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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 2010

It's November already??? It's hard to believe that the end of the first 9 weeks is here.

A HUGE thank you for all of your generous donations to the Gator Giving Fund. We have raised over \$13,000.00 to date. We are looking forward to receiving additional dollars and points from Target, Martins, and Kroger. Thank you for designating Gayton so that our school will benefit when you shop.

The PTA will continue to put all of those dollars to work to purchase items that benefit our school and enhance our childrens' experience at Gayton. The sound system is now working perfectly so that we can all enjoy our childrens' programs and performances. We also purchased pottery wheels for all of the children to use in Art Class. The third grade recently received a visit from the Science Place.

A HUGE thank you to all of our volunteers that work hard every day on committees, in the classroom, and in the cafeteria. Room parents are busy planning Enrichment activities for each classroom to enjoy. The teachers and faculty have received many well deserved treats from the Hospitality committee and all of their contributors. Thanks to Suzanne O'Donnell, the directory has been printed and distributed with advertising. Flo Quick did a great job coordinating all of our Reflections submissions. We are very proud of all

of the children that participated. Thanks to Sallie Smith and Kathy Hubley over 100 children are enjoying classes in the After School Enrichment Program. Way to go Tiffany Powers and Anna MacFarlane for putting together a fabulous book fair. The Spirit Wear looks great this year thanks to the efforts of Kim Bartley. Each and every volunteer's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Your support has helped our efforts to go Green this year. Weekly email communications and announcements were made possible by the addresses you submitted.

I hope that everyone survives the rush of the holidays! Remember to take the time to have fun!!

Joyce Hedish
PTA President
president@gaytonpta.com



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

November, 2010

Dear Gayton "Family"

The school year is really flying by! It is hard to believe that it is already November and the holidays are just around the corner. Our teachers and young "Gators" have accomplished much over the past few months...just to name a few:

- Our PTA hosted the annual Ice Cream Social. Students, staff and guests all enjoyed a great evening
- "Parents As Partners" presented Stephen Hixon (Henrico County Mental Health) who talked on myths and realities of bullying.
- The first wave of testing was completed
- Our students enjoyed Theatre IV's presentation of "Home Sweet Homer: The Myths of Ancient Greece"
- Book Fair got off to a huge success
- PTA sponsored lunches for our staff were enjoyed and appreciated by all
- PTA "Reflections" was an outstanding success. Student work was absolutely amazing!
- Mrs. Mary Anne Wright spearheaded the "Move Your Feet So Others Can Eat" program. Not only did we have great runners, but we were able to donate countless food items to the Virginia Food Bank.
- Gayton's student body observed its annual Veterans Day Assembly. The efforts of our Social Studies Committee and Guidance Committees helped make this affair a great success. Songs, readings and inspirational words from our guest speaker, Mrs. Evelyn Circeo, honored our veterans. Numerous pictures of family members who served our country were also placed on our "Wall of Heroes."
- Kindergarten students enjoyed listening to a story at lunch during Book Fair week. What a great way to share our love of reading with our young "Gators!"
- Students have enjoyed and learned from Fall Enrichment opportunities in the classroom

As the holiday season approaches, I can't help but reflect on how fortunate I am to be working 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 Chick-fil-A 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.

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

Have an idea for a fundraiser? Email me at waysandmeans@gaytonpta.com

Renee Chandler
Ways and Means

LAY ADVISORY UPDATE

The Lay Advisory Committee is a liaison between the Henrico County School Board and the schools' PTA/PTSA members. Our mission is to pass on information regarding School Board issues, what is working or not working. We feel communication, communication, communication is key!

A very important tool at our disposal is through the Henrico County School Board web site: www.henrico.k12.va.us/SchoolBoard/index/html . Through this site you can obtain the agenda, minutes, and even audio of school board meetings. These can be found through BoardDocs at www.boarddocs.com/vsba/henrico/Board.nsf/Public.

If you as a parent, teacher, or student have any issues you would like the School Board to be aware of, PLEASE LET ME KNOW via email: layadvisory@gaytonpta.com

MOVE YOUR FEET SO OTHERS CAN EAT

During the week of October 18-22, 2010 our students used their energy to help raise cans of food for the Central Virginia Food Bank 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 3,409 laps which equaled 426 miles. 3,796 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 Thursday, November 4, 2010.

UPCOMING SPECIAL DATES

November 11:	½ Day for Students
November 15:	Make-up Picture Day
November 16:	PTA Meeting 7pm 3 rd Grade Program
November 16-18:	Papa John's Spirit Nights
November 24:	½ Day for Students
November 25-26:	Thanksgiving Holiday
December 14:	PTA Meeting 7pm
December 17:	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.

REPORT FROM THE SCA

The SCA officers and classroom representatives have been decided and our student government is officially up and running for the 2010-2011 school year! The SCA meets once a month with sponsors Mrs. Reams and Miss Grinsell, to discuss and participate in activities that can help our school, our sister school Donahoe Elementary, various charities, and the community around us. At the November 11th Veterans Day Assembly, our officers served as both speakers and participants in our service medley sing along. They did a wonderful job! Our elected officers are:

Jade Woo - President
Harrison Bones - Vice President
Rico Haden - Secretary
Samantha Price - Historian

In addition to our officers, we have a classroom representative and alternate in every classroom K-5. At our November meeting we made turkey door decorations for the residents at Cedarfield, to honor the importance of making contributions to our community. We also discussed the planning of two upcoming events: The Talent Show on January 18, 2011 and our very first Earth Day Celebration schedule for the spring!

It is the goal of the SCA to work together for the good of our school and community ensuring that "Great Things Happen at Gayton!"

SPOTLIGHT ON THE SECOND GRADE

According to Mrs. Darden and the Second Grade teachers, the Second Graders are off to a great start this year! They have been busy learning about habitats. The students enjoyed sharing their projects and even put on a "Habitat Museum". The Second Graders have also been busy weeding and harvesting their garden. Come and see their beautiful fall flowers!

REFLECTIONS PROGRAM

The overall winners of the Reflections competition were announced at October's PTA meeting and the winners are:

- + Jenna Essex from Mrs. Thornton's 2nd grade class for her literature entry titled "Together We Can"
- + Sheridan Little from Mrs. Berdux's 4th grade class for her literature entry titled "Together We Can Make a Difference"
- + Hannah Sarte from Mrs. Wright's 1st grade class for her visual arts entry titled "Wonder Land"
- + Kristen Essex from Mrs. Smith's 5th grade class for her visual arts entry titled "Together We Can Save Our Forests"
- + Dylan Hudson from Mrs. Ford's Kindergarten class for his untitled photography entry
- + Julianne Grega from Mrs. Roettger's 4th grade class for her entry titled "Ants Enjoying Lunch"

These entries will now move on to the county level for competition against all of the elementary schools in Henrico County. The winners at that level will be announced Feb. 15.

One more piece of news to share and that is the winner of the pizza party that Mrs. Quick promised to the class with the MOST entries. Well, there was a tie between Mrs. Meals and Mrs. Thornton's classes. To break the tie, Mrs. Quick announced that the class with the most entries AND ribbons would win the pizza party. But before she could wrap up the announcement, Mrs. Wingfield interjected that there should be a "matching gift" such that BOTH classes could win a pizza party. So congratulations to Mrs. Meals and Mrs. Thornton's classes, a big THANK YOU to Mrs. Wingfield and thanks you to ALL of the students who created wonderful works of art that show TOGETHER WE CAN!