



# PANDA-GRAM

The Panda Promise: Pride in School, Pride in Performance

JUNE 2009

## Principal's Corner

As our school year draws to a close, I want to thank our PTA Executive Board members, Wendy Havens, Julie Sturans, Karen McGrath, and Sandy Jones. Their leadership on behalf of the GBW community is most appreciated, and I look forward to working with them again next year! I'd also like to thank all the parent and community volunteers who have given generously of their time throughout the year to benefit GBW students and teachers. We appreciate you!

Thank you to everyone who has shopped at Target and Giant Food or who sent in Box Tops and Campbell's soup labels this year. With your support, we received the following funds, which have been used to maintain our technology equipment at GBW:

- Target: \$583.11
- BoxTops and Campbell's programs: \$786.46

In addition, your purchases at McEducator's Night earned \$490 for GBW! Thank you for your support of all these programs!

Please mark your calendar for these upcoming 2009-10 school year events:

**September 4**—Open House for students and parents

- 1-1:45 p.m. (last names, A-L)
- 2-2:45 p.m. (last names, M-Z)

**September 8**—First day of school (full day)

**September 29**—Back to School Night (K-3), 7-8:30 p.m.

**October 1**—Back to School Night (4-6), 7-8:30 p.m.

Thank you for your support throughout this school year. It has been an exciting year of successful student learning! I hope you and your family have a relaxing summer break! Please remember to **read daily** with your children!

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Cleveland

### GBW Summer Office Hours

**July 1 - August 26**

Monday-Friday,  
9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**July 3**

Closed

**Beginning August 27**

Monday-Friday,  
8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

## June 2009 Calendar of Events

- JUNE 3** Field Day (K-6), 9 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(Rain date June 10)  
Spirit Day (beach wear)
- 
- JUNE 2** 4th Grade Colonial Day  
5th Grade—Armor Man, Andrew the Knight
- 
- JUNE 4** 6th Grade Chorus Performance for Parents (Gym),  
2-2:45 p.m.
- 
- JUNE 5** 5th Grade Medieval Day (Classrooms),  
9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
- 
- JUNE 9** Cultural Arts Assembly—Mark Jester (K-3), 2-2:45 p.m.
- 
- JUNE 11** 5th Grade Chorus Performance for Parents (Gym),  
2-2:45 p.m.
- 
- JUNE 17** 6th Grade Promotion Ceremony, (Gym) 1-2:30 p.m.  
6th Grade Celebration (Gym), 6-9 p.m.
- 
- JUNE 18** End of Year Awards Ceremony (4-6), 9:15-10:45 a.m.  
Last Day of School for Students—Early Dismissal,  
11:30 a.m., Office Closes at 3 p.m.  
Progress Reports Go Home

### No Changes to Bus Transportation!

The FCPS School Board did not make any changes to bus transportation for the Advanced Academic Center (formerly known as GT Center). All students who are eligible to attend the center program will be provided transportation for the 2009-10 school year.

## New GBW Bell Schedule for 2009-10

On May 21, the FCPS School Board voted to accept the proposed bell schedule changes, which will go into effect in September 2009. Please keep this information for next fall!

### GBW School Hours beginning 2009-10

#### Monday

AM Kindergarten..... 9:15-11:15 a.m.  
PM Kindergarten ..... 11:25-1:25 p.m.  
Grades 1-6 ..... 9:15 a.m.-1:25 p.m.

#### Tuesday-Friday

AM Kindergarten..... 9:15 a.m.-12:35 p.m.  
PM Kindergarten ..... 12:45-3:55 p.m.  
Grades 1-6 ..... 9:15 a.m.-3:55 p.m.

## PTA News

By Wendy Havens, GBW PTA President

With the school year coming to a close, we would like to take a moment to thank the many parent volunteers who made this year such a success. Our school is a wonderful one, with many activities and programs that benefit our children—none of which could be possible without the support of volunteers like you!

We would like to give a special thanks to John Thurtell and Kirtan Trivedi for designating GBW and the GBW PTA, respectively, as recipients of ExxonMobil Volunteer Grants totaling \$2,500! If you would like to inquire if your company offers volunteer grants, we would be happy to provide the necessary paperwork.

The Executive Board has enjoyed representing you this year. The four of us will be back for the 2009-10 school year. Please feel free to contact any of us at any time with your questions or concerns. There are several chair positions opening up for the fall. If you have been waiting to get involved, now may be the time. Please look at the list of open positions on this page, and consider where you would like to volunteer your talents.

Enjoy the summer, and we will see you again in the fall for another great year at GBW!

Wendy Havens, President  
Julie Sturans, Vice President  
Sandy Jones, Treasurer  
Karen McGrath, Secretary

### Thank you!

The GBW PTA would like to give a big thank you to Kristin McCurry for her years of dedication as the *Panda-Gram* Publisher. Her time and talents have been greatly appreciated. Thanks, Kristin!



### Panda-Gram Submissions...

Please submit articles for the *Panda-Gram*

in Word document format to Kirstin Mercer, Editor, at [merc.kirstin@gmail.com](mailto:merc.kirstin@gmail.com). Article submission deadline for the September issue is August 7, 2009.



**Thank you to our business partners for their support!**

### Greenbriar West Elementary School

13300 Poplar Tree Road  
Fairfax, VA 22033  
Main Line: (703) 633-6700  
Attendance Line: (703) 633-6767  
Fax Line: (703) 633-6797  
[www.fcps.edu/GreenbriarWestES](http://www.fcps.edu/GreenbriarWestES)  
Lori M. Cleveland, Principal  
Lauryn Campbell, Assistant Principal



*Panda-Gram* is brought to you by the GBW PTA.

## Fabulous Fundraising

By Robin LeTourneau, GBW Retail Fundraisers Chairperson

Retail fundraisers have had a great year! Through the BoxTops for Education program, we have raised \$786 that has been supporting technology maintenance at GBW. Through the Labels for Education program, we have been accumulating lots of points with which we will order new equipment for our school.



### Keep Saving!

Please keep saving your BoxTops over the summer. (Check for expiration dates before turning them in in the fall.) For a list of products that have BoxTops, visit the following website (they're on a lot more products than you think!): [www.boxtops4education.com/Downloads/Coordinator/Clip/ParticipatingProductsFlyer2008.pdf](http://www.boxtops4education.com/Downloads/Coordinator/Clip/ParticipatingProductsFlyer2008.pdf)

When you are clipping your Labels for Education, please make sure you get the full UPC seal. Labels for Education are found on all sorts of products—Campbell's Soup, Pepperidge Farm breads and goldfish crackers, V8 juice, and many more! Visit the following website to see a list of eligible products: [www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible\\_products.pdf](http://www.labelsforeducation.com/pdf/eligible_products.pdf)

### PTA Chairpersons Needed for 2009-10!

The GBW PTA has the following chairperson positions open for the 2009-10 school year. Please contact any PTA board member for more information or to volunteer!

Art Displays	Silent Auction	International Night Volunteers
Membership	FLEX	Marquee Messages
Cafeteria	6th Grade Ceremony	County Council PTA Rep
<i>Panda-Gram</i> Layout/Design	Hospitality	Chantilly Community Coalition
Carnival	Veterans Day Activities	
Photographer	Math Counts	
Challenge 24		

## Counselors' Corner

By Kristin Crooks and Jeanne McKinley, GBW Guidance Counselors

### SCA Elections

The election results are in! Congratulations to the new 2009-10 SCA Officers:

- Jasper Treakle, President
- Emily Sciorra, Vice President
- Cassy Capotorto, Secretary
- Sara Margarida, Treasurer

Thank you also to our outgoing 2008-09 SCA Officers:

- Rachel Palmer, President
- Joshua Lee, Vice President
- Sasha Meyer, Secretary
- Jeremy Gross, Treasurer

### Guidance Lessons

As things began to wind down for the school year, the theme of our lessons for May was *Looking Back, Looking Forward*. Students reflected upon all they have accomplished and learned this year and considered goals for next year.

### School Supplies

If your family needs assistance with purchasing school supplies for the 2009-10 school year, please let one of the counselors know during the week of August 31 (teachers' work week). We want all of our students to be prepared for a new year of learning in the fall!

### Resources

Many new links have been added to the counselors' Blackboard website. Be sure to check them out!

## Yearbook Opportunities

Do you like to be creative? Do you like working with pictures? If you answered "yes," then we have the perfect opportunity for you! We are looking for parent volunteers to design the 2009-10 yearbook.

Our yearbook is created using an online program. Lifetouch Studios will provide training to all committee members, ensuring a smooth creation and publishing process. If you are interested, please contact Cindy Dall at [cindy.dall@fcps.edu](mailto:cindy.dall@fcps.edu).

## Library Link

By Barbara Schifflin, GBW School Library Media Specialist

### Summer Reading

Don't forget to read this summer! The Fairfax County Public Library is kicking off its new pre K-6 summer reading program with the theme "Read Around the World." Be sure to visit your local library and motivate your child to read with this exciting new summer reading incentive program filled with coupons and prizes. You can find out more about the program by visiting the following website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/srp/)

### Thank You!

Thank you to all of the fantastic parents, students, teachers, and staff who have made my first year as the GBW librarian such a wonderful experience! I am especially grateful to all of those terrific people who volunteered to help in the school library this year. Your help and support was deeply appreciated. The tremendous success of both the fall and spring book fairs would not have been possible without the help of many volunteers to support us. A special thank you goes to Lisa Lagos, PTA Book Fair Co-Chairperson (whose appreciation was inadvertently omitted in the last edition of the *Panda-Gram*—sorry!)

I wish all of you a very relaxing summer break, and I look forward to a new year of learning in the library!

## Successful Great Books Program

By Laura Barbero, GBW JGB Chairperson

Thank you to everyone who volunteered with the Junior Great Books program this year. Many of you volunteered for more than one class—even for a class that your child was not in! Without your dedication, we could not have offered JGB to so many GBW students. Have a great summer!

## Attention Rising 7th Graders!

You can find summer reading lists and summer writing assignment information at [www.fcps.edu/RockyRunMS/Guidance/summerreading.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/RockyRunMS/Guidance/summerreading.htm)

All assignments will be due September 5.

## Summer Reading Facts

By Kathleen DeSantis, GBW Reading Specialist

Reading books during summer vacation can improve students' reading proficiency. A study conducted by Jimmy Kim of Harvard University's Center for Evaluation found that reading four or five books during the summer months had an impact on reading achievement. Furthermore, there were no significant differences in achievement based on which types of books children read (Kim, 2004).

Do you foster your child's love of reading? How about weekly trips to the public library, quiet time for reading, or family book night... Stay tuned to hear about GBW's summer reading incentive!

---

## Clinic News

By Courtenay Shaughnessy, Clinic Aide

As the school year draws to a close, I'd like to remind parents of students with medications in the clinic that all medications are to be picked up no later than dismissal time on the last day of school. All medications not picked up by parents will be destroyed.

I would also like to thank my two wonderful clinic volunteers, Virginia Carter and Suzanne Maxseiner. We really appreciate the time our volunteers were able to give us this year.

Have a healthy and fun summer!

---

## Summer Opportunities

FCPS offers several summer programs—including general education, Tech Adventure camp, Institute for the Arts, and SACC. FCPS also provides extended school year (ESY) services during the summer to identified students with disabilities. For more information about these programs and other opportunities and camps, visit [www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm](http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm).

In addition, the Fairfax County Park Authority offers the Rec-PAC Summer Camp program. For more information on this program, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/recpac/).

## New Tree at GBW

By Karen Hendricks

A new tree has been planted in front of GBW. It is an Appalachian Redbud—a tree native to this area. It is very hardy, with lovely flowers on the bark in the spring, and large leaves that turn yellow in the fall. When mature, it will not exceed 40 feet tall.

A big thank you goes to the Merrifield Garden Center for providing the tree. A special thank you also goes to Merrifield manager and GBW parent, Peter Hogarth, for planting the tree. We hope you all take the time to stop and enjoy the new addition to the GBW landscaping.



## Energy Zone Tips for a Healthy Summer

From FCPS Office of Food and Nutrition Services

During the "fun" time of summer vacation, it is very easy to forget our healthy school year practices. Remember to make the following healthy tips part of each day.

- Eat breakfast.
- Eat at least five servings of fruits and vegetables.
- Make wise snack choices, such as crackers, cheese, milkshakes, yogurt, or pudding.
- Limit consumption of soft drinks and candy.
- Drink at least eight glasses of water.
- Exercise at least 60 minutes.
- Wear sunscreen.

# GBW Supports Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards Program

By Kimberly Pinkston-Harper

The Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee (CPMSAC) proudly announces its 24th Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards Program to be held on Sunday, June 7 at 4 p.m. at the London Towne ES. This year's theme is "Commitment to Mission: CPMSAC Commemorating 25 Years of School and Community Service."

GBW has worked in partnership with CPMSAC for many years on this annual event. The awards program is a unique initiative focusing on students' current year academic achievement and accomplishments through the 3rd quarter grading period. It is a community strategy designed to assist schools in raising the academic achievement participation of minority students, focusing primarily on African American and Hispanic students. The objective is to encourage and motivate students through community recognition to sustain high levels of achievement and active participation throughout their school years.

In addition to the Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards Program, CPMSAC offers many free programs for students in elementary, middle, and high schools—such as the STEP Tutoring Program at Chantilly High School, BITS Tutoring Program at Westfield High School, Youth Enrichment Teach-In, and the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. festival. For more information, visit [www.cpsac.org](http://www.cpsac.org).

# Spring Book Fair A Smashing Success

By Andrea Adelman and Lisa Lagos, GBW Book Fair Co-Chairpersons

The red carpet was put down and the stars came out—the GBW Reading Stars, that is. Students enjoyed shopping for great books and other products. Families flocked in during the two family nights, and staff members browsed and created book wish lists. Because our sales were terrific, the GBW PTA was able to donate books to the library, to the annual book swap, and to GBW teachers for their classroom libraries. Thank you to the wonderful group of volunteers who made the fair possible, and to all the visitors who stopped by the library. We'll see you in November at the fall book fair!



# Last Day of School for Students

Thursday, June 18—Dismissal at 11:30 a.m.



Families enjoyed strolling through the GBW hallways looking at fabulous student artwork and writing projects during Artists' and Authors' Night on April 21.



## Cultural Arts Wrap-Up

By Dawne LeKang, GBW Cultural Arts Chairperson

We have had a very successful and entertaining year of cultural arts programs. There is one final program for grades K-3 on tap for this month—Mr. Mark Jaster, a world-class mime, performing “Piccolo’s Trunk.” In this program, Mr. Jaster performs a variety of musical and comical surprises combining advanced communication skills with honest, gentle humor and playful interactions. According to *The Washington Post*, he is “clown extraordinaire and one of the most graceful performers you will ever see on a stage.” Learn more about Mark Jaster at <http://www.classactsontour.com/artists/markjaster/jaster.htm>.



## Unleash Your Child’s Talents!

By Christine Klosky, GBW PTA Reflections Chairperson

Studies show students who participate in the arts do better in school, and the PTA Reflections program gives students an opportunity to receive recognition for their artistic endeavors. It’s not too early to start thinking about participating in the fall!

Encourage your child to create an original work of art based on the 2009-10 Reflections program theme, “Beauty is....” There are six categories to choose from: Film production, Photography, Dance Choreography, Visual Arts, Literature, and Musical Composition.

Reflections program awards are given at the local, council, district, state, and national levels. National award-winning entries are showcased in the PTA Reflections program gallery at [www.pta.org](http://www.pta.org).

The GBW Reflections deadline for submissions will be in mid- to late-October 2009. Further information, including the entry form and specific guidelines for each category, is available on the Virginia PTA website at [www.vapta.org](http://www.vapta.org).



Both students and parents enjoyed wonderful performances at GBW’s International Night in May.



Mr. Hill and the Beginner and Advanced Bands put on a concert for GBW students and parents on May 13.

# GBW Teams Compete at Science Olympiad

By Roli Agrawal, GBW Science Olympiad Coordinator

On May 2, GBW was represented by four teams (GBW Green, GBW Blue, GBW White, and GBW Gold) at the Elementary Science Olympiad Tournament. The GBW Blue team won the 4th place team trophy, and team members won a total of 16 medals for individual events. Congratulations to everyone who participated!

## GBW Blue Team

Student (Grade)	Event	Award
Sneha Kripanandan (3) Timothy Han (3)	Describe It/Build It	5th place
Risheek Rajolu (5) Ashish Tondwalkar (3)	Mystery Architecture	4th place
Akshay Balaji (4) Kanishka Gaba (4)	Sky Quest Can you Weather the Weather	3rd place 1st place
Rajat Khanna (5)	Metric Mastery	2nd place
Nitya Agrawal (3)	Soda Pop Terrarium	1st place
Sneha Kripanandan (3) Ashish Tondwalkar (3)	Pasta Tower	3rd place
Sneha Kripanandan (3) Rajat Khanna (5)	Rivers, Mountains, Deltas	2nd place
Akshay Balaji (4) Timothy Han (3)	Science Password	3rd place

Additional team members: Navya Gudimetla, Puneet Velidi, Zaid Ghazali

## GBW Gold Team

Student (Grade)	Event	Award
Sydney Zheng (4) Harshiitha Ravichandran(4)	Body Systems	2nd place
Adithya Varadan (4) Ahan Shah (4)	Rock Star	1st place
Sravani Buddhavarapu (4) Sydney Zheng (4) Harshiitha Ravichandran(4) Adithya Varadan (4) Ahan Shah (4)	Pentathlon	4th place

Additional team members: Hye Yeon Cho, Roy Kamineni, Jahnvi Soma

## GBW Green Team

Student (Grade)	Event	Award
Abha Agrawal (5) Anurag Kanapuram (5)	Body Systems	3rd place
Vooha Putalapattu (5) Randall Jones (5)	Sky Quest	1st place
Anurag Kanapuram (5) Vooha Putalapattu (5) Raghav Ramraj (5) Randall Jones (5) Rohan Yaradi (5)	Pentathlon	1st place
Rohan Yaradi (5) Raghav Ramraj (5)	Metric Mastery	1st place
Nihariko Kokkiralala (5) Randall Jones (5)	Can you Weather the Weather	4th place
Niharika Kokkiralala (5)	Rock Star	5th place

Additional team members: Roshni Yaradi, Rachana Krishnan, Niharika Kokkiralala

Members of the GBW White team included 3rd graders Edward Cheng, Shreya Menon, and Rithvik Nalamalapu; 4th graders Sarvajna Kalva and Swathi Sowmitran; and 5th graders Pooja Trivedi and Sye-Young Ko.



The GBW Team Blue brought home the 4th place trophy from the Elementary Science Olympiad on May 2.

## GBW Represented at National Competition

By Roli Agrawal, Team Robo Pros Coach

A team of GBW 5th graders competed in the 2009 First Lego League (FLL) U.S. Open Championship held in Dayton, OH on May 8 and 9. The team was nominated for the Rising Star Award, which recognizes a team the judges believe stands out and will do great things in future FLL challenges. In addition, each team member received a pin and certificate for demonstrating gracious professionalism—defined as a way of doing things that encourages high-quality work, emphasizes the value of others, and respects individuals and the community. Congratulations to Team Robo Pros: Abha Agrawal, Anurag Kanapuram, Risheek Rajolu, and Vooha Putalapattu.



Team Robo Pros with their coach, Roli Agrawal

## More Recent Happenings at GBW

The Chantilly HS Spanish Club hosted a Cinco de Mayo fiesta for GBW 2nd graders on May 5. The students walked to the football field, where they participated in activities in Spanish, including playing duck, duck, goose; coloring pages; reading stories;

and breaking piñatas filled with candy and toys.

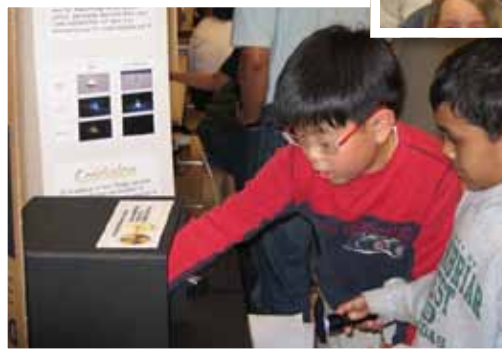


Eleven GBW 6th graders participated in the 6th Grade Fairfax County Choral Festival, held at Mount Vernon HS on April 18. More than 900 children participated in this amazing event!

Mrs. Knizner's 3rd graders standing in front of their February Art in the Schools mural depicting "Tessellations"—an art style introduced by famous artist, M.C. Escher.



GBW partners with Chantilly HS Academy's Early Childhood Careers Program to provide time for high school seniors to visit and observe elementary school teachers. Mrs. Cleveland, Mrs. Downer (program director), Mr. Fullinwider (Chantilly teacher), Chantilly HS students, and GBW 3rd graders were present at the partnership agreement signing on April 16 in the library.



128 students in grades 1-6 shared their interest in science with parents and friends at the 2009 GBW Science Fair in April.