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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

June 2010

It's June already?!?!? It is hard to believe that we are closing in on the end of this school year.

In addition, the Board continues to work with Mrs. Wingfield and the faculty to find other items that the PTA can purchase to benefit the school.

A HUGE thank you to Laine Maiolino and Suzanne Stricker for planning a fantastic Teacher Appreciation Week. All of the teachers raved about the week -- Gator Beach was a huge hit!!!!

Another HUGE thank you to Joyce Hedish and all of the Carnival Planning committee. As I have said, "Many hands make light work." The Carnival Planning committee organized a great afternoon in only 6 weeks (including Spring Break). Other PTA presidents with whom I have spoken were simply amazed at how the committee was able to organize and execute a carnival in such a short time frame.

As I have said at past PTA meetings and in previous letters in the Gazette, volunteers are the lifeblood of the PTA. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered time this past school year on behalf of the PTA. I know the faculty appreciates the assistance and the kids absolutely love to have parents or grandparents come to the school to help. If you have not had an opportunity to volunteer, please take the time to do so next year. At the beginning of next year, you will receive a letter from the PTA Volunteer Coordinator about the many ways you can help -- any amount of time is helpful.

Speaking of volunteers -- the PTA Board is still looking for a representative for the Henrico County Council. If you are interested in the position, please let me know and I can pass along information regarding the job description and duties.

Also, on the volunteer front, the Gayton PTA is looking into possibly establishing a WATCH D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program,

which is the father involvement initiative of the National Center for Fathering that organizes fathers and father figures in order to provide positive male role models for the students and to enhance school security. Other elementary and middle schools in the area have such a program. Typically, fathers (or father figures) commit one day a year to assist at the school. If this program is implemented, the program will need a TOP DOG to organize the schedule. Be on the lookout for more information.

In closing, I want to give my thanks once again everyone who has worked on the PTA Board with me over the last two years. The PTA cannot be successful without having wonderful volunteers and I was incredibly lucky to work with some great people on the Board -- my job was made very easy by all of the time and effort put in by the other members of the Board. Many of these terrific people will be serving you again next year. I wish next year's PTA much success.

I hope everyone survives the rush of the end of the school year. Have a fantastic (and safe) summer. See you next year!

Frank Lynch

[flynch10@verizon.net](mailto:flynch10@verizon.net)

270-0688



## PRINCIPAL'S LETTER

June 2010

Dear Gayton Family:

Thanks to each of you for your help and support throughout the year. Excellent teaching and learning set the tone for an awesome school year. Working together we accomplished wonderful things for our students and community.

Congratulations and best wishes to our fifth grade boys and girls who will be going to middle school next year! We will miss you, but know that each of you have many wonderful memories to take with you. We wish you lots of success in middle school, and...remember, "Once a Gator, always a Gator." If you have to ask yourself if it's the "right" thing to do, you've already gotten your answer!

Through our NBA (No Bullies Allowed) Club, our young "Gators" learned much about themselves as well as how to get along with each other! Our awesome PTA provided their talents and time to ensure an exceptionally fun-filled Spring Carnival. "Get Amped Up" provided our Gators an opportunity to bring their parents out for a night of fun with our Resource Teachers in art, reading phys. Ed., and music activities.

Other memorable activities this year included raising over \$1,200 for the Christmas Mother; approximately \$11,00 for Jump Rope for Heart; and \$1,600 for Pennies for Patients., tremendous participation in the Reflections program, an overwhelming (and humbling) recognition of our teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week, etc. etc. etc.! What a giving group of Gayton citizens! Thank you all so much for a wonderful year.

Plans for our Gators this summer include trips to the beach, the pool, visiting with family in Greece, Egypt, Brazil, etc. Please remember to put the library on your agenda, too! It is so important for you to continue to read each day.

I hope each of you has a relaxing, safe and enjoyable summer vacation. I look forward to having the opportunity to work with you and your children again next year.

Sincerely,

Peggy C. Wingfield  
Principal

## Upcoming Special Dates

June 8:	Spirit Night at Ray's
June 17:	5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation and Party
June 18:	Last Day of School Half-Day

## Clinic Corner

### **Lost and Found**

All students will be given a chance to look through the lost and found the last week of school. All unclaimed items will be donated to charity on Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>. To prevent future losses, please be diligent in putting your child's name on all coats, jackets, sweatshirts, and lunchboxes. Thank you!

### **Medication in the Clinic – End of Year Procedures**

The end of the year is here! All medication in the clinic will need to go home by the last day of school. Henrico County Public School policy strongly recommends that medication not be sent home with a child; a parent will need to pick-up medication from the clinic. Any medication remaining in the clinic after 11:00 am on June 18<sup>th</sup> will be disposed of that afternoon.



## Treasurer's Report

The Gayton PTA has had another very successful year. The Gator Giving Fund raised approximately \$12,500. The Book Fair generated \$1000 in Scholastic Dollars for Mrs. Hedrick to use for book purchases. The Spring Carnival netted approximately \$7200. The Take Your Family to School Night was a lot of fun. The PTA Board just approved money (\$3500) to upgrade the aging sound system in the multipurpose room. Here are other ways that we assisted the school:

- Science Place programs -- \$4825 (8 programs were sponsored by the PTA in 2009-10). Grade levels 3 and 5 (SOL grades) were scheduled for two programs each.
- Teacher classroom fund - \$7300
- Room Parent fund - \$2600
- Teacher Appreciation Week - \$600
- Reflections - \$236
- Chick-Fil-A Character Education program - \$485
- No Bullying Allowed program - \$450
- George Moody Scholarship contribution - \$200
- Hospitality - \$1,100
- Building Better Readers newsletter - \$199
- Discovery Lab - \$400
- SOL Pass subscription - \$200
- Scantron Grading System - \$430
- Aesthetics/Beautification - \$300
- Dare Program - \$535
- Red Communication Folders - \$644
- PE and Playground supplies - \$1000
- St. John's Church visit-4th and 5th grades - \$700
- 5th grade party contribution - \$100
- AR books and tests - \$1500



## Spring Carnival 2010

The Spring Carnival was a wonderful success. Everyone had a great time. We raised \$7,230.00 for the PTA. We will be upgrading the multipurpose room sound system, providing AR books and AR tests for the library, and other educational tools the teachers have requested. A great big thank you to all of the volunteers that made the carnival possible. Many of you volunteered on committees, worked booths, and donated cakes and auction items. This was truly a big team effort. I am looking forward to the Gayton Team support next year as PTA President.

Joyce Hedish

## Gayton SCA Report

Our last SCA sponsored activity of this school year was to collect and donate loose change to the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Change collection boxes were sent home with Gayton students on a Monday and when the boxes were returned just four days later, the grand total was \$1,674.99 in donations. We want to thank all of our Gayton Gators and their families for assisting us with this worthy cause.

## Box Tops for Education

Box Tops Are STILL Blasting up!

Thank you all for your continued support of our Box Tops Program. To date we have collected more than 18,238 Box Tops (we are still counting!) We have a few classes that need to be recognized for their efforts. Ms. Shults and Mrs. Meals have both earned the Fourth Prize: Free Popsicles at Recess! Lots of classes have earned the Third Prize of Extra 10 minutes of Recess and they are Mrs. Ream's class, Mrs. Darden's class, Mrs. Dunn's class, Ms. Berdux's class, Ms. Levy's class and Ms. Fisher's class. Thanks for all that you do! Keep collecting Box Tops this summer so we have lots in the fall!

## 2010-2011 PTA Board

President – Joyce Hedish  
 Treasurer – Jen Harper  
 Secretary – Stacy Smyth  
 VP of Ways and Means – Renee Chandler  
 VP of Programs – Melissa Mayhew  
 VP of Membership – Tracy Ingersoll  
 VP of Communications – Lee West  
 Lay Advisory – Christy Nemeyer  
 County Council Rep – OPEN

If you are interested in volunteering to help the Gayton PTA, contact any Board Member today!

## Reflections Program

### Reflections Update – Getting ready for 2010-2011

The theme for the 2010 - 2011 Reflections competition is "**Together We Can**". The annual Reflections program is one of the best hands-on activities for kids at Gayton Elementary sponsored by the PTA. Each child is challenged and encouraged to produce an original, artistic entry via **literature, music composition, photography, visual art, dance choreography or film/video production**. The most imaginative interpretation of the theme, "**Together We Can**", through any one of these mediums is the object of the program.

The children, while working on their own Reflections entry, will experience several good practices of learning applicable for their school lessons in other subjects.

1. They will **set** their own goal.
2. They **direct** and **do** all necessary processes to reach their goal.
3. They **learn** to value themselves in reaching the goal.
4. They **learn** to stick with the activity until the goal is completed.
5. They **discover** their own 'voice' and standards of knowledge.
6. They **develop** communication skills in expressing what they need in the way of time, space and materials to realize their ideas.

Adults need to stick close to the children to give them the time and the space, as well as help out providing materials for the realization of the child's idea. These adults may be parents, teachers, mentors or any one who wants to help children succeed.

To receive further information or specific rules and the parameters of each of the six art mediums, contact Flo Quick, your PTA Reflections chairperson at floquick1@yahoo.com or www.vapta.org. Visit the Reflections Gallery to see current and past year winners at the Virginia and National levels.

I will share the deadline date when we return to school in September for turning in your child's completed Reflections entry. The Reflections committee will then take on the job of selecting judges and recognizing all the children's accomplishments. This judging and recognition will begin at the local school level, then the top entry in each of four age groupings in each of the six arts areas moves on to the Council level, then to the District level, to the State level and finally to the National PTA level.

So kids, keep a creative eye out this summer for how you might create your unique entry for the Reflections competition because "**Together We Can**" have the best year's competition yet!