



# Germantown Hills Elementary School

## Newsletter

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Date: May 2022

### *A Note from Dr. Nafziger*

Hello Families,

I sure hope this message finds you and your families doing well. Welcome to MAY!

May is a very busy month, not only are we excited about the nicer, spring-like weather, we also look forward to baseball games, soccer practice, and playing outside after school.

It is so exciting to watch kids grow through the school year and this year is no different. Despite our challenges with the pandemic, our teachers, staff, and students have worked hard to make the educational gains necessary to fulfill grade level expectations. You should be so PROUD of your child/children, because we certainly are!

As we begin to close out the school year, it comes with mixed emotions. I'm so happy for our students and their accomplishments, yet it means another year has quickly passed by in the life of a child. Take some time to enjoy the "little" things because, believe me, they go by too quickly!

Lastly, if you have any changes to your living arrangements, please let us know as we will begin creating class lists very soon. Thank you for your continued partnership to a very successful school year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Shelli L. Nafziger

ECE-Grade 4 Principal

### **Positive Action for summer!**

- Whenever possible, read to your child!
- Give books as rewards and presents.
- Review the television shows your child watches.
- Play words games!
- Build vocabulary.
- Explore culture!
- Visit the public library.
- Check out books on history and travel.

### **Important Dates**

May 5<sup>th</sup> – Art Show 6:30 – 7:30

May 9<sup>th</sup> – School Board Meeting 7 PM

May 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> – MAP Testing

May 10<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Pioneer Program 7 PM

May 13<sup>th</sup> – SIP Day Early Dismissal @ 11:50

May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> – Erin's Law Presentations

May 20<sup>th</sup> – End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Term

May 27<sup>th</sup> – GHES Field Day!

May 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> – 2022/2023 Kindergarten Screenings

May 30<sup>th</sup> – No School

June 1<sup>st</sup> – Last Day of School: Dismissal @ 11:50 Report Cards go home

2022						
May						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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### Counselor's Corner

As a parent, I know how challenging it can be to keep kids engaged and busy during the summer. I have a few things I do that help (not solve) the doldrums of summer break.

- **Chore List** Making a chore list for your child or children for every day you want chores done eliminates the need for you to tell them what to do and when to do it. I break down every week day and assign three chores to each of my children. I rotate the chores so no one does the same things, and give one day "off" to each one once a week. This helps children contribute to their home and learn the housekeeping responsibilities adults need. I have not figured out how to make cleaning litter boxes a non-whining chore yet!

- **Electronics Off Time** Every day I have about an hour of no screens. I don't tell my kids what to do during that time, just no screens. We might play a board game; they will ride bikes, play outside, or build Legos. It helps their brains regulate and rests their eyes. It's a nice reminder for me too, I'll get sucked into binging a show and not take my eyes off the TV for hours!

- **After Dinner Outside Time** We all know how tricky the weather can be in the Midwest. When it decides to cooperate, we do outside time after dinner, at least for a little bit. We might go for a walk, work in our garden, play badminton (it gets heated!), or just sit on the deck and talk. It's nice to enjoy the weather while we can!

If you follow these tips or have your own, I hope you take full advantage of the summer break. Most importantly enjoy your amazing children as much as we have during the school year!

- Mrs. Albrecht, GHES Counselor  
[albrechtk@ghills69.com](mailto:albrechtk@ghills69.com)



### **Kindergarten PA Students of the Month**

**KA:** Ollie Uppole, Liam Whetstone, Lilli Neal  
**KB:** Felicity Rudolph, Thomas Malerich, Maggie Fandel  
**KC:** Emmy Costerisan, Faye Welch, Agnes Mulvaney  
**KD:** Kennedy Zimmerman, Waylon Statler, Emily Dykstra



### **1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> Grade PA Students**

**1<sup>st</sup>:** Cooper Funk, Luke Piscaglia, Joanna Thompson,  
**2<sup>nd</sup>:** Laine Corwin, Emma Webb, Alyssa Weeks  
**3<sup>rd</sup>:** Kylee Nee, Jaylee Bucy, Hazel Milton  
**4<sup>th</sup>:** Brinley Nena, Isla Uppole, Wyatt Hansen

### What's So Special about Music?

May is upon us, and that means that music performances are happening all around! The 4th grade showcase was rescheduled from our snow day cancellation and held on Thursday, April 21st. The students had a chance to show their families some of the activities that we do in music classes, including singing, playing crash cans, performing folk dances, and even moving a parachute along with some music from the Nutcracker Ballet.

Coming up on May 10th, the 3rd grade students will perform in the Pioneer Program in the JDS gym at 7:00pm, and you're invited! Students will showcase their singing abilities, along with displaying their square dancing skills, and you might even get a glimpse at some homemade log cabins!

I would love to encourage you to find a way to make music together as a family this summer - we are never too young or too old to be Tuneful, Beatful, and Artful! There are many fine arts activities and concerts held in the Peoria area throughout the summertime, including concerts in the Metamora Square. I hope that you have a strong finish to your school year and a wonderful start to your summer!

Mrs. Loring  
[loringa@ghills69.com](mailto:loringa@ghills69.com)

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### Shout outs!



- A big shout out and thank you to our **amazing students and families** for making this year, and every year, one to remember! - **GHES Staff and Teachers**

- I would like to give a shout out to all of the **AMAZING people** I have worked with for the last 18 years here at Germantown Hills School. It has been a pleasure and an honor to be a teacher here! Special shout out to my fourth grade team and especially **Mrs. Whisker** who has been in 4<sup>th</sup> grade with me the entire time. - **Mrs. Goins**

- Job well done and thank you to **Mrs. Loring** on an amazing 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Showcase! - **Mr. Scott**

- **There's not enough room in the whole newsletter to say thank you and good luck to our dear Mrs. Fischer! Congratulations on your new position. We love you and will miss you! – GHES Staff, Students, and Families**

### Staff Spotlight – Jill Goins



**Mrs. Jill Goins has been an educator at Germantown Hills for 18 years, teaching 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grades. She had been a beloved member of the staff and a great friend. Mrs. Goins is retiring after this school year. Her bright smile, dedication to her students, and easy going nature will be missed. Congratulations Mrs. Goins on a wonderful teaching career and well deserved retirement.**

#### 1. What do you love about GHES?

I love the people! I have worked with some of the kindest, funniest, and smartest people while here at Germantown Hills, and I don't just mean teachers, although they're awesome. I also mean the kids and their parents, the custodians, the secretaries, the counselors, the teacher assistants, and the administrators. I am very lucky to have been able to be part of such a great school system.

#### 2. What is your favorite part of your job?

I love that in my job there is never a dull moment. I love that I get to work with kids and adults who make me laugh. I love that I get to help kids learn new things and gain self-confidence.

#### 3. What is your favorite food?

I love all food, maybe too much (LOL). I'm not sure I have just one favorite food, but I really like pizza and ice cream (not mixed together, of course).

#### 4. What is your favorite book?

I usually like to read mysteries, but my favorite book of all-time is "Because of Winn Dixie" by Cate DiCamillo. I'm a sucker for any story that features a dog, and in this one, a dog gets rescued and then ends up rescuing everyone he comes into contact with. Plus, I love a happy ending.

#### 5. What do you like to do for fun?

Spending time with my family doing anything (or nothing at all) is my most favorite and fun thing. Also high on the list of fun for me is spending time at our cabin in Missouri, shopping with my girls, having lunch with friends, and playing with my dogs.

#### 6. Who is someone you admire?

There are so many brave, smart, funny, and talented people in the world (many of whom I have had the honor to teach or work with), it's hard to pick just one person. I think the two people I admire the most are my two daughters because they are both kind and work hard to help others.

#### 7. How long have you been at GHES?

I have been at Germantown Hills School for 18 years. During my time in this school district I have taught first and fourth grades.

#### 8. Funny or best school memory from working at GHES?

I could never pick just one, but some of my favorite memories are watching my students in Mrs. Salmon's fourth grade musicals which were amazing and a blast. Another favorite memory of mine is the talent show my students who are now seniors in high school did. It was such a fun day watching them showcase their awesomeness.

### GHPTO News

**THANK YOU!** We put out a call for volunteers and families stepped up big time! Thank you for helping us show our amazing teachers and staff some well-deserved appreciation and love. Your generous donations of supplies, money, and volunteering time made Teacher Appreciation Week a success. Thank you again; your help is greatly appreciated!

**Next Year** The past few years have had limited opportunities for events and ways for parents to get involved at the school. As things hopefully continue to move back to normal, we are excited to host more events and have more parent involvement. Looking to next school year, we are working to put together new committees for events and fundraisers. We will be putting that information out soon on our website [ghpto.org](http://ghpto.org). Have ideas for events or looking to get involved? Reach out, our inbox is always open! [ghpto@ghills69.com](mailto:ghpto@ghills69.com)

#### Upcoming Events

Enjoy your summer!

#### Upcoming Meetings

Tues. Aug 2nd, 6:30PM  
Media Center

GERMANTOWN HILLS  
K-4 ART STUDENTS  
PRESENT

# Under the Sea Art Glow Show

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022

6:30-7:30 PM

Direct Questions to Mrs. Ward at [warda@ghills69.com](mailto:warda@ghills69.com)

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**The end of the school year, not the end of fun!**



Mrs. Adams 1<sup>st</sup> Grade class is always having an adventure! They had an indoor beach day before Spring Break, and enjoyed National Walking Day in the garden!



Mrs. Schaffer's Kindergarten Class enjoyed helping Laburn (therapy dog in training) learn how to behave in the classroom.



It was our dear Laburn's last month at GHES! She's moving on in her training as a therapy dog. We will miss her, but we also know she's going to do a lot of good in the world! Thanks for sharing her Mrs. Schroeder!

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## 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Showcase!

