



# Germantown Hills Elementary School Newsletter

Volume: 1

Issue: 1

Date: September 2021

## *A Note from Dr. Nafziger*

Welcome Back!

It's such a privilege to welcome you all back to school this year! The children have all transitioned rather quickly to being back at school with their friends. GHES is an awesome place to learn and grow!

The faculty and staff are gearing up for a great school year and we look forward to sharing all things newsworthy with you in the first ever Germantown Hills Elementary School Newsletter. It's our goal, within this newsletter, to provide you with the most up to date information along with little shouts of all the positive things that are happening in our school. Thank you in advance for asking all the right questions on how to make your child's school experience the best it can be. If you ever need any assistance, I would always start with your child's teacher. If he/she can't help answer your questions, you can call the school office, (309)383-2121 option 2, and either Mrs. Fischer or Mrs. Bitner will assist you. Of course, I can always be reached via phone or email ([nafziger@ghills69.com](mailto:nafziger@ghills69.com)).

Once again, thank you for your continued support of our school family and thank you for helping us educate your child throughout this school year. We are partners in the most important endeavor in life---raising great kids to become even better adults!

Sincerely yours,

Dr. Shelli L. Nafziger  
ECE-Grade 4 Principal

### **Positive Action for September: Unit 1 Self Concept**

Week of September 7th - Positive Action: To do or cause good things to happen.

Week of September 13th - Self - Concept: How you feel about yourself.

Week of September 20th - Valuable: Precious or of great worth.

Week of September 27th - Happiness and Success: To feel good about who you are and what you do.

## **Important Dates**

**9/3/2021 – Fire Drill  
with GTH FD**

**9/6/2021 - Labor Day  
no School**

**9/13/2021 - Board  
Meeting @ 7pm**

**9/16/2021 - School  
Photo Retakes**

**9/24/2021 - Early  
Dismissal, GHES @  
11:50**

**9/27 - 10/1 - PTO  
Book Fair**



# Germantown Hills Elementary School

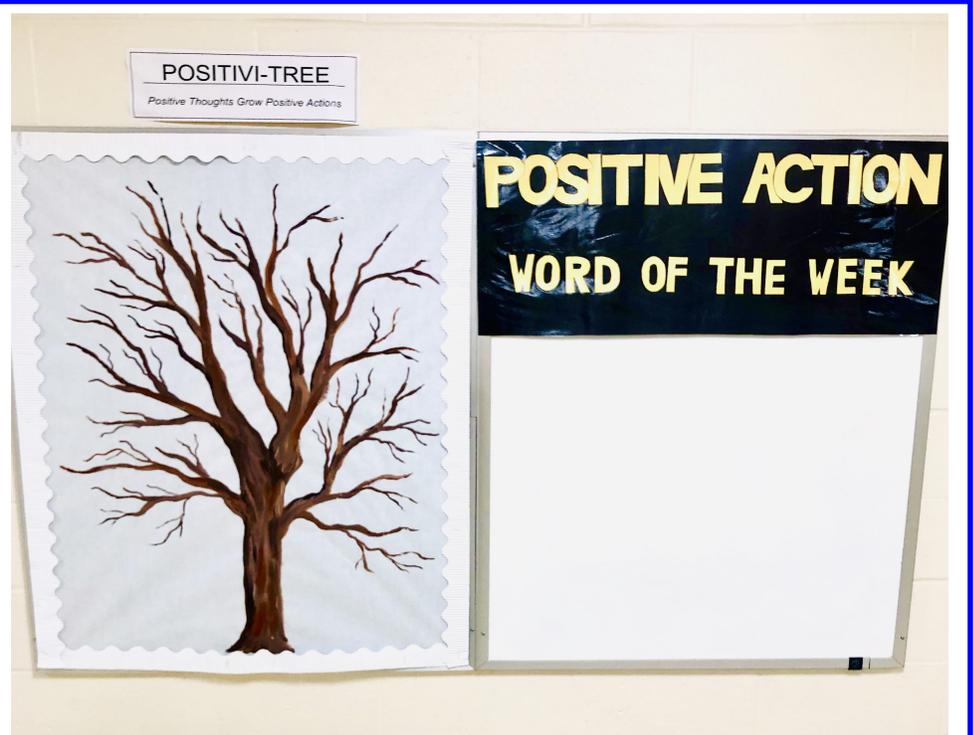
## Newsletter

### *Counselor's Corner*

Going back to school can bring a lot of feelings for kids and parents. Some are excited, some are nervous, some are a mix. Whatever your child's feelings are towards school, there are a few things you can do to make sure they have a great start to the school year.

1. Establish a good night time routine. When kids know the routine at night, they feel secure, calm, and hopefully fall asleep easier. It's a good idea to have the same sequence of events every night before bed.
2. Check folders and backpacks! Kids aren't the best at being organized or remembering to give you important papers. You can help teach them good organizational skills by going through folders and backpacks with them and teaching them what's important to show you.
3. Praise effort, not grades. I was never a strong math student. But I worked really hard at math. When teachers and my parents praised how hard I worked, not my grades, it gave me the confidence to keep trying to be a good math student.
4. Let them feel their feelings. Just like you, your child will experience a range of feelings and emotions. Each one is okay! Reflect their feelings, and offer comfort. Let them know feelings, especially negative ones, don't last forever.

- Mrs. Albrecht, MS.Ed, School Counselor  
(309) 383-2121 Option 2  
[albrechtk@ghills69.com](mailto:albrechtk@ghills69.com)



This year, we will be growing our Positive Actions and showing our above and beyond choices with our Positivi-Tree! When students go the extra mile to show their Positive Actions, they will get to add a "leaf" to the Positivi-Tree. The leaves will be thumb or finger prints. Each grade level and specials will have their own color stamps so we can really see how our Positive Actions grow! It will be a great way for students to take pride in their choices.

### *What's so special?*

Hello and welcome to the Specials Section. We are the teachers who educate your students about Music, Art, Computers, PE and Library. Each day students visit PE, and each week students visit each Specials class. This month in library we are learning about what a library is and how to check out books. We will also learn how to take care of books. One great way to keep a book safe is placing it in a zip lock bag when the book is in a backpack to avoid water bottle spills. At the end of September the library will be hosting a book fair sponsored by the PTO.

Here are some great book suggestions for your students:

K-1st Grade: Mother Bruce by Ryan Higgins

2nd-3rd Grade: Dragon Masters by Tracey West

4th Grade: Ranger in Time series by Kate Messner

- Mrs. Poole, District Librarian

# Germantown Hills Elementary School

## Newsletter

### Shout outs!



- Job well done to Mrs. Angle and all our bus drivers on getting students home safely and learning new routes!
- Thank you to our GHSD administration: Dr. Nafziger, Ms. Williams, and Mr. Mair on a safe and positive start to the school year!
- Going above and beyond as always, a big thank you to Mrs. Fischer and Mrs. Bitner in the office for keeping us organized and on track for the start of the year!

### Staff Spotlight

**Karen Dexheimer is the current Sabrina Page Golden Apple winner and teaches 2nd grade.**

**1. What do you love about GHES?** I love the fact that I went here as a child. I have been a part of the GHES family since I was 5 years old. Over the years my teachers became my co-workers and friends. My principal became my boss and now I have his granddaughter in my second grade class.

**2. How long have you been at GHES?** This is my 29th year of teaching at GHES. I taught one year of preschool and the rest have been at second grade.

**3. What is your favorite subject to teach?** I love to teach phonics/spelling. I learned from our former Title I Teacher, Mrs. Youngman, a program called Intensive Phonics. Wow, how phonics patterns make sense for reading, writing, and spelling. It's so fun to see it come together in the classroom.

**4. What is your favorite book?** Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing...I read it every year to my class!

**5. Who is someone you admire?** I admire my parents. They are always there for me, my siblings, their grandchildren, and now their great grandchildren. They haven't missed a game or event for as long as I can remember. They are the BEST!

**6. What is one of you best school memories?** I always play a "get to know your teacher" game at the beginning of the school year. I share a story about me graduating from Eureka College and that a former President of the United States was at my graduation ceremony because he attended the same college. At my graduation, I got to shake hands with this President and he handed me my diploma. Which President do you think it was? It never fails. The first answer is always Abraham Lincoln. How old do you think I am?

### **GHPTO News**

**Spirit Wear:** The PTO is moving spirit wear in house this year and shirts can now be ordered all year long! Head over to our brand-new website [ghpto.org](http://ghpto.org) and select Shop from the menu. There you will find the current design and color options. Please print and fill out the order form and return it in an envelope marked PTO Spirit Shop to your child's teacher or in one of the outdoor office drop boxes. Checks can be made out to GHPTO.

Orders will be processed as quickly as possible, but please allow for 2-3 weeks depending on demand. Completed orders will be returned to the student listed on the form to bring home. Profits will go directly to the GHPTO to help us fulfill teacher goals!

#### **Upcoming Meetings**

Tues. Sept 7th, 6:30PM Media Center

Tues. Oct 5th, 6:30PM Media Center

#### **Upcoming Events**

Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> – Oct 1<sup>st</sup>

Craft and Vendor **Show**

Sat. Nov 6<sup>th</sup>, 9AM – 2PM



Our Kindergarten students are learning to line up after recess. They are doing a great job!