

Diamond Gems

Volume 11, Issue 8

Diamond Elementary School
4 Marquis Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

PTA Website: despta.org



Dear Diamond Community,

We hope everyone has enjoyed spring break! April is **Arab-American Heritage Month**. The US is home to more than 3.5 million Arab-Americans representing a diverse array of cultures and traditions. Having contributed in every field and profession, they are very much a part of the fabric of this nation and of our local community. Explore the content we've included in this month's newsletter to learn more!

This month, we've included resources on **fire safety**. Talking to young kids about fire safety can be challenging so we encourage you to keep it simple, prioritize evacuation, and give them a designated meeting place. Knowing what to do may help keep them calm in the event of a fire.

Finally, we'd like to remind you of **Marking Period 4's curbside material pick up** plan. As always, face coverings and a visible sign with student information are required. Please follow the schedule below based on the student's last name to limit crowds, wait time, and risks to the community:

	9-10:30	10:30-12	1-2:30	2:30-3:30
Wed 4/14	A-D	E-H	I-L	<i>Missed time</i>
Fri 4/16	M-O	P-T	U-Z	<i>Missed time</i>

With warm regards on behalf of your PTA,
Mílva Simões, Newsletter Committee



Attention 5th Graders!!

Fifth grade t-shirts and yard signs
will be distributed with the
4th marking period material distribution
on April 14th and 16th.

5th Grade

DES PTA Links

- [Diamond ES PTA Website](#)
- [DES PTA Spirit Store](#)
- [DES PTA Membership Form](#)
- [DES PTA – Get Involved!](#)

DES School Links

- [MCPS Classroom/Canvas](#)
- [ParentVue](#)
- [StudentVue](#)

MCPS Links

- [Recovery Plan: What to Expect](#)
- [Meal Service Program](#)

Calendar of Events

April

- 1-5 – No School (Sprig Break)
- 16 – No School (Prof Day)
- 21 – NAACP Parent Council

May

- 4 – PTA Meeting (6:30pm)
- 13 – No School (Prof Day)
- 19 – NAACP Parent Council
- 31 – No School (Memorial Day)

June

- 16 – Early Release (11:30am)
Last Day of School

Summer Break!!





Arab-American Heritage Month

April is a time to celebrate the history, contributions and culture of Arab-Americans.



The ancestry of Arab-Americans can be traced to the world's 22 Arab countries – Algeria, Bahrain, the Comoro Islands, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen

Learning about the Arab-American Community

There are many resources available to learn about the various cultures and histories of Arabs in the United States. Click the links below:

- [Migration of Arabs to and within the United States](#)
- [Test your knowledge of Arab-Americans with a quiz!](#)
- [Books on Arab-American history, inventions, poetry, calligraphy, design, cuisine and more](#)



Introducing Students to Arab-American Culture

From the doctor who invented the heart pump to Nobel Prize winners to famous entertainers, Arab-Americans have played an important role in US history.

National Arab-American Heritage Month is a great opportunity to introduce students to a wider diversity of citizens and culture than they typically encounter in their standard-issue history textbooks.

Check out these [Arab-American children's books](#)

Arab-Americans Making a Difference

The Arab-American Institute publishes an [electronic brochure](#) highlighting the many contributions of Arab-Americans. It is a great resource for teachers, students and parents!





Weekly WOW Wednesdays



April showers bring **rainbow-filled shout outs!** Post your colorful gratitude for DES Staff every Wednesday on the [DES PTA Facebook page](#). We will randomly select one of the nominated staff members each month to win a prize!

March winner: Mrs. Jarquin

We appreciate everyone who has participated so far. These small shout outs make a big difference to our wonderful Diamond staff!

We'd also like to send a huge thanks to **Bruster's Ice Cream** (@ 18519 N Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg) for their sweet donation!

AmazonSmile: Support Diamond's PTA

Do you shop through Amazon? Did you know Amazon donates to local and national charities every day? It is such an easy way to support our PTA while purchasing the same products at the same prices. **Download the AmazonSmile app or type smile.amazon.com into your web browser!**

1

Join AmazonSmile

If you are not already an AmazonSmile member, sign up at smile.amazon.com. Simply select your favorite charity to start generating donations, at no cost to you.

2

Get the app

Download or update to the latest version of the Amazon Shopping app on your phone. You can find it in the [App Store](#) for iOS or [Google Play](#) for Android.

3

Turn on AmazonSmile

Open the app and find "Settings" in the main menu (☰). Tap on 'AmazonSmile' and follow the on-screen instructions to turn on AmazonSmile on your phone.

Selecting **Diamond Elementary School PTA** makes a real difference!

- Same account and login as Amazon.com
- No cost to you: same products, same prices
- AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% automatically with each eligible purchase
- Every quarter, Diamond receives the donated funds

amazon
smile

Now available in the
Amazon Shopping app

[Learn more](#)

Diamond Elementary School PTA
Location: Gaithersburg, MD



Let's Talk About Fire Safety

The **Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service (MCFRS)** protects lives, property and the environment with comprehensive risk reduction programs as well as safe and effective emergency response. Highly skilled career and volunteer service personnel represent Montgomery County's diverse population.

Through their dedication to the safety and well being of our community, MCFRS is **committed to teaching children and families** in Montgomery County about **fire safety and the prevention of unintentional injuries**.

There are many informative resources on the [MCFRS website](#) for parents, educators and the general public. We encourage you to review the educational materials, links and tip sheets.

The [Make Sure Your Child Is Prepared For A Fire](#) page provides specific examples that should be shared with all family members to minimize confusion should a fire occur:

- Create a fire escape floor plan
- Know what to do in case of a fire
- Escape tips
- Things to think about



**Don't wait until it is too late.
Talk to your family TODAY!**

Diamond ES PTA Calendar 2020-2021

April

1-5 – No School (Spring Break)
16 – No School (Prof Day)
21 – NAACP Parent Council

May

4 – PTA Meeting (6:30p)
13 – No School (Prof Day)
19 – NAACP Parent Council
31 – No School (Memorial Day)

June

16 – Early Release (11:30a -
Last Day of School!)

Summer Break!



July

Summer Break!!





Cash for Diamond Dolphins

Here are some of the ways you can help earn money for Diamond Elementary PTA!
Take a look at some of the partnerships we have. Thank you for your support!



AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know! Same products, same prices, same service, and you can even use your current Amazon account. To get started, **go to smile.amazon.com and select Diamond Elementary School PTA as your charitable organization.** Then, every time you shop at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will donate 0.5% of your eligible purchases back to the school.



Box Tops for Education is going digital!
Download the new Box Top mobile app and scan store receipts for instant earnings. Traditional clip tops are being phased out, but are still found on some packaging. If you find a clipped Box Top, keep together and mail to the school.

PTA - Box tops
4 Marquis Dr, Gaithersburg MD 20878



Make a direct donation to the Diamond ES PTA!
Navigate to the [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) page on the PTA website



When you shop Harris teeter brands, a percentage of your purchase is donated to the school that your VIC card is linked to. There is no limit to how much we can earn! **Link or Re-link your VIC card for 2020-2021 today! Re-linking is required every August. CODE:7261**
Or e-mail irene.chan.sf.331@gmail.com with your VIC number.



There are **codes found under the bottles caps or inside cardboard boxes of Coke products** that can be entered online for cash value. You can mail the plastic bottles caps and/or codes from cartons to school. If you prefer to enter the codes yourself, visit <https://us.coca-cola.com/give/> for more information.

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Click the links to **Stay in the Know**
and to **Connect with Us!**

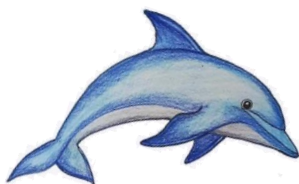


Get Involved!

Joining the PTA is a quick and easy way to support our school. Simply fill out the online [PTA Membership Form](#).

Becoming an active member ensures that your child (or grandchild!) has lots of fun activities to participate in throughout the year. There are several ways to help:

- **Volunteer for a PTA sponsored event.** Be on the look out for volunteer requests (especially when we return to in-person activities!) on Facebook, Twitter, Remind and all our social media outlets
- **Become a Committee Chair.** Lead one-time or recurring programs. Pick one that requires a brief commitment or one that puts you in charge of a team. With so many committees, there is one that is right for YOU! Check out the full [Committee List](#). **Let us know asap if you're interested in any of these Committee Chairs:**
 - **Readathon**
 - **Diversity and Inclusion**
 - **Website**
- **Join the PTA Board.** Help us set the tone and trajectory for the PTA. Reach out to our current [Board Members](#) with any questions.
 - President: [Alyson Kozma](#)
 - VP - Community: [Chuck Clapper](#)
 - Treasurer: [Jennifer Gribskov Panackal](#)
 - Secretary: [Oksana Agba](#)



PTA Meeting Info

Virtual meetings will take place every other month. We will discuss PTA activities and get updates from school Administration

- Join us remotely by clicking the [Online Link](#) (sign in first!)
- Join us by phone: 301-715-8592 (Meeting ID: 892 6440 7459; Passcode: 444360)
- Review notes, slides, audio recordings and related materials from previous PTA meetings: [PTA Meeting Records](#)



The PTA Needs YOU!

We are currently recruiting for all Board positions:

- President
- VP – Community
- VP – Fundraising
- Secretary
- Treasurer

We have a particular need for candidates for **President** and **VP – Fundraising**.

These positions don't require any special knowledge of Diamond or extensive PTA experience – just a commitment to helping to foster a vibrant, inclusive PTA that supports and advocates for all students and works to build a strong sense of community.

Contact [Alyson Kozma](#) for more details!

Do you have an idea or feedback for the Diamond Gems Newsletter? **We'd love to hear from you!** Send your requests and comments to the [Diamond Gems Suggestion Box](#). We'll get back to you asap.



2020-2021 PTA Board, Committees, & Chairpersons

Board Position	Member	Email
President	Alyson Kozma	President@despta.org
Vice President – Community	Chuck Clapper	Community@despta.org
Vice President – Fundraising	Need replacement	Fundraising@despta.org
Treasurer	Jennifer Gribskov Panackal	Treasurer@despta.org
Secretary	Oksana Agba	Secretary@despta.org

Committee	Chair(s)
After School & Extracurricular Activities	Dipesha Shah
Andrea Virga Winter Coat Drive	Shannon Phelan Nazzi Kholdebarin
Back to School Social	Kristy King
Book Fair	Elsa Flores Mílva Simões
Box Tops & Giant A+	Irene Chan
Bulletin Board	Elsa Flores Luisa McFate
Cluster Rep – Northwest	Andrea Richardson
Cluster Rep – Quince Orchard	Bonnie Cybulko Allison Fisher
Cultural Arts	Ranjini Iyengar Kristina Sracic Lisa Weinstein Mina Yoo
Curb Appeal	John Rouse Jayson Simmkoveak
Diamond Gems Newsletter	Mílva Simões
Directory	Pegah Borzognia
Diversity & Inclusion	Purvi Desai (Need a co-chair)
Dolphin Dash	Jass Gosal (Need a co-chair)
Facebook Moderators	Executive Board
Family Fun Finn-Go Night	Nazzi Kholdebarin
Family Fun Movie Night	Elsa Flores
Family Fun Valentine Dance	Allison Fisher
Fifth Grade Recognition	Allison Fisher Asawari Ketkar Megha Bavarva
Food Drive	(Need a Chair)

Committee	Chair(s)
Fundraising – Readathon	(Need a Chair)
Girls on the Run	Joanna Crandall Elizabeth Petraglia
Group Moderator	Shannon Little
Group Piano	Bonnie Cybulko
International Night	Nazzi Kholdebarin Reza Emtiaznoori
MCCPTA Delegates	Alyson Kozma Chuck Clapper
Membership	Elizabeth Petraglia
NAACP Parents Counsel Representative	Melanie Jones
Nominating Committee	Billy Newson
Pastries for Parents	(Need a Chair – 2021/22)
Principal's Coffee	Richard Burton
Restaurant Nights	Bonnie Cybulko Luisa McFate
Room Parent Coordinator	Sarah Burton
Social Justice and Community Service	Erin Vaughn
Special Needs Representative	Dave Stevenson Maggie Stevenson Coni Nepomuceno
Spirit Wear	Dave Stevenson Adynda Fara (Need a co-chair)
Staff Appreciation	Jamila Denney Swati Dadhich Corrine Lake Luisa McFate
Website	Dave Stevenson (Need a co-chair)