

August 7 2018

Good morning George Mason families -

Reminder that tonight is National Night Out, 5:30-8pm on the field behind George Mason. More information is below.

I believe I have removed and added anyone to the PTA distro list who has contacted me. If you no longer want to receive these emails, please email [georgemasonpta@gmail.com](mailto:georgemasonpta@gmail.com) to be removed. And if you know families with a rising kindergartner or a new student who would like to be added to the PTA email list, please have them contact [georgemasonpta@gmail.com](mailto:georgemasonpta@gmail.com).

Here are some dates to remember, and a few important announcements:

8/7	National Night Out
8/14-17	Kindergarten prep
8/16	Kindergarten Popsicles and play, 1-2pm
8/29	Kindergarten play date, (10-11am)
8/31	Meet the teacher - 12-1pm
9/4	First day of school, 2018-19
9/6	Ice Cream Social, 6:00-7:30pm, (rain date 9/13)
9/7	Summer Reading logs and projects due
9/12	Back to School Night 5:45-6:30 & 6:45-7:30pm
9/17	PTA meeting, 7pm (Committee chair meeting 6:30pm)

### 1. National Night Out

Tonight is National Night Out - Tuesday, August 7! This year's event will take place from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM at the field behind George Mason. This free celebration is focused on building relationships between police, firefighters, emergency responders and neighbors, creating a stronger sense of community support for public safety efforts. Food truck vendors will have food for purchase. Have your kids ride their bikes and scooters as Spokes Etc. will have a bike/helmet safety station. School supply donations will be collected for George Mason - glue sticks, 3x3 Post-It notes, safety scissors, composition notebooks, 24-packs of Crayola crayons, colored pencils, three-ring binders, 3.5 mm headphones, backpacks, tissues, Ziploc bags and more. With the help of the North Ridge Citizens Association (NRCA) volunteers and generous local business leaders, it will once again be an evening of neighborly fun.

### 2. Summer Reading

Encourage your kids to READ this summer! Summer reading journals went home with report cards, and you can also download the reading journals from the [PTA website](#). Students who read the number of books for their upcoming grade level should complete and return the form by Friday, September 7. Readers will be invited to participate in Lunch on the Lawn, where they can eat and play outside on the lawn during their lunch period. Students may also complete an (optional) project for display in the halls of George Mason. Start planning for summer reading today by visiting the [Alexandria Library website](#), where you can find branches and hours, put books on hold online, or find out about upcoming events and book sales.

### 3. Kindergarten play dates

Kindergarten play dates are informal and held at the George Mason playground. Play dates will be cancelled if there is bad weather. Karis Cavender and Catherine Estes have organized the play dates. Please contact Karis ([k.cavender@me.com](mailto:k.cavender@me.com)) or Catherine ([catherineestes@hotmail.com](mailto:catherineestes@hotmail.com)) with any questions. Dates and times are listed above!

### 4. School supplies

If you chose to order supplies through Sprout, please remember that HEADPHONES are NOT included, so you are still responsible for buying those and bringing them to school at Meet the Teacher or on the first day of school. If you still need to buy your school supplies, Mr. O. included the list of supplies in the last Mason Messenger.

Here is a link to the flyer: [1819\\_Supplies\\_Final.pdf](#)

#### 5. Duncan Library visits

George Mason Elementary students are invited to ride a George Mason school bus from the Brookside Apartment Building to visit the Duncan Public Library, to enjoy the library and to select and check out library books. George Mason teachers and volunteers will accompany the children on the bus and the library visits. All are welcome - you do not need to ride the bus, just meet us there to see classmates over the summer and share reading! Tomorrow, August 8th, is the last scheduled visit. See attached flyer for more details.

#### 6. TAG update

At the last PTA meeting (May 2018,) there was a question about potential changes to the TAG program. School board member, Cindy Anderson, has shared the board brief that has been posted: <https://eboard.acps.k12.va.us/attachments/ee93ff0f-058e-497f-bcf8-b80b5b073663.pdf>.

#### 7. Amazon purchases support the PTA!

Did you know that you can support the PTA by buying on Amazon, using this link? <https://goo.gl/bw7U5k>

Save this link to your bookmarks or favorites and a percentage of your purchase goes directly to George Mason PTA! (Amazon Smile does not give us the same return - this link gives the PTA a much higher return!!)

Happy summer!!