



PAWS ... for Thought

PTA Co-Presidents:
Asana Bowman + Melisa White

Principal: Kyle Giesler
Asst. Principal: Vicki Stasiak

The PTA Newsletter
Garrison Mill Elementary School
4111 Wesley Chapel Road
Marietta, GA 30062
(770) 642-5600

“Principal”ly Speaking

Kyle Giesler and Vicki Stasiak



We received great news from the State of Georgia this week! As a result of the assessments given last year, Garrison Mill earned the Platinum Award for outstanding student achievement. Only twenty-eight elementary schools across the State of Georgia achieved this designation. In order to receive this award, schools must meet the following requirements:

- Make Adequate Yearly Progress for 3 consecutive years
- At least 35% of students exceed standards in all test areas on state assessments
- At least 98% of students meet or exceed standards on state assessments.

This award is just another example of the efforts by this community (staff, parents, students, and businesses) that has set the standard of expecting and achieving excellence at Garrison Mill. Thank you for all that you do to make certain our students receive the highest quality education possible.

Keeping in the theme of achievement, I met with the staff the first day back and discussed how we are halfway through the school year. Even though we are at that point in the year, it is no time to “take our foot off the gas.” During this time of year, when the weather might be yucky or the sun goes down early, please help us encourage your children to focus on his/her studies so they can perform to their highest levels, no matter the activity (a practice worksheet or a major project). This accurate understanding of their learning, helps the staff meet each student where he or she might be in their learning. This can be hard in the winter, and we appreciate your support at home.

In other great news, I’m sure your students have talked about the new gym floor, and you saw pictures in the last issue of PAWS. Coach Bare and Mrs. Bass are extremely pleased with the quality of the floor. I know the students were very excited! We are looking for other ways to make some improvements to “finish off the gym.” Look for details in the future.

Finally, please remember to communicate with the teachers via written notes in the morning, if there are changes to afternoon transportation, club attendance, etc. Teachers do not always have an opportunity to check their email during the day. Therefore, email might go unread until it is too late. If you have an unplanned need to change transportation during the day, please contact the front office for assistance.

We have a lot of great events coming up in the next couple of months, please look through this issue of PAWS and the PTA calendar for details.

As always, I look forward to seeing you around Garrison Mill!

Kyle Giesler

Coming to Garrison Mill...



- 2/2 Talent Show Practice 2:30-3:30
- 2/3 Parent Workshop GM PTA ROOM 9:30am
- 2/4 County Science Fair and GMEF GALA 7-11pm
- 2/7 O’Charley’s Spirit Night 5-8pm
- 2/8 New Kindergarten Parent Meeting 10am
- 2/9 PTA Math Game Night 6:30pm
- 2/9 Talent Show Practice 2:30-3:30
- 2/13 Reading Night 6-8pm
- 2/13 GM Foundation Meeting 7pm
- 2/14 5th Grade Flower Sale
- 2/16 Progress Reports Go Home
- 2/17 Box Tops Due

Garrison Mill Elementary



everychild.onevoice.

“Building a Better World ...

One Student at a Time!”





Governor's Office of Student Achievement
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive SE, 952 Twin Towers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5080
404.463.1150 FAX: 404.463.1163

Bonnie Holliday
Executive Director

Nathan Deal
Governor

January 13, 2012

Bonnie Holliday
The Governor's Office of Student Achievement
205 Jesse Hill Jr. Drive, SE, Atlanta, GA 30334

Kyle Giesler
Principal, Garrison Mill Elementary School
4111 Wesley Chapel Rd, Marietta, GA 30062

Dear Principal Giesler:

It is my honor to congratulate Garrison Mill Elementary School as a winner in the 2011 Single Statewide Accountability System (SSAS) awards. Your hard work and that of your students, faculty, and community has earned your school a **platinum award** for outstanding student achievement.

The SSAS competition for a platinum award in the highest performance category is impressive. Schools must meet 3 criteria to be determined winners:

- a) Make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for 3 consecutive years;
- b) Demonstrate that at least 35% of students exceed standards in all test areas as measured by state assessments; and
- c) Demonstrate that at least 98% of students meet or exceed standards as measured by state assessments.

It takes the collaborative effort of teachers, principals, and parents working with students to reap this level of success, and I applaud your entire school community for this accomplishment. Garrison Mill Elementary School is one of only 28 elementary schools in the state of Georgia to receive this award for the 2010-2011 school year.

Congratulations on this notable accomplishment. I wish your school continued success and extend my best wishes to your entire community as we work together to build a more educated Georgia.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bonnie Holliday".

Bonnie Holliday
GOSA Executive Director



VISITORS REMINDER

**ALL Visitors Must Sign in at the front desk
and wear a Visitor Sticker**

***Lunch**

***Media Center**

***Class Helper**

***Escorting your child to a classroom**



PTA Day at the Capitol - February 28, 2012

Join PTA leaders, members and supporters and become more familiar with the legislative process and actively speak with legislators about education and children's issues. Develop and put your advocacy skills to work under the Gold Dome and over lunch with your state legislators. Let your voice for children be seen and heard. There is a cost associated with this program. If you would like to attend, please contact one of your PTA leaders or Stephanie Daniels, GMPTA Legislative Chair, and further details will be given.

stephanielandaniels@bellsouth.net

A Thank You Letter from a Family that was a recipient of the Giving Tree

"On behalf of myself and my four children, we want to thank these wonderful families for the most wonderful Christmas you all have allowed my family to have. We are so grateful for you to have thought about a family in need during this time...Thank you all so much for this blessing. Times are hard for us, you all gave us hope!"



It's Box Tops Time!

Check your pantries...

Check your freezers...

Your last chance to earn Box Tops cash for Garrison Mill this school year is coming up fast. Start sending your Box Tops in to your child's classroom. Clipping Box Tops helps the PTA pay for playground equipment, classroom supplies, cultural programs and much, much more.

Box Tops due February 17



CAMPBELL'S LABELS FOR EDUCATION

Campbell's *Labels for Education* is a program that helps schools obtain free educational merchandise and equipment in exchange for proofs of purchase collected from eligible Campbell brands. This includes **Campbell's® soups, Spaghettios® pasta, Pepperidge Farm® products, Swanson® broths, V-8® beverages and Prego® pasta sauce, BIC stationary products, Pop Secret, Post cereals, and NEW THIS YEAR Glad, Dannon, & Emerald.** Please turn in all of your pre-cut UPC codes and/or lids to the big Campbell's soup can in the front lobby of the school. For questions, please contact Hailey Simmons at haileysimmons@bellsouth.net.

ATTENTION KROGER SHOPPERS - LOG ONTO ELABELSFOR EDUCATION.COM!*

THIS IS AN EASY WAY EARN MORE POINTS!!! Once you register online, simply shop with your KROGER Rewards card and GM will begin earning points. Just remember to choose Garrison Mill as the school you would like to receive your *e-Labels for Education* points, or GM will not receive the points you earn. Even grandparents and family members in other cities and states can earn points and show support for our school!!



Send your child a
Valentines Day Card
through
Wee Deliver!

Deposit your card or letter in the Wee Deliver Mailbox located in the lobby by Wednesday, February 8th.

**Packages, candy-grams and/or
gifts will not be delivered.**

Be sure to stop by the Wee Deliver table at Math Night on February 9thth, and at

Reading Night on February 13th!

We Need HOPE!

Many Georgia families have planned on their children attending a Georgia college with the help of the HOPE Scholarship, but we seem to be losing hope for the future of this program. Gov. Deal launched the Zell Miller Scholarship last year to help assist qualified students, but thousands more students qualified this year for the scholarship than expected and the money isn't there. Commission president Tim Connell said that the scholarship agency may need to borrow against future Georgia Lottery revenue just to cover the cost this year. Will HOPE be able to survive for your children? Senator Buddy Carter said: "Hope is going to get worse before it gets any better."

What can you do? Contact your leaders and let them know your feelings towards HOPE!

Here is Chip Rogers contact information.

Chip@senatorchiprogers.com

www.senatorchiprogers.com

404-463-1378



"Thank you to all the boys who attended the annual Pinewood Derby last week! We had a great time and we had some amazing cars built this year. Please remember that the tree planting with Mabry Park has moved to Saturday, February 4th, at 9:30 a.m. We will meet in the Garrison Mill Parking lot to shuttle over to the park, so please remember to dress appropriately. Our next big event is the February 15th Pack Meeting at the Garrison Mill Elementary Cafe. We are meeting on Wednesday at 6:45 p.m., not Tuesday (Valentines Day), so please adjust your calendars. Remember, we are still taking sign ups for the Blue and Gold Banquet being held on February 26th, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. in the Garrison Mill Cafe. This year we are having a magician come to entertain us! We are also still taking sign ups for the Georgia Aquarium Sleepover on April 14th and 15th. Please contact either Robert Payne or Debbie Zaeffel for further information."

Food For Thought

We all want the best for our kids. Having access to the best education is probably at the top of our list. Studies confirm that what a child eats directly affects his/her ability to learn.

So why are we being passive when it comes to controlling what our child eats? Here is a true story:

"Judy" is a mom who makes an effort to feed her family nutritious meals that include whole foods and lots of fruits and vegetables. She would never describe herself as a "health nut", but takes pride in the effort she makes to curb junk food around the house. "Judy" sent her son "John" to school, having fed him a bowl of oatmeal, a handful of blueberries and a glass of lowfat milk. At 9:30, he received a piece of candy as a reward for some accomplishment in class. Later, he participated in school lesson that incorporated the use of candies, chocolates and marshmallows. He ate several pieces of these items as he completed the project. Around 11:00am, "John" went to the cafeteria where he chose strawberry milk and ate the brownie that came with the school lunch. He didn't have much room in his 2nd grade stomach to finish the chicken and vegetables left on his tray. About 10 minutes before lunch was over, a classmate's mother brought in a tray of heavily iced cupcakes to celebrate his classmate's birthday. Who says no to a cupcake, right? John had a hard time paying attention in class that afternoon and struggled with focus the rest of the day. (Hmmm...I wonder why?)

"John" rode the bus home and greeted his mom with a hug. Since it was Friday, his mom thought it would be fun to go out for ice-cream as a special treat. Do you think John told his mom about his food consumption that day? His mom had NO idea all the sugar "John" had consumed earlier- that school had offered him the opportunity to take in more than the maximum added sugar intake for the day. She assumed he ate the baked chicken and vegetable lunch the school offered on the menu!

Keep in mind, some studies show that 1 out of every 3 children born after the year 2000 will have diabetes and WE are doing this to them. ***Are you in charge of your child's nutritional health?*** Empower yourself! Become a part of the PTA Health and Wellness Committee. Contact Wendy Diaz ([windy from indy@yahoo.com](mailto:windy_from_indy@yahoo.com)), Cyndy Gay (cyndy.gay@gmail.com) or Misty Latham (lathammisty@hotmail.com)
Be WELL and be INVOLVED!

Come join us for SPIRIT NIGHT at
O'Charley's on February 7th
5-8pm



A PARENT WORKSHOP BY
GARRISON MILL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT AND PTA

TWEEN TALK WHAT TO EXPECT

DEALING WITH MINDS, BODIES, EMOTIONS,
INDEPENDENCE AND DISCIPLINE

PRESENTED BY
JENNIFER VANN, MS LMFT

WHEN : FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3
TIME: 9:30
LOCATION: GM PTA ROOM

JENNIFER HOLDS A MASTERS DEGREE IN FAMILY STUDIES,
SPECIALIZING IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY FROM THE
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY. SHE SPECIALIZES IN WORKING WITH
ADOLESCENTS, YOUNG ADULTS IN TRANSITION, AND FAMILY THERAPY.

CORNERSTONE FAMILY SERVICES,
2993 SANDY PLAINS ROAD,
770-910-2753

Top players and their trophy titles from our Fall Semester of KID CHESS

<u>1st hour</u>	<u>Student</u>	<u>Grade</u>
1st Grade Chess Champion	Evan Scherer	1st
2nd Grade Primary Chess Champion	Marc Wellman	2nd
2nd Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Connor Simmons	2nd
3rd Grade Chess Champion	Aidan Payne	3rd
3rd Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Kavya Patel	3rd
3rd Grade Blitz Chess Champion	Madelyn Buenger	3rd
4th Grade Bughouse Chess Champion	Christopher Wilkie	4th
4th Grade Chess Champion	Christian Scholar	4th
4th Grade Rookie Blitz Chess Champion	Brack Moultrie	4th
4th Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Austin Lee	4th
Class Chess Champion	Conrad Wellman	5th
5th Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Esra Sharif	5th
Sportsmanship Award	John Lackey	5th

<u>2nd hr</u>		
Kindergarten Chess Champion	Jason Wellman	OK
Class Chess Champion	Marc Wellman	2nd
2nd Grade Bughouse Chess Co-Champion	Colin Payne	2nd
3rd Grade Chess Champion	Aidan Payne	3rd
3rd Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Sam Howard	3rd
4th Grade Bughouse Chess Champion	Christian Scholar	4th
4th Grade Chess Champion	Madison Higgins	4th
5th Grade Chess Champion	Conrad Wellman	5th
5th Grade Rookie Chess Champion	Tripp Moultrie	5th
Sportsmanship Award	Christian Scholar	4th

For more information about chess at Garrison Mill Elementary please
call [770.575.5802](tel:770.575.5802) or visit www.kidchess.com.

The Garrison Mill Educational Foundation
would like to give you a sneak peek of Gala items.

February 4th, 2012

Olde Towne Athletic Club.

Announcements at 8pm.

Silent Auction closes at 9pm & 10pm.

Live Auction is at 9:15pm.

For more information and to purchase tickets please see www.gmafoundation.org.



Universal Orlando Package with hotel



Framed Miami Heat Autographed Pennant



Principal for half of a day
and lunch for a girl

Principal for half of a day
and lunch for a boy

And Many other Teacher
Treasures



Passes to local attractions



Autographed merchandise

Atlanta Hawks
VS
New York Knicks
tickets



LIVE Auction Vacations



Featuring our very own
Mr. McGill for music

Garrison Mill Educational Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization donating proceeds of the Gala back to GM.

Valentine's Day is Coming!

Valentine's Day is just around the corner—and so is Garrison Mill's Annual Flower Sale on Tuesday, February 14th! Carnations can be pre-ordered for \$1, and will be delivered to your child's favorite GM Teachers and Staff. Look for the order form to come home this week!



Valentine's Day Carnation Sale

Send flowers to your special teacher(s)
or staff member(s) on Valentine's Day!

Red and Pink Carnations \$1.00 each

All orders and payments must be received by
Wednesday, February 8th

K & 1st graders—flowers will be delivered to the child's classroom.

2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th graders—flowers need to be picked up by the students in the cafeteria. (Be sure to send a note with your child so he/she knows to whom the flowers are to be delivered.)

Make check payable to GMPTA (due February 8th)

Student _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____

of Carnations _____ x \$1.00 = \$ _____ Total

Elementary Lunch Menu February, 2012

Additional Fruit options, one offered daily:

Pineapple Tidbits, Mandarin Oranges, Peaches, Pears, Applesauce, Tropical Fruit Salad, Fruit Cocktail

Optional additional entrée: PBJ Sandwich w/ Cheese Stick

6. 1. (V) Cheese Stuffed Breadstick w/ Marinara Sauce
 2. BBQ Pork Sandwich
 3. *Caesar Chicken Strip Salad w/Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Caesar Salad w/ Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Caesar Side Salad, Corn, Green Beans, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cinnamon Apples

7. 1. Baked Breaded Chicken and Roll
 2. Soup and Sandwich
 3. (V) *Yogurt or Peanut Butter Fruit Plate (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Sweet Potato Soufflé or Sweet Potato Fries, Creamed Spinach, Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Peach Cup or Strawberry Cup

13. 1. Spaghetti w/ Pork Meat Balls and/or (V) Marinara Sauce w/ Breadstick
 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Breadstick
 3. *Caesar Chicken Strip Salad w/Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Caesar Salad w/ Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Corn, Green Beans, Caesar Side Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cinnamon Harvest Bread

14. 1. (V) Cheese Omelet w/ Glazed French Toast
 2. **Hamburger or **Cheeseburger
 3. (V) *Yogurt or Peanut Butter Fruit Plate (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Seasoned Fries or Tator Tots, Peas & Carrots, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Baked Georgia Peaches



Presidents Day

21. 1. Baked Breaded Chicken and Roll
 2. Soup and Sandwich
 3. (V) *Yogurt or Peanut Butter Fruit Plate (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Sweet Potato Soufflé or Sweet Potato Fries, Creamed Spinach, Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Peach Cup or Strawberry Cup

27. 1. Spaghetti w/ Pork Meat Balls and/or (V) Marinara Sauce w/ Breadstick
 2. Chicken Nuggets w/ Breadstick
 3. *Caesar Chicken Strip Salad w/Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Caesar Salad w/ Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Corn, Green Beans, Caesar Side Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cinnamon Harvest Bread

28. 1. (V) Cheese Omelet w/ Glazed French Toast
 2. **Hamburger or **Cheeseburger
 3. (V) *Yogurt or Peanut Butter Fruit Plate (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Seasoned Fries or Tator Tots, Peas & Carrots, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Baked Georgia Peaches

8. 1. Fish Sticks w/ Macaroni & Cheese and Combread
 2. Whole Grain Chicken Corn Dog w/Baked Chips
 3. *Chicken Tender Salad (Buffalo or Plain) with Multigrain Roll or (V) *Vegetarian Caesar Salad w/Multigrain Roll (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Collards, Peas and Carrots, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Orange Juice Bar

15. 1. (V) Whole Grain Cheesy Garlic Bread w/ Marinara Sauce
 2. (V) Mexican Quesadilla
 3. *Chef Salad or (V) *Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Baked Breaded Okra, Mashed Potatoes, Squash Casserole, Diced Tomatoes w/Lettuce, Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cherry Juice Bar

22. 1. Popcorn Shrimp w/Macaroni & Cheese and Combread
 2. Whole Grain Chicken Corn Dog w/Baked Chips
 3. *Chicken Tender Salad (Buffalo or Plain) with Multigrain Roll or (V) *Vegetarian Caesar Salad w/Multigrain Roll (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Collards, Peas and Carrots, Coleslaw, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Orange Juice Bar

29. 1. (V) Whole Grain Cheesy Garlic Bread w/ Marinara Sauce
 2. (V) Mexican Quesadilla
 3. *Chef Salad or (V) *Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Baked Breaded Okra, Mashed Potatoes, Squash Casserole, Diced Tomatoes w/Lettuce, Tossed Green Salad, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cherry Juice Bar

2. 1. Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Chicken Filet Sandwich
 2. Baked Potato w/ Beef and Cheese (V) Cheese only w/Breadstick
 3. *Taco Salad or (V) *Vegetarian Taco Salad (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, Baby Carrots, Sautéed Cabbage, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cookie



9. 1. Tacos: Beef and Cheese or (V) Cheese only
 2. **Deli Fresh Sandwich w/ Goldfish Pretzels
 3. *Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad w/Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Fruit Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Seasoned Black Beans, Refried Beans, Diced Tomato w/Lettuce, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Brownie

16. 1. Grilled Chicken Sandwich or Chicken Filet Sandwich
 2. Baked Potato w/ Beef and Cheese (V) Cheese only w/Breadstick
 3. *Taco Salad or (V) *Vegetarian Taco Salad (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, Baby Carrots, Sautéed Cabbage, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Cookie

23. 1. Nachos: Beef and Cheese or (V) Cheese only
 2. **Deli Fresh Sandwich w/ Goldfish Pretzels
 3. *Grilled Chicken & Fruit Salad w/Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Fruit Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Seasoned Black Beans, Refried Beans, Diced Tomato w/Lettuce, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Brownie

3. 1. (V) Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza w/ Breadstick
 2. Chicken Wrap
 3. *Power Pack or (V) *Vegetarian Power Pack (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Collards, Baked Beans, Veggie Dippers Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Fruit Fiesta

10. (V) Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza w/ Breadstick
 2. Baked Potato w/Beef and Cheese (V) Cheese only w/Breadstick
 3. *Tuna Salad w/ Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, Glazed Carrots, Cucumbers & Friends, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Fruit Fiesta

17. 1. (V) Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza w/ Breadstick
 2. Chicken Wrap
 3. *Power Pack or (V) *Vegetarian Power Pack (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Collards, Baked Beans, Veggie Dippers Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Fruit Fiesta

24. 1. (V) Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni Pizza w/ Breadstick
 2. Baked Potato w/Beef and Cheese (V) Cheese only w/Breadstick
 3. *Tuna Salad w/ Crackers or (V) *Vegetarian Chef Salad w/Crackers (▲May Choose up to 3)
 Broccoli w/Cheese Sauce, Glazed Carrots, Cucumbers & Friends, Fresh Fruit, †100% Juice, Fruit Fiesta



Fresh Fruits & Vegetables served daily.

A vegetarian menu selections is also offered daily.



Milk is available at all meals. Milk selections are 1% fat or lower, all flavored milk is fat free.



Pasta, pizza crust and most bread selections are whole grain.

Lunch Prices:
 Students \$1.65
 Reduced \$0.40
 Adults \$2.75

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

*Choose only one side.

**Offer sliced lettuce & tomato as additional side.

Contains pork.

†100% Juice provides 300 mg. calcium, 25% daily requirement of Vitamin D and 100% vitamin C. **NOTE:** Market conditions and/or availability of food may require changes in menus. Also, menus may occasionally vary at local schools due to special events.

▲Schools may offer 2 of the 3 vegetable choices.