



# The Rocket Reporter

PTA Newsletter  
Fall 2018

## Upcoming Events

October 8 - Teacher Workday  
(no school for students)

October 10 - Report cards sent  
home

October 12 - Fall Carnival

October 15 - Jump Rope for  
Heart begins

October 25 - Spirit Night at  
Chick-Fil-A

October 26 - Professional  
Development Day (no school  
for students)

November 8 - Veterans' Day  
program at 9:00 a.m.

November 12 - No school  
(Veterans' Day observed)

November 13 - Spirit Night at  
Chick-Fil-A

November 19-23 - Thanksgiving  
break (no school)

December 19 - Teacher  
Workday (no school for  
students)

December 20-31 - Christmas  
Break

## Fall Carnival October 12

The annual GES Fall Carnival will be held on Friday, October 12, 2018, at the Gardendale Civic Center. Festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. Activities include live performances from local entertainers on the main stage, a dance party, and Sweet Shoppe.

Guests can enjoy several carnival rides by purchasing armbands or tickets through the PTA. Forms for armband and ticket sales are provided on the Gardendale Elementary Facebook page. Both tickets and armbands will also be available at the carnival.

Food will be available for purchase through various vendors using the ticket system. Food vendors will include: Porky's Pride Barbecue, the Tamale Queen, and a pizza booth.

There will be deserts (both individual and family size) available for purchase in the Sweet Shoppe, and auction items (including prizes from local businesses and gift baskets provided by GES parents) available for bid in the silent auction room. Both the Sweet Shoppe and silent auction room will be inside the Civic Center. Come support our school and have a great time!

## Parent Involvement

Parents and grandparents, are you looking for ways you can become more involved with Gardendale Elementary? Or for a way to help with carnival – our largest fundraiser of the year? Here are a few options:

- Buy a PTA membership! Memberships are \$10 per family. Proceeds provide funds for teacher accounts to purchase academic equipment and also provide for teacher appreciation events.
- Bid on an item at the silent auction.
- Buy tickets and armbands for the carnival.
- Donate to the Sweet Shoppe! Bring baked goods to the school office on the day of the carnival.
- Buy a carnival shirt.

## Drama Club Members

Drama Club has auditioned and chosen new members for this year.

Fourth grade members are: Finley Gardner, Lilly Ellis, Layla Berry, Ansley Aquire, Berkley Fuller, Presley Ragland, Eva Cawley, Lauren Stephens, Antwon Cook, Maci Martin, and Jade Gooch.

Fifth grade members are: Alex Travis, Brier Hight, Surrelle Jackson, Darby Jarvis, Evie Holmes, Ian Fricke, Aubrey Hulse, Mason Harris, Makayla Johnson, Tilly Canty, Savannah Wilson, Savannah McCall, Katelyn White, Whitley Patterson, Brant Payne, Aubrey Sublett, Jacob Cawley, Lilly Hutto, Jay Spencer, Keondra Busbee, Kaylee Burns, Aniya Barfield, Blakeley Bruce, and Reese Gardner.

## Teacher Breakfast

The first teacher breakfast of the year was held on September 28, 2018. Food was provided by the parents of fourth and fifth graders. Second and third grade parents, your opportunity to show some appreciation to the hardworking faculty and staff of GES is coming up! The next teacher breakfast will be held on **November 30**. So if you are the parent of a second or third grader, please watch your email for a sign-up list from your room parent.



## Clubs and Activities

The fifth grade girls' and boys' **Newcomb teams** will travel to Bryan Elementary on October 1 to compete against four other schools. Go Rockets!

The **Chess Club** has 50 fourth and fifth grade members. Mrs. Waters is the faculty sponsor.

Our **Science Olympiad** team is comprised of third, fourth, and fifth graders. Applications were taken and that team will be selected soon. Mrs. McCreless and Ms. Harmon are the faculty sponsors.

The **Random Act of Kindness (RAK) Club** is comprised of almost 20 fifth graders and led by our school librarian, Mrs. Brandi Craven. This club will spread kindness around our school and community.

We will also have a **Robotics Club** this year. This team will be comprised of fourth and fifth graders.

## 2018 Robotics Team



# The Arts at Gardendale Elementary



## Music Notes

The music program is off to a great start this year. I have heard some beautiful music coming from all these talented students at Gardendale Elementary School. Your students have studied patriotic music, Mozart (the man and his music), reviewed their music theory, and have enjoyed working on the Orff instruments.

Our fourth and fifth grade students have learned our state song as we look forward to celebrating Alabama's Bicentennial in 2019.

Our drumming group put the spirit in the air a couple of Fridays ago as they performed for the students on their way to class. The students have even taught me some new dance moves.

Our Gardendale Honor Choir has been auditioned. All fourth grade students practice on Tuesday mornings and all fifth grade students practice on Thursday mornings. We are working hard on our October 12<sup>th</sup> Fall Carnival performance, where we will sing at 5:45 p.m. We look forward to our Irish Christmas program, scheduled for Wednesday morning, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

It is a privilege to teach at such a great school as GES and I enjoy teaching the students a love of music.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our music programs!

Sincerely,

Mr. Goff

## The Art Program

Our students have been busy studying Africa this year. Their first unit centered on Morocco. They have made Berber rugs with their symbols and studying a Moroccan queen who was also a pirate, named Sayyida Al Hurra.



*Berber Rug*

by Brooke Calloway, fifth grade.

*Queen Sayyida Al Hurra,*

by Noah Terrell, second grade.



*Camel*

by Chris Shell, fourth grade.

## Meet Our Assistant Principals

### Dr. Loni Hodge



Hello, GES families! My name is Dr. Loni Hodge and I am so excited to be back at GES serving as the Assistant Principal for kindergarten and grades one and two. If we didn't get to meet last year, allow me to tell you a little about myself!

I am married to Justin and we have three awesome kids ages eight, four, and three. I defended my dissertation this summer at Samford University and will graduate in December with my educational doctorate degree.

When I'm not in Gardendale, I'm in my hometown spending time with my family and friends and attending my kids' extra-curricular activities.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have every day to work at Gardendale Elementary with a great administrative team, phenomenal teachers and staff, and the best group of kids in the WORLD! My goal is to help ensure that kids are safe, happy, and learning while they are at GES. I look forward to meeting more families this year and making this our best year yet!

### Mrs. Staci Lewis



Dear Gardendale Community,

I am very excited to start the 2018-2019 school year as one of the Assistant Principals of Gardendale Elementary School. I will mostly work with third through fifth grade. It is a privilege to serve as an Assistant Principal of Gardendale Elementary and work with such a dedicated and professional staff. Our school has an outstanding reputation, and I am proud to be part of such a wonderful community.

This school year will be the start of my 14<sup>th</sup> year in education. I graduated from Alabama A&M University with a degree in Elementary Education. In addition, I hold a Master's degree in Education Administration from Alabama State University and an Education Specialist degree in Instructional Leadership from the University of Montevallo. I am fortunate to continue serving in our school district because I've learned and grown so much professionally since I joined the Jefferson County family.

*Continued on page 5*

*Continued from Ms. Staci Lewis, page 4*

I am looking forward to supporting the students, faculty, and community of Gardendale. I believe in open communication and collaboration so please feel free to contact me by email/phone or by stopping by my office. My email is [slewis@jefcoed.com](mailto:slewis@jefcoed.com) and my phone number is 205-379-3550. It is through working together that we will succeed in bringing the best educational opportunities to your children.

It is my hope that you and your child enjoy the 2018-2019 school year and all the excitement it will bring! I'm proud to now call myself a Gardendale Rocket and look forward to working together in the coming months!

Sincerely,

Staci Lewis, Assistant Principal

## Chick-Fil-A Spirit Nights

Gardendale Elementary will be holding Spirit Nights at Chick-Fil-A on October 25 and November 13, 2018.

On Spirit Nights, PTA members will be on duty to scan your receipts into the Planet Fundraiser app. The school will receive 20% of the total proceeds from those two nights.

You can also help the rest of the year by downloading the Planet Fundraiser app onto your phone and scanning all of your Chick-Fil-A receipts. Choose Gardendale Elementary as your charity and we will receive 7% of the total receipts scanned.

## Keep Up With GES

Website: [gardendaleel.jefcoed.com](http://gardendaleel.jefcoed.com)

Twitter: @gardendaleel

Facebook: [gardendaleel](https://www.facebook.com/gardendaleel)

## From the Principal's Desk

What a wonderful start to the 2018-19 school year! I have been very impressed with how well we are doing with morning arrivals and dismissals considering all of the construction going on around our area – we have finished car line many mornings by 7:55. #awesomeness. **Thank you for getting your kiddos here on time.** I love all the fist bumps and hugs I receive every morning! Afternoon dismissal has gotten quicker also – we have been finishing dismissal by 3:30 each day lately. I appreciate you having your signs visible to make the afternoon process flow more efficiently. If you need a replacement sign, please contact our school office. I am grateful to our crossing guards who work every day – in all types of weather – to make sure things flow smoothly and our kids are safe. I honestly do not think we could have school without them. Our ROCKET LEADERS (pictured below) have been an incredible help also. And, I love our amazing teachers and staff members!

Thank you for sharing your children with us each day! Gardendale Elementary is a great place to learn. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year!

Kindness and Awesomeness,

Dr. Yeager



2018-19 ROCKET Leaders