

PTO NEWS

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much. - Helen Keller

April 2019 • gmacademy.org

We Support...

Science Central will be coming to our school on May 20th. We have five labs/experiments that will be set up in the five classrooms and each child will get to go to all of them by the end of the day. The labs are Bubbleology Lab, Slimeology Lab, Magnificent Machines Lab, Sound Science Lab, and Rock Detective Lab. The day will start with demonstrations for the whole school that will teach the kids about the scientific method. The PTO is donating \$1,000 to help with the cost of the program. Thank you, Ms. Natalie, for organizing this!

The Vex Robotics World Competition will be April 28-30th, in Louisville, KY. The team from GMA will be one of 400 teams competing in the middle school division. There are 35 countries represented at the competition! The team's main mission at Worlds is to have a great time, meet new friends, and learn about various cultures. They chose a costume theme of "steam punk" and plan to have a photo booth activity in our pit area at the competition. The PTO is donating \$1000 to support the Robotics team. Good luck, TechnoSquad!

Coming Up:

- **Apr 26:**
Talent Show
Geist Community Church
- **May 6-10:**
Teacher Appreciation Week
- **May 11:**
Spring Carnival



Photo Credit: Kelly Davisson

Spotlight on: Mr. Nik and Ms. Molly

Co-Interim Directors of GMA

Mr. Nik says...

When I first started at GMA, Montessori was a brand new concept for me. I instantly fell in love with the philosophy and the impact it can have on children.

I have worked at GMA for 11 years. Before that, I was a site director for the YMCA Before and After School program for the Baxter YMCA.

The International Festival is one of my favorite days each year. I love to see all the interesting projects and presentations the students put together.

One goal I have for the next year is to help GMA make a smooth transition to the new building.

I spend most weekends doing something active with my family. We love to go on hikes, bike rides, and play softball.

My wife and I are expecting our third child in June!

GMA has been a second home for me for a long time. I truly love all the students, families, and staff that I have had the pleasure to work with during my time here.



Ms. Molly says...

I believe in educating the whole child, and that every child should be educated at their readiness level.



I have worked at GMA for 7 years. Before that, I spent time working and coaching in Carmel Clay Schools and Hamilton Southeastern Schools.

Every day a student smiles at me makes it a good day. Lucky for me, I see smiling faces around GMA all the time!

In the next year I would like to travel somewhere to go visit a new National Park that I have not been to before.

In the springtime, I spend my weekends on the lacrosse field as a high school girls' lacrosse official. If I'm not on the field, I like to spend time with my husband Jason, my fur-baby Douglas, and my family.

I truly enjoy coming to work every day and have been blessed that so many families have trusted us to educate their children and to be a part of our GMA family.

What's Happening?



Arts for Learning Speaker, Black History Month

Spring Crafts with Ms. Abby's and Ms. Jill's classes



GMA's GOT TALENT is almost here! Come enjoy a Night With the Stars and many performances from our talented students **Friday, April 26th**, at our annual school Talent Showcase at Geist Community Church (the church next to the South Campus). Tickets are \$2 per person and performers are admitted for FREE. Baked goods, water and coffee will be sold for \$1 each. The showcase will feature three shows: 6:30PM, 7:15PM and 8:00PM. It is sure to be a wonderful evening!



Arts for Learning Storyteller, World Folktales

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Shout-outs!



Grace, in Pre-K. She made a deal with Mr. Nik that if her number roll reached from the gym to his office he would come to her class for cookies. She had to write numbers up to 2650, but she did it!

- Dr. Sue – you are in our thoughts!
- The kids who planted the pretty daffodils at South Campus.
- Mr. Alex's class for agreeing to plant and water flowers at North Campus.
- All of the parents and teachers who are raising money and helping prepare our Robotics Team to go to the World Competition.
- Mr. Logan, for his effort and flexibility making sure the computers were set up properly for standardized testing. Thank you for helping this run smoothly!
- All of the students and parents who attended the student-led conferences and the International Festival in March.
- Abby Strong for organizing, and Ms. Jane, Gretchen Billmeier, Andrea Bonham, Elaine Ratliff, Anne Tordai, Shauna Nivens, Molly Dearfield, Sara Sterley, Phoenix Park-Kim, and all others who contributed to the April staff appreciation meal.

The Creative Force Behind the Cakes

Caitlin Wild-Cohen's cake-making talents will be on display once again at this year's Spring Carnival on May 11th. In addition to cakes available during the cakewalk, Caitlin will also be making a special Mother's Day cake that people can bid on during the silent auction.

She describes her efforts as a "labor of love", and if you listen to people talking after tasting her cakes, you will know the love is returned.

I started making and decorating cakes with my aunt. She is our family's cake-making treasure. She took an interest in it when she was a teenager, and with the exception of a single workshop she took, taught herself everything that she knew from books.

Every year I'd get to go over to help her with my birthday cake. That led to helping with my mom's and dad's and then my grandparents', aunts', uncles', and the list goes on. She even made mine and my parents' wedding cakes! We'd also always make cute sugar cookies for her coworkers for Christmas, Valentine's Day and Easter. Each of those little cookies gives you an amazing canvas to practice new skills – well, those and your fingertips!

Every year we make 15-20 cakes in two days for the Spring Carnival. We start the Thursday before and spend all day baking the cakes. Each cake has two layers so we need twice as many layers as finished cakes.

Friday we start making the buttercream frosting. To keep it simple we try to use as much white as possible. The frosting for each cake takes about a 2 pound bag of powder sugar, a cup of shortening, and a dash of vanilla and water. We generally end up using 30 pounds of powdered sugar, one huge container of Crisco, and then a smaller bottle of vanilla. We do it this way so that you are getting the freshest cakes possible and have plenty of time to enjoy them!



PTO Needs:

- Volunteers for GMA's Got Talent on April 26th:
 - We need your help putting on a great event where our students can display their special talents with all of us! When signing up, please consider arriving at your dedicated slot 10 minutes prior to your scheduled time. Please sign up [here](#) and contact Ms. Meagan (mmessuri@gma.k12.in.us) with questions or concerns.
- Please send us your Spring Break vacation (or staycation!) pictures, and we will put them in the May newsletter! See contact information below.

Got PTO News? • Contact: Karen Swan (kswan@gma.k12.in.us) or Kelly Van Busum (kvanbusum@gmail.com)