

# Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 3

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

December 2014

**PTA President:** Holly Jankowski  
**Principal:** Mr. Lee Derby

**Vice Presidents:** Annie Karp and Amy Hoffacker  
**Treasurer:** Anita Young

**Secretary:** Michele Tregoning



## PTA President's Message

- **HOLIDAY SHOP** Dec 2 – Dec 5
- **PTA MEETING** Dec 2, 7pm – 8pm
- **HOLIDAY SHOP** Dec 2 5:30pm – 7:30pm
- **SCIENCE EXPO APPLICATION DEADLINE** Dec 5
- **PROGRESS REPORTS** Dec 8
- **SPIRIT NIGHT CHUCK-E-CHEESE** Dec 12, 3pm – 9pm
- **WINTER WONDERLAND** Dec 9 - Dec 15
- **WINTER CHORUS CONCERT** Dec 16, 2:30pm – 3:15pm
- **WINTER IM CHORUS CONCERT CHS** Dec 17, 7pm -- 8 pm
- **CLARKSBURG HS BAND VISIT** Dec 23
- **NO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS** Dec 24, 25
- **NO SCHOOL WINTER BREAK** Dec 26 – Jan 4

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families and got a chance to relax and recall all the things you are thankful for this past year! I am thankful for our wonderful staff, families and friends at Cedar Grove. I cannot believe November is already over. The first marking period has ended and it is time now to set goals with our students to reach for the next marking period. I believe our students will enjoy that you spend time with them to discuss their report card and show interest in their studies as we turnover our first marking period this school year. I like to challenge my kids to read a little more each night to create the habit of reading on their own each day during the holidays.

We had a great turnout at BINGO night. Thank you Amy Hoffacker for making this Bingo night fun and filled with many fun prizes, great food and good times for all! Many thanks go to Amy Hoffacker as well, for organizing the Fall Fundraiser this year. I want to thank her for taking a difficult situation and handling it in a very professional way.

Our school directories have been handed out and many thanks for that project goes to our two wonderful Vice Presidents, Annie Karp and Amy Hoffacker. We do have some extra directories available to purchase. Please contact Annie, Amy or myself.

You also received your PTA membership cards. Please know you must activate your PTA card when you get it. This will allow you to get discounts at Staples and other stores AFTER you go to the website printed on your PTA card and activate your card. More information on how to ACTIVATE your PTA membership card will be on our [PTA website](#).

Our Jersey Mikes Spirit night was very successful! Thank you to Anita Young for setting this up! These little things help support our PTA events!! Anita is also busy getting ready for our Holiday Shop, which begins the first week in December! More information is coming about this!

We have many ways you can help in the school or at home, contact me anytime. Have a Happy December.

Many thanks,  
Holly Jankowski  
PTA President

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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
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## Staff Appreciation

### Michele Tregoning PTA Secretary

# STAFF APPRECIATION

Our November Staff Appreciation event was a "Conference Survival Kit" for all classroom teachers! It included a 2-day supply of goodies to get them through the long afternoons and evenings of meeting with all the parents from their class. Thank you to those that contributed items for the kits: Goldie Bagheri, Jen Coakley, Revital Darmon, Irit Goldman, Jenn Gorrie, Sandra Hines, and Sonal Purohit.

If you would like to be included in the Staff Appreciation Signups, please email me at [micheletregoning@yahoo.com](mailto:micheletregoning@yahoo.com) and I will add you to our list. Thank you for helping to show the wonderful Cedar Grove staff how much we appreciate everything they do for our children!

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## Fall Fundraiser

### Amy Hoffacker PTA Vice-President

Our fall fundraiser was a success and we were able to raise approximately \$3,000 for the Cedar Grove PTA!!! The company changed ownership and therefore organization and distribution were very different this year. Thank you to the parents for being so patient with us while picking up your orders and working through any issues. A big thank you goes to our parent volunteers Jen Coakley and Anita Young! Also, thank you to our student volunteer Justice Williams for all your help!

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## BINGO

### Amy Hoffacker



Our PTA Family Bingo Night had an unexpected large turnout so thank you everyone for coming! A HUGE thank you goes to our "Celebrity" Bingo Callers - Ms. Troup and Mr. Bishop - the students loved having you there! Thank you to our parent volunteers - Sarenee Hawkins, Melanie Harper, Golriz Izadashenas, Annie Karp, Phan Ma, Jennifer Strouble and Anita Young! Also, a big thank you to our SSL students - Bobby Chen, Alex Chow, and Petra Han. We could not have done it without all of our volunteers! Save the date of March 6, 2015 for our next bingo night!

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## Cultural Arts

### Lori Andrus

We had our PTA sponsored first Cultural Arts Assembly of the year titled "Classical Hip-Hop", by Christylez Bacon on Monday, November 24th, for all students at Cedar Grove Elementary. This program merged the contrasting worlds of Classical music and Hip-Hop music, in a collaborative musical program featuring GRAMMY nominated Progressive Hip-Hop artist Christylez Bacon (pronounced: Chris-styles) and six-string electric cellist, Wytold (William Wytold Lebing). Traditional elements of hip-hop such as human beatbox, rhyming and storytelling are blended with classical compositions of composers like Bach, Vivaldi, and Pachelbel. Christylez Bacon will demonstrate the amazing human beat-box, and how it can interplay with the percussive and bowing techniques of the electric cello. By building cross-cultural connections, these presentations help students gain insight into the universality of artistic expression. Students will have learned about the elements of improvisation and ensemble performance and explore a range of tone qualities, rhythms, and musical genres. The program will demonstrate how music can be created using the most basic materials of the artist's own voice and body, in addition to using modern-day acoustic engineering technology. Christylez Bacon & Wytold are long time favorites and distinguished artists with the Music Center at Strathmore, the National Cathedral, and the Kennedy Center. We truly hope that your students both learned from and enjoyed this fun & unique Assembly! If you would like to learn more about this presentation, or the artists, please visit their website at <http://www.classactsarts.org/artist/christylez-bacon>.

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PTA Directories are here! If you joined the PTA you should have received your Student Directory. These directories are EXCLUSIVE for PTA members only. We have a few extra directories available if you still have not joined the PTA, you can find the [Membership form](#) here. We used A to Z Directories this year, so we apologize if there were any errors or omissions to the data!

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## The Intersection

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

For some reason, the month of November always flies by. We held our parent conferences, and I know our staff enjoyed their survival bags. We've had more class field trips, as well as the conclusion of our Joe Corbi fund raiser, with the pickup of all of the orders. We had an excellent hip-hop assembly, for which we thank you. Our students were so engaged and absolutely loved the experience. And above all, we saw more and more parent volunteers come to our classrooms and into the media center, giving of their time and creativity. As we look forward to our Thanksgiving break, we also

want to extend our gratitude for all you do to support the staff and our students as we work our way through our curriculum. Cedar Grove is an example of education at its finest – because we have an involved community who do so much to help us focus on what's important: our young students.

At this point, I'd like to put in another plug for our science expo. We are again committed to producing a forum for young scientists to explore an inquiry-based experiment and bring those results to our expo on January 15, 2015. We hope you are encouraging your students to fill out the application, which is due on December 5. In addition, we are still looking for adult "interviewers" to ask our young scientists questions about their experiment. You need not be a scientist; an interest in science or even natural curiosity is all it takes –and an hour of your time! Please contact [Mrs. Birrer](#) or sign up on our [Signup Genius](#) if you are interested in helping us that evening. We would like to have between 10 and 15 adult volunteers so you can spend time with these young scientists!

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## Winter Concert update

Mrs. Jackson



There has been one minor change to the daytime choral performance schedule. The chorus will perform their daytime concert on Tuesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, at 2:30 pm.

The evening performance date, time and location remain the same, December 17, 2014. Chorus members are asked to be at Clarksburg High School, in their black and white, by 6:30 pm.

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## S.G.A. Spirit Days

Mrs. Jackson

The S.G.A. had their first meeting on November 20<sup>th</sup>. At the meeting, the members decided to have all of our Spirit Days on the third Thursday of every month. The S.G.A. votes on each spirit day during our meetings, so keep an eye on our calendar and website for our upcoming spirit days. Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, November's Spirit Day, the ever-popular Pajama Day, was celebrated on Tuesday, November 25.

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## TOYS FOR TOTS

Mrs. Jackson

The S.G.A is again sponsoring Toys for Tots this year. As you may know, this program is run by the men and women of the United States Marine Corps Reserve. The purpose is to collect **new, unwrapped** toys during October, November and December each year,

and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children, up to age 16, in the community. Toys for Tots prefers not to accept toys that are, or have, real looking weapons or gifts with food. Please consider donating a toy for the Toys for Tots program to help kids have a happy holiday.

The collection will start Monday December 1st and last until Wednesday December 17th. You or your child/children can drop your toys off in the Toys for Tots boxes that will be in the hallways.



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## Media Moments

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that our grade 3, 4, AND 5 classes now have their chrome books and are quickly becoming acquainted with various apps to help them during the school day. I'm sure you've heard a lot of chatter from your child about this amazing new technology, and we encourage you to make discoveries together as we learn how to use this exciting tool to enhance instruction in the classroom.

Circulation in the media center is high, thanks to my parent volunteers. Just to give you a snapshot: from October 1 through November 20 we circulated 8,016 books to our students. The media center is rarely closed, because I can count on my ladies to ensure that our students can read for pleasure.

Our inquiry projects for the second marking period are in full swing, and it's delightful to be part of the discovery that's occurring during the student research.

**Kindergarten** is in the midst of its Goldfish research. We have created a Graphic Organizer on *Kidspiration* to capture all the facts that we are learning from our various resources. The next step is to start taking notes from our *PebbleGo* Goldfish article, by highlighting key words and phrases.

**First grade's** focus on Tomie DePaola, and how he uses his strong connections to his family and his experiences in life to create ideas and write his stories, is in progress. We are journaling responses to his four stories, and will proceed with the biographical research after we've captured some information about his life that we predict is true based on his stories.

**Second grade's** research of a different country to get information about the sensory details we can use in our narratives is almost complete. We have used our print resources as well as *Culturegrams* and *Imagequest* to get as many facts as we can so our new folk tale setting will be as authentic as possible. We are also going to learn how to record our stories, after we've written our scripts.

**Third grade's** lessons in the media center are almost complete. The chrome books have been wonderful, allowing us to extend our research to Mrs. Hirschhorn's [pathfinder](#)

on the media page. We have researched the evolution of various technologies, and are now inferring what that technology will look like and do in the future. More importantly, we are making connections to what we want by way of technology as opposed to what we need.

**Fourth graders** are extremely excited about their inquiry project. The fact that they are involved in researching elements of their community and can use their chrome books to create a survey on *GoogleForms*, is very engaging. We've spent quite a bit of time investigating the demographics of Clarksburg as well as existing types of businesses so that with the information we get from our survey, we will be able to make an educated decision about what kind of business Clarksburg can still absorb.

**Fifth grade's** inquiry focus is an awakening for many of our students. By focusing on the various events of The Civil Rights Movement, our students are learning to appreciate the sacrifices that people make in order to make changes in government and therefore in the quality of their lives. We are using print resources of all kinds, including primary resources from the Newseum, as well as our Web and video resources. Our chrome books are helping us in the research process, giving us access to those online resources without having to wait for access to the computer lab.

We are already on our second news crew. My first crew was wonderful, and I know my second crew will be wonderful, too. Please feel free to access our [daily news show](#) on our Web page. I try to keep up and upload the show within 24 hours.

Our *I Wonder* question box is still in the media center to support the Science Expo. We encourage our students to contribute by creating a method to find an answer to that question. As always, we read a few student-created methods on the TV news every Friday.

Lastly, as we all anticipate the Winter holidays, and I make ready to travel to Los Angeles to celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, and family with my children, I hope you all have a wonderful Winter break with lots of laughter and outside play and, above all, the time to curl up with a good book.

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## Honey Baked Hams

We recognize that December is a busy time with all of the holiday preparations! Your PTA would like to make your life a bit easier and is holding a fundraiser with Honey Baked Hams.

You can log in and order your Holiday meals and have it delivered directly to Cedar Grove.

<https://MyHoneyBakedStore.com/Gaithersburg/2205/EPP/Index.asp> Cedar Grove  
Sign-in Code: XWYRPB.

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## Join the PTA

If you haven't already joined the PTA, please download the [membership form](#) to fill out and send in with your child. A form will also be going home with your child, so please consider sending it in soon to become a member.

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## PTA Meeting Minutes

Please note that the monthly Cedar Grove PTA meeting minutes will be published on the PTA website, instead of being published in the Bear Facts newsletter. Please check the November PTA [meeting minutes](#) on our PTA website [www.cedargrovepta.org](http://www.cedargrovepta.org).

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