee!

* PLEASE REFER TO THE GAYTON PTA WEBSITE FOR STYLES & COLORS!

http://gaytonpta.com/spirit_wear.html

Reflections

Congratulations to the Reflections Participants and Winners!

The PTA Reflections overall category winners were announced at the October PTA meeting. Each student was recognized for their participation in the program and a reception in their honor followed the announcements. It was a great night at Gayton as we waited with anticipation to hear who would win each category and then enjoy a reception with all sorts of cookies and punch.

The students were really creative with the “WOW!” theme this year. The winner in the literature category for the K-2 Primary division was Parker Holland for his entry titled

“The Thing”. Urmi Pandya took the overall prize for literature in the intermediate division for “My Guinea Pig’s Babies”.

You could watch the dance choreography and film production entries on a PC set up in the hall way. The winning entries in those categories by Sheridan Little and Nora Little will now advance to the next level of competition.

Photographers Tener Dawson and Peyton O’Donnell took home blue overall ribbons for their entries titled “Things That Make Me Say ‘WOW’” and “Wow Wild Horse”.

There were 76 entries this year and 43 were in the visual arts category. Yashodhara Mukherji took home the blue overall ribbon for her creation using a variety of media. Daniel Robison’s “Deap Sea Creature” wowed the judge and he won the overall intermediate visual arts category.

Stay tuned to hear how these overall winners fair in the next level of competition. Maybe a future national champion is right here at Gayton! Now that would be something to Wow about!

Take Your Family to School

Come and join your children at school during dedicated resource classes during the week of February 9-17. Flyers will be sent home indicating what day/time your child's resource class will be. Parents are welcome to observe one of their child's resource classes, plus take part in "Jump Rope for Heart".

Jump Rope for Heart

Gayton Elementary is raising funds for the American Heart Association to fight against our nation's # 1 and #3 killers - cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Collection began Jan. 23 and ends with the Jump Rope for Heart week Feb. 9-13. During this week the students will be involved in heart healthy activities during their physical education class time with Mrs. Wright. This event helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health. AHA is dedicated to helping people live longer, healthier lives. The money we raise helps people in our community learn how to avoid heart disease and stroke and also helps our local patient care. Last year Gayton gators collected over \$13,000 to give to the AHA.

JRFH is a fun event that helps our children understand the importance of community service and physical activity. The money contributed will fund research that will save more lives each year . . . maybe your own or that of someone in your family. If you are participating, please turn you

collection envelope during the week of Feb. 9-13 or before.

Gator Giving Fund

Thank you to the following families who donated \$100 to the Gator Giving Fund:

Campanella Family

Cara and Perry parents of Olivia and Melissa

Candrilli Family

Marlene and Jerry parents of Jack

Comer Family

Kristin and Michael parents of Kaitlyn and Jenna

Johnson Family

Leigh and Mitch parents of Katherine

Lynch Family

Kristi and Frank parents of Peyton and Kendall

Mohn Family

Marianne and Jim parents of Nathan

Stricker Family

Suzanne and Kurt parents of Sydney and Michael

Thank you!

