

# Greyhound Gazette

August 25, 2017

**Greenbelt Elementary**  
66 Ridge Road  
Greenbelt, MD 20770  
301-513-5911

Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 School Year  
A message from Principal Gaines...

Greetings Students and Parents,



I hope this letter finds your family enjoying the summer, and starting to get excited about the new school year! For those of you who are new to our school, I want you to know that you are coming to an absolutely wonderful place. Greenbelt Elementary is truly a special school that enjoys a rich history of academic and cultural excellence thanks to successful partnerships among staff, families and the community. In addition, our teachers are passionate, caring, hardworking, and lifelong learners. We strive hard to give our students an education that develops their academic, social, and artistic strengths while also making personal connections, which helps children succeed.



This school year, we will be focusing on developing a “**growth mindset**” for students, and staff.

**The Growth Mindset**

*People believe that their most basic abilities can be developed through dedication and hard work - brains and talent are just the starting point.*

*This view creates a love of learning and a resilience that is essential for great accomplishment. Virtually all great people have had these qualities.*

*Teaching a growth mindset creates motivation and productivity in the worlds of business, education, and sports. It enhances relationships.*



**Instead of:**  
**“This is too hard.”**

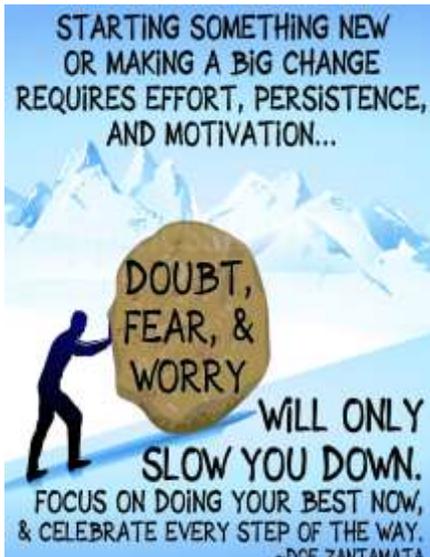
**Say:**  
**“This may take  
some time  
and effort.”**

A child’s belief about intelligence is an important factor in whether they become an effective learner. We will focus on two important concepts:

- 1.) Learning is hard work.
- 2.) Learning can be uncomfortable.

All learning occurs outside of one’s comfort zone. During the course of this school year, we will continue to move out of our comfort zones and engage in

Join us at Back to School Night on September 14<sup>th</sup>, to learn more about developing a growth mindset at home.



In alignment with a growth mindset, even as adults, sometimes we must step out of our comfort zone to try something new. We would like to extend the following individuals Mrs. Dalrymple, Mr. Harris, Ms. Moylan, and Mr. Weeks best wishes and much success as they transition from GES to pursue new opportunities!

**Special congratulations to Mrs. Dalrymple, Ms. Moylan, and Mrs. Turner!**

Mrs. Dalrymple will be the new ESOL Instructional Lead Teacher at Thomas Stone E.S.

Ms. Moylan will be the new Reading Specialist at Springhill Lake ES.

Mrs. Turner will be the new Assistant Principal at Princeton E.S.



In addition, we have a few team members that have new positions for the school year. I would like to thank them in advance for believing in themselves and having a growth mindset to take on a new challenge!

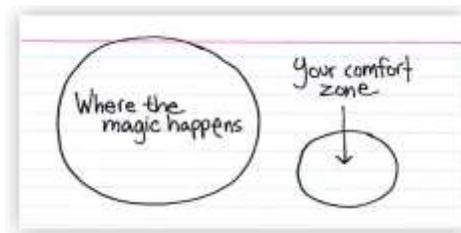
**Ms. Taylor Baldwin** – Fourth Grade

**Mr. George Courtney** – Special Education Paraprofessional

**Ms. Elisa Mayes** – Fifth grade Science/Social Studies

**Ms. Lindsey Volk** – Fifth grade as the Reading/Language Arts

**Mr. Marson Richardson** – Fifth grade Math



Please join us in welcoming our new teachers to the Greenbelt Family!



**Instructional Lead Teachers** – Laneka Allison and Latoya Thornton

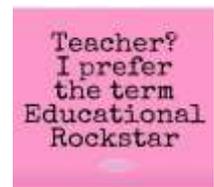
**Kindergarten Team** – Melinda Souther

**Second Grade Team** – Mackenzie Peter and Tamia Perry

**Special Education Team** – Sonja Jackson and David Pielmeier

**ESOL** – Hannah Kirby

**Russian Teacher** – Alexei Dmitriev





As we prepare for the new school year, here are a few reminders:

**SCHOOL HOURS:** School begins promptly at 9:00 a.m. and ends at 3:20 p.m. We really encourage you to have your child at school by 9:00 a.m. especially those eating breakfast. Teachers will begin at 9:00 a.m. with an engagement activity to prepare our students for their day. Students are marked “tardy” if they arrive after the late bell at 9:15 a.m. and are marked as an “early dismissal” if they leave before 3:20 p.m. Please make every effort to have your son/daughter in school during the designated hours so that he/she can receive the full benefit of the instructional program at Greenbelt ES. It is important to be present and on time every day.

**BUS SCHEDULES:** The upcoming school year bus schedules will be mailed to you by the Prince George’s County Public Schools’ Department of Transportation. Bus information is also available on the PGCPs website at [www.pgcp.org](http://www.pgcp.org). Please review the a.m. and p.m. bus numbers and approximate pick up/drop off times with your child. This will assist them with becoming acclimated with the bus route and schedule. Please be patient during the first couple weeks of school as the bus drivers become more familiar with their routes. Schedules may be off a little the first few days of school.

There’s an app for that! ... Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPs) is encouraging parents to try out the new **Bb District by Blackboard** mobile app prior to the first day of school (Sept. 6) for bus stop locations and transportation updates. In addition to transportation updates, the app provides convenient access to school lunch balances. Download the new mobile application in the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#) using your [Family Portal account](#) information, then select your school and choose a preferred notification method. Parents who do not have a Family Portal account can register at [tinyurl.com/familyportalregistration](http://tinyurl.com/familyportalregistration). You’ll need your child’s student ID number, found on their report card, to register. Pre-K and Kindergarten parents can obtain the student ID number on Orientation day from the office. If you need assistance, please contact your child’s school.

**FORMS & STUDENT INFORMATION SHEETS:** Please complete all forms that will be sent home on the first day of school, especially the Student Information Sheet and return them to your child’s teacher the next day. It is extremely important that we have accurate emergency information on file for every child. During the year, if any of this information changes, please make sure you let us know. It is imperative that we always have current working phone numbers in case of emergencies. As we began last year, we are also asking for email addresses as a form of communication with our families. Sending newsletters and other mass correspondences in this manner will save us money, paper and time for this school year. Please make sure that your child’s teacher(s) have a current email address for you. We will begin collecting this information at Back to School Night.

**PRE-KINDERGARTEN, KINDERGARTEN and NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION:** Orientation will be held on Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup>. Pre-Kindergarten Orientation will take place at 9:30 a.m. in our multipurpose room. Kindergarten Orientation will take place at 2:00 p.m. in our multipurpose room. This is a time for our parents to learn about our early childhood programs and for our new students to become acquainted with their new school, teachers and classmates. The PTA is sponsoring a “Popsicles in the Park” activity for Kindergarteners after the Orientation at 3:00 p.m.

**KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT:** If your child did not attend our Pre-K program last school year, we would like to briefly meet with your Kindergartener in order to get some general information about your child’s readiness for Kindergarten. This information will help us determine the most appropriate placement for your child. If you have not yet scheduled your Kindergartener to take this informal assessment, please call our office at (301) 513-5911 to schedule an appointment. There are times available this Wednesday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> from 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. This appointment should not take more than 15 minutes. We look forward to hearing from you!

**SCHOOL BREAKFAST & LUNCHES:** PGCPs has a computerized meal sale program. Each student has a Personal Identification Number (PIN) and account set up. You may put funds in the account at any time during the school year. Funds can be deposited at the school cafeteria by check or cash. Money can be sent with your son/daughter to put in

his/her account as soon as they arrive at school. Please write the PIN on the check in the memo section. Additionally the county has set up the PayPAMS (Parent Account Management System) for school lunch payments to be made online. The system will also allow parents to set up automatic payment plans, view account balances and the history of the account usage. Students' PINs are the same as last year. New students will receive numbers and guidelines within the first few weeks of school. Until a PIN is assigned, please send in money daily. Meal prices are: Lunch - \$2.75; milk only - \$.55; and reduced lunch - \$.40.

**BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT:** We have scheduled Back to School Night on Thursday, September 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. for Grades Pre-K - 5. This is an opportunity to meet the teacher(s), learn about the academic program for your child's grade level and ways that you can support learning at home. We look forward to seeing you on September 14<sup>th</sup>.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES:** A school supply list is attached. It is also posted on our school's website and there are copies in the main office. Students should come to school prepared with necessary supplies on a daily basis ready to learn.

**GES WEB PAGE & PARENT PORTAL:** The school's website, [www1.pgcps.org/greenbeltes](http://www1.pgcps.org/greenbeltes) will be updated continuously to provide detailed information pertinent to the daily academic procedures here at Greenbelt Elementary. Additionally, you will find current information on specific activities and events, and other important information. The Parent Portal of SchoolMAX will be up and "running" for parent usage on September 6<sup>th</sup>. You can find out your child's homeroom teacher through SchoolMAX. We will provide more information on this system and its benefits at Back to School Night.



August 26<sup>th</sup> – Back to School Fair at Bowie Baysox Arena from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

August 31<sup>st</sup> – Pre-Kindergarten Orientation at 9:30 a.m.  
Kindergarten Orientation at 2:00 p.m.

September 1<sup>st</sup> – September 4<sup>th</sup> – Greenbelt Labor Day Festival – Stop by the Greenbelt Elementary PTA book sale and support our school by supporting our PTA!

September 4<sup>th</sup> – Labor Day – School Closed

September 6<sup>th</sup> – First Day of School for Students at 9:00 a.m.

September 14<sup>th</sup> – Back to School Night at 6:30 p.m. for Grades Pre-K – 5

September 29<sup>th</sup> – Professional Development for Staff – 2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students starting at 1:20 p.m.

We are looking forward to an extraordinary new school year and celebrating many successes as we continue "Growing Young Minds to New Heights".

Monica Gaines  
Proud Principal