



Dear Glen Allen Elementary Parents,

Welcome back! We are so excited about the upcoming school year and can't wait for you to see all of the changes that we've been working on over the summer.

Thanks to your generous support last year we were able to fix the erosion problem with the lower grade's playground and add Phase 1 of an educational garden area that the teachers can use as an outdoor learning space with terraced amphitheater seating for the children. Phase 2, which will hopefully happen this fall, will include landscaping. Also being added are 6 new benches for the bus loop and lower and upper grade playgrounds.

Mr. Trinh approached the PTA Board at the end of the last school year with a great idea that should be a lot of fun not only for the kids but the parents as well—thirty ukuleles and tuners were purchased for the 4th and 5th grades. We also purchased 30 headphones and a multiple CD burner to be used in the music department.

Another great addition was the purchase and installation of promethean boards for grades 2 and 5—now every grade level has a board. These are great learning tools for the kids! To learn more about Promethean Boards please go to www.prometheanworld.com. We also supplied the school with a leveled book room for differentiated reading instruction. The PTA also purchased “seat sacks” for each classroom to be used as additional storage for each student's supplies.

Last year the PTA gave each teacher \$175.00 dollars, in addition to a \$600.00 discretionary fund for each grade level. This money goes toward purchasing educational items for the classroom. The PTA also began a first year teacher grant program. This provides each first year teacher at GAES with an additional \$200.00 to be used for books, games, and/or other learning materials for their classrooms.

In conjunction with the Bonnie Mawyer Fund, the PTA purchased new curtains for the stage in the gym, and thusly renamed the stage “The Bonnie Mawyer Playhouse” in her honor. The curtains replaced were original to the building and in disrepair.

None of this would have been possible without the support of our Glen Allen Elementary families and the Glen Allen community. We are truly blessed!

With 100% PTA membership and your support of the Cub Club, Fall Fundraiser, Spring Silent Auction, and/or Spirit Nights we will be looking at another successful fundraising year. Our hope is to be able to address more additional needs this year. We have a lot of fun activities planned for the upcoming school year so be on the lookout for more information.

We understand that finances are tight, so any contribution that you, neighbors, friends, and family are able to make will be greatly appreciated, and will benefit each of our children and more to come. Please take the time to fill out the attached PTA membership form and return to school with payment by **Friday, September 23**. Each class that has 100% PTA membership will receive a prize! Together we can make a difference in the education of our children.

Thank you so much,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Bretches'.

Debbie Bretches
Glen Allen Elementary School PTA President

*This fall we will be constructing a GAES PTA website that will include a calendar, links, and up-to-date information—more details to come. In the meantime, you may still access basic PTA information and the Cub Courier using the web address below.