

# 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



Dear Garrison Mill Families:

I'll be honest. I have been searching the web for topics for the December PAWS newsletter and have come across some interesting topics. Some are the traditional relating to the holidays while others are about people's generosity during this season. While I pondered the stories on generosity, I was taken aback when I realized someone could write a story of the family and community generosity of Garrison Mill!

Right outside the office door stands boxes upon boxes of canned goods for M.U.S.T. ministries. I am not exaggerating when I say there must be at least 1200 cans. Student Council made it a goal to collect these goods for ones less fortunate than us. When the truck pulled up the driver couldn't believe how our school collected so much.

Or take for instance the wish items that hung from our Giving Tree. Our own little elves took it home, and with family members went out and made some child's life from our sister school of Milford Elementary a little bit brighter.

For the Garrison Mill community, generosity also takes the form of volunteerism. Our PTA, Foundation, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc., have grown and flourished because you care. This has so many positive ramifications for your child and those of others. It teaches our children about what builds character and citizenship. It inspires other families and individuals to give of themselves.

So I conclude this letter by thanking you, the families and community of Garrison Mill for helping support and raise children who will know what responsibility is toward its fellow man. Mr. Giesler and I send you our best wishes for a wonderful, safe, holiday season.

Vicki Stasiak

### Coming to Garrison Mill...



- 12/14 Cloud 9 Contest Ends
- 12/15 Chick-Fil-A Toys for Tots Night
- 12/17 Family Fitness Night 7-8pm
- 12/20 Spelling Bee 9:15am
- 12/21 Holiday Parties & 12/22
- 12/22 End of 2nd 9 Weeks
- 12/23 thu 1/9 Winter Holiday Break
- 1/10 Students Return to School
- 1/12 Honoring our Heroes Begin
- 1/12 Report Cards Go Home
- 1/13 Café GM/Spirit Day
- 1/16 MLK Holiday (NO SCHOOL)
- 1/17 Foundation Meeting 7pm

Garrison Mill Elementary



everychild. one voice.

“Building a Better World ...

One Student at a Time!”



## *Greyhound Guidance Help Your Child Strive for Perfect Attendance*

Research shows that the single most important factor contributing to student achievement is school attendance.

A student who is absent from school may be able to copy missed notes. However, other important aspects of the lessons are lost forever.

Absent students miss out on discussion, raised questions, explanations and much more. Students fall behind and sometimes never recover.

To support good school attendance:

- **Talk with your child** about the importance of attending school regularly.
- **Avoid scheduling family trips** or doctor appointments during school hours.
- **Make sure your student eats healthy foods** and gets enough sleep and exercise.
- **Don't accept excuses** for why your child "must" miss or be late for school.
- **Discuss what happened at school** each day.
- **Support school rules and consequences** for skipping class and being tardy.

**Provide incentives for improving** school attendance and promptness.

Brought to you by Garrison Mill Counselors  
Mrs. Ofiara and Mrs. Miller

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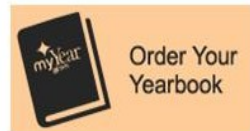


## 2011-2012 GM YEARBOOK

Order Your Yearbook Today!

**Don't miss out on  
GM memories!**

**Yearbook Price: \$25**



**Don't be left out!  
Reserve your copy  
TODAY!**

Order forms in school lobby.  
Make checks payable to GMPTA.

Give the Gift of GM Spirit wear this  
Holiday Season



Don't let your child be left out in the cold this winter without a way to show their school spirit! At only \$10, we have our **hot pink** "bling" short sleeve t-shirts for girls and our vintage GM short sleeve t-shirts in **charcoal gray**. For the cooler temperatures, we have warm and toasty GM gray or pink hooded sweatshirts for \$18, plus our light blue zip hoodies for only \$22. Adult sizes are available as well, so pick one up for yourself!

There are 2 ways to buy GM Spirit wear. Every Monday and Thursday, you or your student can purchase GM t-shirts and sweatshirts at the School Store OR by sending an email to Laura Schwartz at [lesred72@yahoo.com](mailto:lesred72@yahoo.com).



### **\*\*\*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](mailto: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!!



Thank you for supporting the Art Department through your orders for Square 1 Art. The products were delivered the week of November 14<sup>th</sup> and sent home with your child. We hope you were pleased with your products.

Please contact  
Lisa Baraji ([lbaraji@earthlink.net](mailto:lbaraji@earthlink.net)) or  
Tracy Brown ([yanobrown@bellsouth.net](mailto:yanobrown@bellsouth.net)) with  
any questions or concerns.



## **Wee Deliver**

As you know our fabulous crew of postal workers love Wee Deliver! The children love the whole process and we need your help to keep them busy when they come in to sort and deliver the mail.

With the holidays upon us, here are a few reasons that your children can send holiday cards, letters of thanks and/or appreciation:

- To their teachers!
- To their friends!
- To their book buddies!

To the wonderful support staff at Garrison Mill! Media Center, Cafeteria, Front Office, Counselors, Nurse Bonnie!

Of course you can always just send your child a note to tell them you love them or perhaps give a teaser about the upcoming holiday vacation! (Or perhaps you have a teacher, PTA or other support staff member you'd like to wish happy holidays to?)

Drop off your letters in the front lobby in the blue mailbox and they will be delivered on Thursday by our fabulous Wee Deliver Crew. If you don't know your child's room address there will be a listing of address by teacher in the front lobby.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact either:

Kim Ayers at [bella@alphastamps.com](mailto:bella@alphastamps.com)

Or

Monica Helmly at [m\\_helmly@yahoo.com](mailto:m_helmly@yahoo.com)

Thank you!



## Garrison Mill Educational Foundation GALA Priority Tickets are now available!!!

2012 Greyhound GALA  
Saturday, February 4, 2012  
Olde Towne Athletic Club  
7:00-11:00

Heavy hors d'oeuvres, dessert, tea and cash bar  
Live & Silent Auction and Raffles

By buying GALA Priority tickets by December 21<sup>st</sup> you will receive:

- A discounted price of \$30 (\$35 after Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> and \$45 at door)
- A raffle ticket (one per family) for one of our Big Raffles at the GALA
- A ticket for your child(ren) to get ice cream in the cafeteria

Two ways to purchase your tickets:

- Buy online at [www.gmefoundation.org](http://www.gmefoundation.org) (make sure at checkout you enter your child(ren)'s names and teacher in the proper box)
- Print and complete the form on the website and return it to school with your child. **Make check out to GMEF and label envelope 2012 GMEF Gala (include your check and form)**

Have questions? Please contact Sue Larson [slarson40@gmail.com](mailto:slarson40@gmail.com) or Alice Wasson [amwasson@bellsouth.net](mailto:amwasson@bellsouth.net)

**\*\*Teacher GALA Ticket Fund Option – With your support, we hope that GALA tickets for all teachers & staff will be funded at 100%! This option is listed on the website and on the printed ticket form (available online).**

THANKS TO OUR GALA SPONSORS!



Mary Ann Bishop



## More Winners for 2011 Reflections!

Due to an accidental oversight, six Reflections winners were not included with the initial list of winners. The follow students placed at the school level:

3rd grade - Abigail Apple - Visual Arts - 2nd place

3rd grade - MacKenzie Warnick - Visual Arts - 3rd place

4th grade - Kate Moseley - Literature - 3rd place

5th grade - Nathan Janes - Film - 2nd place

5th grade - Naomi Simmons - Film - 3rd place

5th grade - Anna Hurst - Literature - 3rd place

Also, a huge congratulations to the four Garrison Mill students who placed at the county level! These students will go onto the State level of judging:

Dance Choreography - 2nd Grade - Emily Kay

Film Production - 2nd Grade - Delaney Williams

Literature - 2nd Grade - Vedika Mahadevan

Photography - 3rd Grade - Grace van Breda

All Reflections entries, except for those four that are going onto the State level, will be returned to students via their homeroom teachers before the Winter Break.

## Happy Holidays to the Pack 471 Family!

As we slow down our events for the holidays, here are a couple of reminders of upcoming events in January:

January 10th will be our next pack meeting. The theme will be Pack 471 Campfire! All dens will be submitting a skit or song like we saw at Fall Family camping with our own 'campfire' on stage in the Garrison Mill Cafeteria.

January 21st is Race Day! Join us at 1:00 p.m. in the GM Cafeteria for the annual Pinewood Derby event. Remember to have your cars weighed and checked in starting Thursday and Friday January 19th and 20th with Greg Ingram. The Saturday prior to the race, January 14th, we will have a car building workshop. We will have adult volunteers to help out with cutting, sanding, shaping and pretty much everything except paint. So if this is your first year building a car, then join us on the 14th. We will have information on the website for the addresses and time for both the weigh-ins and the workshop.

Pack 471 also wants to thank all of the scouts who worked extra hard this last month to earn \$1.00 to contribute towards the bicycle and helmet that the Pack purchased on behalf of a needy child. All of you have contributed to giving one lucky child a very merry Christmas this year. Thank you.

Have a safe and happy holiday season and we will see you in January!

## Star Giving Tree

What a beautiful sight to see all those gifts by the tree in the mornings. I really thought it would be a tough year because of the economy, but again, there are no stars left on the tree! I am so thankful to be in a school with such giving people. Thank you for teaching your children what it means to think of others and to give to those who are in need. You and your children gave many families a holiday that they would NOT have had without your thoughtfulness. From the bottom of my heart, thank you!

Thank you to Tammy Wilhelm for helping with a lot of the preparation and behind the scenes work, and to Tammy, Melisa White & Joanne Prince for helping collect, sort and deliver the gifts. You ladies ROCK! A special thank you to Joanne Prince for donating our new, lighted tree. The kids loved seeing it all lit up.

Congratulations and thank you to all of Garrison Mill on creating a beautiful holiday for so many people. We're a great team! I hope your homes were filled with joy and your hearts filled with love for the holidays! Happy New Year! I'll see you again in October!



Once again the Garrison Mill students welcomed their Grandparents and Special friends to our annual Luncheon.

During the three day event 2,762 people enjoyed a pre-Thanksgiving meal in our very own cafeteria.

A big thank you goes out to our volunteers and GM Staff who helped pull-off this event! There are 37 roles to fill each day and we could not have done it without you!

#### Volunteers:

Stephanie Langmaid, Courtney Rhue, Valarie Phillips, Molly Bower, Laura Singletary, Teresa Shera, Teisha Mosely, Indu Subramanian, Leslie Perdomo, Melissa McCabe, Christine Navalta, Susan Parker, Sandra Cathy, Debbie Karp, Renae James, Stephanie Daniels, Jerri Palumbo, Renee Brown, Katy Harper, Monica Helmy, Shwetha Kumar, Marlen Quiroz, Sandy Olsen, Michelle Kay, Kelly Thompson, Michelle Kolker, Ginger Wallis, Terri O'Shea, Nina Lempert, Mary Carpenter, Jodi Kean Stacy Hurst, Laura Schwartz, Shannon Reed, Nancy Lee, Laura Milham, Jennie Anderson, Shelley Fisher, Helen Forbes, Amy Earnest, Margaret Fauss, Joanne Prince, Kim Sims, Melanie Staus, Beth Poplaski, Tammy Wilhelm, Nicole John Christy Parker, Mary Carpenter, Shari Eggart, MK Trichell, Susan Parker, Teri Singer, Shelly Kelly, Renate Trussell, Jennifer Payne, Melinda McGuire, Katie Dickerson,

Lori, Garcia, Mary Butler, Beth Anderson, Beth Buchweitz,

Michelle Witte, Julie Miner,  
Jennifer Halloran, Erin Callahan,  
Melisa White, Asana Bowman,  
Cyndy Gay, Suzanne Whitkin,  
Laura Wamick, Katrina Lee



Best regards, - The Committee Chairs:

Judith Gentry, Natalie Dalton, Carrie Stribling

# GM Families & Friends



Say Turkey

## Luncheon Snap-Shots



# GM Families & Friends



## Luncheon Snap-Shots



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## Luncheon Snap-Shots



**Elementary Lunch Menu**  
**January, 2012**

No School



10. 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

17. 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

23. 1. 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

24. 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

30. 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

31. 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

11. 1. Fish Sticks w/ Macaroni & Cheese and Cornbread  
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

18. 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

25. 1. Popcorn Shrimp w/Macaroni & Cheese and Cornbread  
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

12. 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

19. 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

26. 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

13. Pizza, Cheese or Pepperoni 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

20. 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

27. 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."

**Brrr...it's cold!**  
**Warm up with some Soup!**  
**January is National Soup Month**



\*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.

**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