

November 2009
Issue 1

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November 2009

It's hard to believe that Halloween has come and gone already! I hope everyone had a safe and successful Halloween.

First, a huge thank you to Flo Quick, who oversaw yet another very successful Reflections Program. Once again, I am amazed at the number of talented Gayton Gators. Good luck to our winners as they move to the next level competition.

Second, we had an astonishing response to the Gator Giving Program this year. We beat our budget goal by over \$4400!!!! Thank you to everyone who contributed this year. As I have discussed in previous issues of the Gazette and at past PTA meetings, the PTA strives to use as much of the money we raise for programs, services, and educational tools that directly benefit the students. We continue to receive Wish List items from the teachers and we will do our best to fulfill as many requests as we can.

Third, the PTA is grateful for Margi Tuck stepping forward to be our VP of Ways & Means. As you may recall, we did not have a VP of Ways & Means when we started our budget process this August. Margi got us off to a great start

with our first Spirit Night at Bruster's - I do not think I've ever seen that parking lot so full. A big "Thank You" for the faculty for taking everyone's orders. Please be on the lookout for future Spirit Nights and planning has begun for the Spring Carnival.

Fourth, the Book Fair is coming soon. Details have been sent home. Please take the time to participate and help the Library and the teachers fill their shelves with new books.

Lastly, our PTA membership has increased by almost one hundred (100) members this year. Remember to take advantage of the resources at PTA.org (the National PTA) and VApta.org (the Virginia PTA).

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Frank Lynch
PTA President
270.0688
flynch10@verizon.net



PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

November, 2009

Dear Gayton "Family:"

Gayton is off to a great start for 09-10! So many exciting things have happened since school began!! I wish you could see the enthusiasm for teaching and learning in our classrooms.

It was great to see "old" friends and meet "new" ones at our ice cream social at Brusters. Thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Bartley and Mrs. Pendleton, Gayton Gators have enjoyed their new spiritwear--shirts and sweatshirts.

The boys and girls also enjoyed seeing Theatre IV's production of "Benjamin Franklin and His Kite." Mrs Berdux's fourth graders represented Gayton's on a field trip to accept recognition for our contribution (over \$1,000) to Maymount's "Feed the Animals" campaign. Third grade students completed the Otis Lennon Test and our fourth graders took the Stanford 10 test this month. Whew! Where does the time go? It will be Thanksgiving before we know it!

A special thank you to Mrs. Quick for the wonderful job she did on "Reflections." Everyone had a great time at the October PTA meeting and was amazed by all the talented students whose work was exhibited on our walls. November promises to be just as exciting and activity-packed as the past few months. Some dates you will want to mark on your calendar are:

Friday, November 5 –Book Fair begins
Wednesday, November 11–Veterans Day Assembly in the MPR at 8:30 a.m. (Students are encouraged to wear Red, White and Blue.)
Tuesday, November 17–Picture Make-Up Day
Monday, November 23–Report Cards go home

Our students and staff are very appreciative of all the time, energy, and financial support that our parents and PTA give to Gayton every day! Thank you all for everything you do to insure that Gayton continues to be the "Gatorrific."

As always, I appreciate any and all feedback..

Sincerely,

Peggy Wingfield

Clinic Corner

The Clinic is collecting used pants and sweatpants to give to children who have a spill in the cafeteria or a bathroom accident. When you are sorting out those pants that don't fit you child anymore, please consider donating to the Gayton Clinic.

The Virginia Department of Health offers these tips to help avoid the flu:

- Learn good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Cover coughs and sneezes, **wash hands frequently**, use hand sanitizer if hands are not visibly soiled.
- Try to **avoid touching your face**. The virus enters the body through the mouth, nose, and eyes.
- Vaccinate for seasonal flu and the H1N1 virus when the vaccine becomes available.
- Plan now for your child's care in case he/she becomes sick. Flu like symptoms include fever over 100 degrees, cough, sore throat, body aches and fatigue.
- Stay informed: monitor the CDC website www.cdc.gov and the Virginia Dept. of Health www.vdh.virginia.gov for additional resources and the most current recommendations.

Esther Quinn
Clinic Attendant



Treasurer's Report

Thanks to all our wonderful Gator Families and Staff, we have exceeded our budget for the Gayton Giving Fund by over \$4,000!

If you have already donated to the Gator Giving Fund and have an Employee Matching Gift that you have not submitted, kindly send in your form as soon as possible.

Every small amount helps! If you need any information or help completing these forms, please contact Frank Lynch at flynych10@verizon.net or Melissa Mayhew at mmyhw@comcast.net.

Now that the annual budget was approved at the Back to School Night PTA meeting, we will begin prioritizing the purchases to support our school as detailed in the budget.



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Are you interested in helping with the Gayton PTA? We are currently looking for a volunteer to be the After School Enrichment (ASE) Coordinator. The job description is to organize after school enrichment activities for Winter and/or Spring period, conduct registration, and supervise the after school activities. Please contact Frank Lynch (flynych10@verizon.net) if interested!

Upcoming Special Dates

- November 3: Student Holiday Voting Day
- November 5-13: Book Fair
- November 5: Spirit Night at Ukrops
- November 11: Veterans Day Assembly 8:30am
- November 17: Make-up Picture Day
PTA Meeting 7pm
2nd Grade Program
- November 25: Half-Day
- November 26-27: Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 15: PTA Meeting 7pm
4th Grade Program
- December 18: Last day before Winter Break

Box Tops for Education

Calling All Gators! A great way to earn money for Gayton Elementary is to clip Box Tops and to register for special information at www.boxtops4education.com! Box Tops can be found on hundreds of your favorite products such as Cheerios, Betty Crocker, Pillsbury, Ziploc, Kleenex, Hefty, Juicy Juice and more! In addition, you can shop through the Box Tops Marketplace at over 70 online stores like Oriental Trading, JC Penney and Lands End. A percentage of each purchase goes back to Gayton! You can access the Marketplace through www.boxtops4education.com Thanks for all of your support! Go Gators!

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.

Healthy Kids Cookbook

Henrico County is gathering recipes for its first healthy recipe book for kids. Here is the link to the Healthy Kids Cookbook if you would like to participate: <http://tinyurl.com/recipesform>. Your recipe should include healthy foods. It may require cooking or be a “no oven recipe.” This non-for-profit cookbook helps children to become familiar with healthy food recipes and how to prepare them. The recipes should be sent in by November 20, 2009. If you would like more information please see the Gayton Elementary School website for sample activity plan, healthy ingredients substitutions, and the Resources for Working with Children Websites.

Shoes for Uganda



Wow! 720 pairs of shoes! That was how many pairs of shoes were piled up in the gym on October 23, 2009. During the week of Oct. 19-23, our Gayton families sent in new and used adult and children’s shoes to be donated to Juma Semakula. Juma Semakula, a native of Uganda, schooled in Richmond was recently featured in a story in The Richmond Times Dispatch. He has a very lofty goal of collecting 30,000 pairs of shoes for the people living in the countryside of Uganda who have no shoes. He’s hoping to fill a shipping container and have the shoes delivered for Christmas to his countrymen. Our Gayton students and their families helped to fulfill this goal. We collected 720 pairs of shoes for Mr. Semakula to send home. Way to go Gators!

Here’s a link to the article about Shoes for Uganda on the HCPS Web site.

<http://henrico.k12.va.us/newsroom/features/102709.html>

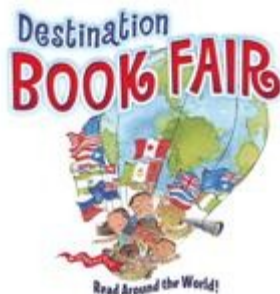
Reflections Program

Congratulations to the Reflections Winners!

The PTA Reflections winners were announced at the Oct. 20 PTA meeting. This year the awards recognition ceremony and reception were held in the multi-purpose room. The students' spectacular entries were displayed on the walls all around the multi-purpose room which transformed the look and feel of the space to that of an art gallery. Parents and students perused the entries before the meeting and immediately following the announcement of the winners. The students were really creative with the “Beauty is...” theme this year. Everyone enjoyed a beautiful reception coordinated by Mrs. Urenda after the ceremony.

There were 61 entries this year and 33 were in the visual arts category. Audrey Lowe won the overall blue ribbon for her work titled “Beauty is Colorful” in the primary division. Yashodhara Mukherji took home the blue overall ribbon again this year but in the intermediate division. Her work was titled “Nature Collage”. The overall winner in the literature category for the K-2 Primary division was Nicole Quick for her essay titled “Beauty is...”. Urmi Pandya won again this year in the intermediate division for “Natural Beauty”. Photographers Madeline Grega and Amber Leathers took home the blue overall winner ribbons for their entries titled “Beauty is... Pink Flowers” and “Colors of Nature”.

Each of these student's entries will now move on to the next level of competition. Maybe a future national champion is right here at Gayton! Now that would be something beautiful!



Destination: Book Fair

There's no limit to where your imagination can take you with a book as your ticket. A reading adventure awaits you at the Fall 2009 Scholastic Book Fair. Stop by and travel through a great selection of books suitable for every interest and reading level.

Dates: Friday, November 5 - Friday, November 13

Hours:

- Friday 11/5 2:30 - 5:30
- Monday 11/9 2:30 - 7:00
- Tuesday 11/10 CLOSED
- Wednesday 11/11 2:30 - 5:30
- Thursday 11/12 2:30 - 5:30
- Friday 11/13 2:30 - 5:30

Contact Tracy Ingersoll, Book Fair Coordinator, for more information: 562-0569 or tracy.ingersoll@verizon.net

