



Contents

[President's Letter](#)

[Principal's News](#)

[Lay Advisory News](#)

[Special Olympics](#)

[Carnival](#)

[Move Your Feet So Others Can Eat](#)

[Jump Rope for Heart](#)

[Fourth Grade Happenings](#)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

March 2010

It's hard to believe that Spring is already here. Several weeks ago, we were buried under lots of snow. Even though you have not heard much from me lately, the PTA is still hard at work!!! We have a lot to share and some additional communications via email and student folders.

The Nominating Committee is working diligently to find interested parents to serve on the PTA Board and various committees next year. Go to http://www.gaytonpta.com/board_members.html to see all of the positions. Further, please be on the lookout for a more detailed letter from me about the upcoming elections in April. Getting involved in the PTA is a wonderful way to see the day to day activities at the school and to appreciate the partnership between the faculty and the PTA. If anyone has any questions about serving on the PTA, please let me know.

Please mark April 23rd on your calendars - its Carnival Time again!!! We've hit a little bump in the road with some of the planning for the Carnival. Be on the lookout for more information from me and other Board members. We will need lots of volunteers to ensure that the Carnival runs smoothly.

Since the last Gazette, we've had some great programs - the Fourth grade chorus serenaded the audience with some great holiday tunes, the First grade reminded us of the importance of sharing, the Third graders took the audience on a amazing trip through the past and the resource teachers (Mrs. Roye, Ms. Batalo, and Mrs. Wright) put together a great activity night - I was certainly AMP'd when I left!

A huge Gayton Thank You should go out to the following folks:

Peggy Berkley - for assisting with the planning of the Let's Get AMP'd Night with the resource teachers.

Tracy Ingersoll - for organizing the Book Fair

Mrs. Hedrick and Mrs. Holland - for the use of the Library for the Book Fair.

Leslie Hagman and Libby Gordon - for being so "hospitable" and organizing the monthly teacher luncheons - the teachers love being so well-fed!

All the parent volunteers - for helping in the classroom and at the Book Fair.

Lastly, Teacher Appreciation Week will be coming soon. Suzanne Stricker and Laine Maiolino are in charge this year. I think we all know how much our Gayton teachers mean to us and how much they do for our children. Now it's time to show how much we appreciate them. 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

March 2010

Dear Gayton "Family":

I know everyone is counting the days 'til Spring! We have all certainly had our fill of winter weather and will be happy to see some warm days.

Congratulations to Mrs. Jen Berdux, Gayton's Teacher of the Year. Visitors to her classroom see enthusiasm and a love of teaching the "whole" child. As co-sponsor of our SCA, Mrs. Berdux has recently headed up our efforts to help needy children in Haiti by asking students to do chores at home and donating their money to this worthy cause.

A special thank you to all of our volunteers and other teachers who like Mrs. Berdux give so much of their time, energy, and talents to Gayton. Without your help it would be impossible to deliver the quality of education that our children deserve and get each day. A great big "THANK YOU!" is due to Mrs. Wright and her parent volunteers who helped our students raise over \$10,000 at our "Jump For Heart" in February!

Thanks, too, to Mrs. Sallie Smith and our wonderful PTA who has made it possible for our students to experience enrichment opportunities outside of the classroom. Our students are so excited and anxious to start!

Once the warm weather begins, teachers will be reminding our boys and girls of the dress code. For safety reasons, students are not allowed to wear flip-flops to school; shorts must be at least a "thumb's" length long.

Please mark your calendars for the following special dates:

- April 5-9 Spring Break
- April 22 Report Cards go home
- April 19 PTA Volunteer Breakfast
- April 23 Spring Carnival
- April 27 Kindergarten Registration
- April 30 Field Day (Rain or shine)
- May 28 Memory Books distributed
- June 7 SOL/HATS assessment
- June 17 5th grade Assembly and party
- June 18 1/2 day— Last Day of School!

In the coming weeks, Mrs. Clary and I will be gathering information from your child's present teacher for placement purposes for next year. This is a detailed process that takes into consideration the learning strengths and needs of each student and matches these with a learning environment considered to be the most appropriate. You are welcome to share information about your child if you feel there is something additional that we need to know. I would appreciate you putting your thoughts in writing and placing them in either Mrs. Clary's or my mailbox (in the office) by June 1. Thank you for refraining from requesting a particular teacher.

I love being here at Gayton with your sons and daughters—watching them grow and learn! I always appreciate your thoughts and kind words...thanks, too, for your continued support!

Sincerely,

Peggy C. Wingfield
Principal

LAY ADVISORY UPDATE

Did you know that important discussions are currently underway in the Henrico County School Board -- and the PTA Lay Advisory Committee -- about the HCPS middle school laptop initiative and the HCPS math curriculum (especially, the issue of transitioning to a new standard of all 8th graders taking Algebra 10)? These issues directly affect HCPS middle schoolers -- but Gayton parents, your child will be a middle schooler soon enough! If you're interested in knowing more about these issues -- or have an opinion on them that you want conveyed -- contact Karen Rader (Gayton's Lay Advisory Representative) @ 364-0150 or karen_rader@hotmail.com.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Gayton Gators have you heard the news? The Olympics will be coming to Henrico County soon and competing and representing Gayton Elementary School will be some of your very own peers!

The Special Olympics, a year-round sports training and competition program for persons with disabilities has once again been awarded a grant from The Department of Education to fund Project UNIFY. Project UNIFY's mission is to build communities where young people both with and without disabilities are encouraged to engage and interact with one another in environments that promote acceptance and inclusion for all. Special Olympics Virginia was awarded a Project UNIFY grant to focus on the development of Special Olympics programs in Henrico County Schools. There are two major goals of the project: 1) to involve all elementary age Henrico County Public School students with disabilities in Special Olympics, and 2) to educate students without disabilities about the value of people with disabilities by building communities of acceptance and inclusion.

Henrico County teachers have been encouraged to promote Project UNIFY by including in their curriculums a track and field sports component. Students with disabilities have been selected to train alongside their non-disabled school peers to participate in a track and field sporting event known as the "Little Feet Meet" on Friday, April 23 at Douglas Freeman High School. The hours are from 9:00am to 1:00 pm. The "Little Feet Meet" will feature athletes in age appropriate track demonstration events for grades K-2, and competitive track events for grades 3-5. Preschool students will be able to participate in the Young Athletes stations.

Here at Gayton Elementary Mrs. Hall our Exceptional Education teacher and Mrs. Mary Ann Wright our physical education teacher have been working hard with 5 of our fifth grade Friendly Helpers to train four of our best special athletes for the upcoming meet. Gayton Elementary will have athletes competing in such events as the 50- meter Walk/Run, the 25-meter Walk/Run, the 25-meter Assisted Walk, and the tennis and softball throws. Athletes will be awarded ribbons for competition and participation. It will be a day of fun, excitement, inclusion, and acceptance for all participants. The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend. Please consider coming out to Freeman High School on Friday, April 23 and cheering on our athletes as they go for the gold while building communities of acceptance and inclusion for all.

SPRING CARNIVAL 2010

Come one, come all to the 2010 Gayton Elementary Spring Carnival! The date for the carnival is April 23, 2010 and it will be an event not to be missed! If you would like to help with the event, please visit the [Gayton PTA](#) website and click on the link that leads you to the Volunteer Sign-Up page to choose a volunteer shift. If you have any questions regarding volunteers, please contact Renee Chandler at renee.chandler@verizon.net. Pre-sales for tickets will start soon online so check the website often! Hope to see you at the carnival!

MOVE YOUR FEET SO OTHERS CAN EAT!

Do you remember way back in November when we collected cans of food for the Central Virginia Foodbank. The students ran laps on the track and turned in cans of food for every lap. Our Gayton Gators did a fantastic job! This year Gayton contributed 3,794 pounds of food. How awesome!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART

Gayton Elementary is raising funds for the American Heart Association to fight against our nation's # 1 and #3 killers - cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Collection began Jan. 15 and ends with the Jump Rope for Heart event on Feb. 10 at 3:15 in the MPR. This event helps students learn about the benefits of regular physical activity and heart health. AHA is dedicated to helping people live longer, healthier lives. The money we raise helps people in our community learn how to avoid heart disease and stroke and also helps our local patient care. Last year we collected over \$13,000 to give to the AHA.

JRFH is a fun event that helps our children understand the importance of community service and physical activity. The money contributed will fund research that will save more lives each year . . . maybe your own or that of someone in your family.

Our Goal this year is \$10,000. If the goal is reached there is a surprise awaiting the students on February 12, 2010 at our spirit assembly. Will Gayton reach its goal? We shall see very soon!

Fourth Grade Happenings

Hey, have you heard about a new camp offering for fourth graders? It is Camp Write-A-Lot and it is sponsored by the Gayton fourth grade team. The week long camp begins in February and concludes in March just before the Fourth Grade Writing Predictor Test. This year's campers were treated to many fun, writing activities. They wrote and shared stories about hiking, an animal in the room and a person they admire. Stories were shared in the hallway cave, as well as the classroom tent. The camper created stories using terrific composition, style and mechanics. Each cabin was, also, able to mix with other campers during Mess Hall math - problem solving fun in the cafeteria. Camp fun came to end with stories, songs and s'mores by the "camp fire." A great time was had by all!! So hurry and reserve your spot for Camp Write-A-Lot for next year. (Only fourth graders need to apply).

