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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 2011

Welcome back to another exciting fall at Gayton. It seems like the Ice Cream Social was just yesterday. Thanks to Tiffany Powers and Anna McFarlane the Book Fair is here. Also, thanks to Sallie Smith and Kathy Hubley many children are enjoying After School Enrichment activities like dodgeball, beading, fun with food, and SPARC. We are very proud of the children that participated in the Reflections Program this year. Thanks to Kathleen Richine for coordinating this program.

Thank you to all of you who contributed to the Gator Giving Fund this year. We appreciate your support to help the PTA provide educational programs and supplies to the kids and teachers. It's never too late to donate, join the PTA, or order a yearbook. Please keep sending in those box tops. Also, don't forget to designate Gayton for Martins, Kroger, and Target so that we earn money as you shop. We make every dollar count.

I am pleased to announce that the PTA purchased the teacher requested Book Room at the end of last year. Over 300 fiction and nonfiction titles and sets were received over the summer. Mrs. Wright and Mrs. Reams worked very hard to get the book room ready for use this year. This is a Program that provides sets of books on different reading levels and topics that will allow teachers access to an additional learning resource. Teachers will have a variety of choices to conduct small reading groups in their

classes that are customized to the students reading levels. Our Book Room is located in room number 8 on the hallway behind the library. This \$7,000 program was made possible by your funding support and will touch every student at Gayton.

Finally, please check out the Gayton PTA website. Some new features are the Building Better Readers guide, the Core Essentials Character Education program, and the suggestion box. I would love to hear from you and look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming Spirit Nights.

Joyce Hedish  
Gayton PTA President  
[president@gaytonpta.com](mailto:president@gaytonpta.com)



## **PRINCIPAL'S LETTER**

November 2011

Dear Gayton Family:

I can hardly believe that Thanksgiving is upon us! This Fall has certainly flown by!

Our halls continue to bustle with the excitement of teaching and learning. Enrichment activities abound and have tremendously added to our curriculum.

You can be sure that 21st Century Teaching is “alive and well” at Gayton.” STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) challenge activities have taken place at each grade level. I wish each of you had been here to experience your child’s enthusiasm for working as a team to solve challenges! Activities like these (Enrichment in the classrooms, Reflections, After School Enrichment, our NBA program, Veterans Day Assembly, “Move Your Feet So Others Can Eat” etc., etc., etc.) couldn’t 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!”

Winter Break will be here before we know it.....and with it comes cold weather and more children coming to school by cars. Our staff would really appreciate your help with several issues:

Tardies to School—Please remember that a parent must accompany a student coming into the building once the tardy bell rings at 7:50 a.m.

Forgotten items/homework—Please come by the office before going to the classrooms (classrooms are locked and will need to be opened for you).

Car rider area—Please remember to pull up as far as possible around the loop and remind your child, for safety reasons, to leave the car at right side of the passenger seat. (We have some children who want to get out on the driver’s side. This puts them at risk for unaware drivers who may be in a hurry to exit.)

Soon our kindergarten “Pilgrims and Indians” will experience their annual “Thanksgiving Feast.” As we approach the holidays, 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. Have a wonderful holiday season filled love and family memories.

Sincerely,  
Peggy Wingfield



## **FUNDRAISING UPDATE**

Thank you Parents and Gayton Staff for your support of the PTA!

Our first Spirit Night at California Pizza Kitchen in October was great!

Thank you for the Party City receipts – every dollar helps!

Remember your Box Tops – this fundraiser is all school year long!

If you have not yet, remember to register your Target credit card, Kroger and Martin’s card all for Gayton! See the PTA website for more details on each of these programs.

Back by popular demand - Parents Night Out at Tuckahoe YMCA on Friday, 12/9! Be on the lookout for registration information in November!

Keep an eye out on your weekly communication email for upcoming fundraisers!

Have an idea for a fundraiser? Email me at [waysandmeans@gaytonpta.com](mailto:waysandmeans@gaytonpta.com)

Jill Lemon  
Ways and Means

## YEARBOOK PICTURES

Even though the end of school seems like a long way away, I am collecting pictures for the yearbook throughout the year! If you have any great shots of the beginning of school, Pajama Day or Move Your Feet So Others Can Eat, please email them to [katherinerobison1170@msn.com](mailto:katherinerobison1170@msn.com). I appreciate all the pictures that you send and try to make sure that every child has a chance to appear in the yearbook.

Katherine Robison  
Yearbook

## A NOTE FROM ESTHER QUINN

### **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 by the parent, the child will take a green tardy pass and proceed to class. For safety reasons we ask that you do not accompany your child to class, if he/she should require assistance, 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.

## UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES

- November 7-11: Book Fair (Closed November 8)
- November 9: Family Night at the Book Fair
- November 10-11, 13: Beading Workshops @ Panache
- November 11: Veteran's Day Assembly 8:30
- November 15: PTA Meeting 7pm  
Third Grade Program
- November 15-17: Papa John's Spirit Nights
- November 17: Make-up Pictures
- November 17-18: Color Me Mine Spirit Nights
- November 23: ½ Day for Students
- November 24-25: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 9: Parents Night Out @ Tuckahoe YMCA
- December 13: PTA Meeting 7pm  
Fourth Grade Program
- December 16: Last day before Winter Break

## GAYTON SPIRIT WEAR

Brrrrrrr.....hey all you Gators out there, with the cold weather approaching do you have all your Gayton Spirit wear? We've got Hoodies & Long-sleeved Tees for sale or even the Short sleeve Tees are good to layer! Show your school spirit because not only are Friday's Spirit Day but EVERYDAY IS SPIRIT DAY here at Gayton! Flags and car decals are also available too! Refer to our PTA website for current styles, sizes & prices! This also can make great holiday gifts! To place an order please call Kim Bartley @ 364-9206 or email: [barts5@verizon.net](mailto:barts5@verizon.net).

## **WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE CLASSROOMS????**

### **MOVE YOUR FEET SO OTHERS CAN EAT**

During the week of October 17, 2011 our students used their energy to help raise cans of food for the Central Virginia Foodbank by jogging around the school track during their physical education time. Students gained personal fitness as well as increased their awareness for the need to help the hungry. For each lap the students ran their families pledged cans of food.

Our Gayton Gators did a fantastic job! They ran 3,125 laps which equaled 391 miles. 2,532 cans of food were pledged. The food will be donated to a representative of the Central Virginia Food Bank at our annual Veteran's Day assembly on Friday, November 11, 2011.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON KINDERGARTEN**

#### Kindergarten Kick-off

We are well on our way to having a wonderful year in kindergarten! We have implemented the "No More Letter of the Week" program teaching letters and sounds. Each kindergartener will be an "expert" for a letter. To highlight the letters' kinesthetic component, we have provided some fun and memorable activities such as Gulping Green Gatorade for letter G, Pajama day complete with Pillow fight for letter P, and practiced our M sound while eating popsicles. MMMM, good!

We have begun a school-wide initiative to focus on engineering skills (planning, problem solving, re-evaluating, and implementing...). Our first engineering brief in kindergarten focused on investing shapes in our environment. Using technology, the students designed and created a shape picture.

We are looking forward to celebrating the fiftieth day of school in style (wonder if Elvis will make an appearance?), learning about and celebrating Thanksgiving, and many other exciting, enriching activities!

The Kindergarten Team ☺

### **SPOTLIGHT ON FIRST GRADE**

First grade is full of fun learning adventures! We have many new things to see, do and understand. Socially, we are learning to follow rules, be good members of the N.B.A club and make friends. Academically, we are discovering ways to use our new iPads. We are enjoying using the reading and math apps. Language Arts is an important part of each day. Learning new words, listening to and reading stories, daily writing prompts and word study keep us busy. The Word Wall and Sight Word Game apps on the iPad reinforce sight vocabulary. Ten Frame Fill and Number Find help sharpen our math skills. Pumpkin stations are also a great opportunity to apply our math skills; counting the number of ridges, estimating and then counting the number of seeds, weighing them and measuring their circumference. Science has been full of new discoveries, too. The students used the camera on the iPad to capture signs of fall such as the needles of an evergreen tree and the leaves of a deciduous tree, as well as acorns and birds. We enjoyed our trip to the S.T.E.M. lab for the lesson on Curious George and utilized our problem solving skills as we became engineers. We had fun creating sails to make our cars move. As we prepare to honor our military on Veteran's Day, we have been learning the significance of patriotic symbols such as the Statue of Liberty, the Bald Eagle and the American Flag and the importance of being a good citizen. We are looking forward to many more learning experiences!