

## Greenbelt Elementary School

PTA Meeting, Jan. 6

### 1. President's Report:

- Many thank-you cards from classes, for Scholastic and Time magazines, for the puppet show, for the books received by the classes and for the fair.
- December Book Fair: Amy Hansen: We sold \$6,611 in books, \$1,700 off the cart, vouchers for \$1,000, \$500 in cash—over \$3,000 in profit! These numbers fall between the last two years' numbers. We use some of the scholastic money to buy books at a warehouse sale to provide books for each student.
- 50 umbrellas have been purchased for school.
- Assemblies - Blue Sky Puppets (Dec.), Reverb: a black history-themed presentation (Feb. 5),
- Reflections update: Our art show held—winners to be posted and sent to the state level competition.
- We have received a grant from Ingrid Turner to fund indoor/ outdoor field equipment. We still need to purchase a recess equipment container.
- Directories will be sent out very soon. Other donations have reduced cost outlay to PTA.
- We have chairs for the major events for the rest of the year:  
Events Committee: Matt Hall + Sue Belisle  
Spring Fair: Sue Belisle  
Multicultural Dinner: Matt Hall (need experienced co-chair??)  
Teacher Appreciation: Karen Lee  
Board Nominations: Melissa Sites

### 2. Principal's Report – Ms. Kimberly Seidel

- Thank you for the umbrellas to help us in our walking field trips—another good idea from PTA!
- Our K and Pre-K programs are working towards NAEYC (Nat'l Assoc. for the Education of Young Children) validation. Our classes will be judged in various areas like construction and curriculum. Donations to school are appreciated, like outlet covers, that will help in the cost of working towards this.
- Parents need to complete forms letting school know alternative transportation plans for their children. This should have come home in the Monday folder.
- April (after Spring Break) may be the date for our GES/ Greenbelt Middle School staff basketball game! This will provide a good opportunity to get parents into the MS to visit.

### 3. Treasurer's Report – Susan Breon

- \$43 collected from our fund-raising connection with Amazon.com. GES PTA receives from 4-10% of sales, depending on the quantity of purchases. GoodSearch.com also provides funding for us. In-school programming (Blue-Sky puppets) and our Reading Enhancement Program were two of the larger expenses.

PTA website can be accessed through the pgcps schools website (www.pgcps.org), under the schools tab, then under Greenbelt Elementary.

Or

[www.greenbelt.com/gespta](http://www.greenbelt.com/gespta)

4. Upcoming events, volunteers needed:
  - a. Events Committee Meeting – January 21, 7pm
  - b. Math/Science Night, grades 4-6 – January 28 Science experiments will be set up around the school, as well as “take-apart” stations, where students can see deconstructions of various technological items. *Parents are to attend with their children.* Contact Amy Hansen or Ms. Zanin (6<sup>th</sup> grade science) if you are interested in judging or volunteering.
  - c. Ice skating – February 7, 2:30-4:30pm – Wells Ice rink, College Park, \$5 per person (includes skate rental), flyers will be sent home next Monday.
  - d. TAG/Reading Night – February 10, testing at beginning of 1<sup>st</sup> grade, results received in Jan from TAG office. Any TAG magnet applications are due at this time. Only notices for those identified as TAG students will be sent.
  - e. Spring Fair – March 28 (Sat, 10 –2.) In the past, this fair has included games, face painting, bike rodeo, radar-gun measuring, etc! We need volunteers for publicity and to run the game stations.
  - f. PTA meeting/ board nominations – April 14 -*This is not the first Tues, our regular meeting time, but the second.*
  - g. PTA board election – May 5
  - h. Teacher Appreciation Week – May 4-8. Karen Lee will chair this committee. Sign-up sheet will be distributed.
  - i. Multicultural Dinner - May 13
  
5. Destination Imagination: guest speaker Christine Price, Regional Director of Destination Imagination, a Creative problem-solving organization working closely with the PG TAG office, serving the K through University level.
  - K-2<sup>nd</sup>: “Rising Stars” think outside the box, working in teams, using time management.
  - 3<sup>rd</sup>-Univ: Students compete March 7<sup>th</sup> (Amy Hansen is our GES team manager). Students choose one of several challenges, must work independently, must follow a budget... Multiple solutions are supported (and required!) Performance-based competitions require their solution to be integrated into a performed skit. Other challenges are only task-oriented. Also, Instant challenges require them to think on the spot and use teamwork.
  - PG county sent three school teams to the “Globals” competition.
  - We engage in a sample Instant Challenge for our meeting... Use supplied materials (2 sheets of newsprint and mailing labels) to build a structure that can support the small

stuffed animal provided. Points are awarded for height of structure, as well as for creativity and stability.

- The tournament this year is two months away, and competitors cannot be added at this point in the year. (There is a number rule of 2-7 children per competitive team). However, the rising stars teams do not compete and can include others during the year.
- Competitions are open to the public and will be held at Charles Flowers HS, in Springdale, MD. The program for this year will be posted in February on the website: [www.marylanddi.org](http://www.marylanddi.org) (central region). Look for challenges compiled and listed on the web (google (or Goodsearch): “instant challenge goldline”)