

# Bear Facts



Volume 27, Issue 7

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

April 2014

**PTA President:** Michele Tregoning  
**Principal:** Mr. Lee Derby

**Vice Presidents:** Lori Andrus and Macie Mogot  
**Treasurer:** Lori Marshall

**Secretary:** Shobha Rajan



## PTA President's Message

- **PTA MEETING** Apr 1, 7pm
- **READ-A-THON ENDS** Apr 4
- **JANSSON'S PARK** Apr 7-11
- **READ-A-THON MONIES DUE** Apr 8
- **FLYER DAY** Apr 9
- **READ-A-THON PRIZES GIVE AWAY** Apr 11
- **SPRING BREAK** Apr 14-20
- **NO SCHOOL** Apr 21
- **KEYS TO READING ENDS** Apr 22
- **KEYS PARADES AND GAMES- KEYS STADIUM, FREDERICK** Apr 25, 26, 27
- **SPRING DANCE- RHMS** Apr 25, 6:30 – 7:30pm
- **EARTH DAY** Apr 27

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

I think Spring is finally here to stay, and that is quite an exciting time for the PTA! Believe it or not, it is time to start thinking about next year. All 5 of our current Board members have served in their position for 2 years, so according to our By-Laws, it is time for new leadership to step up and continue to bring great programs to Cedar Grove! If you are interested in being a part of the PTA Board next year, please contact any one of our current Board members, or our Volunteer coordinator, [Jen Coakley](#).

March was a great month with a very fun Bingo Night and Reading Night! Thank you to Amy Hoffacker who chaired both Bingo Nights this year! Our Read-a-Thon will conclude on April 4th and we will have MANY prize drawings on April 11th. On April 25th we will have our Spring Dance at Rocky Hill MS, which is always a fun time.

Please mark your calendars for the joint school and PTA Volunteer Reception to be held on June 4th. That is a time we like to recognize and thank everyone who has given their time to Cedar Grove!

I look forward to hearing from those people who are interested in being a part of the PTA Board next year. It is a very rewarding experience!

Sincerely,  
Michele Tregoning(PTA President)

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## Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning,  
PTA President

# STAFF APPRECIATION

Our Staff Appreciation event for March was a tasty Dessert Bar! Thank you to those who donated a dessert: Jen Coakley, Tina Estrada, Jenn Gorrie, Amy Hoffacker, Erica Molnar, Lindsay Purvis, Noreen Rehman-Brown, Sandra Vesga-Rincon, Jodi Wilbanks, and Maria Wyman. It is always great to show our appreciation for everything the wonderful, dedicated Cedar Grove staff does for our children!!



## BINGO Night

Amy Hoffacker

Our PTA Family Bingo Night was a huge success with over 150 people attending and raising over \$400 for our school! A HUGE thank you goes to our "Celebrity" Bingo Callers -- Ms. Birrer, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Jansson, Ms. Mayberry, and Mr. Moxley -- the

students loved having you there! Thank you to our parent volunteers -- Sarenee Hawkins, Amy Hedderman, Golriz Izadashenas and Michele Tregoning! Also, a big thank you to our SSL students -- Bobby Chen, Rahi Shah, and Shreyas Shahi. We could not have done it without all of our volunteers!

**Dear Parents/Guardians: *The date for our Spring concert has changed. Please be sure to save the date and mark your calendars.***

1. **What:** The Spring Concert – In School  
**When:** Wednesday May 28, 2014  
**Where:** Cedar Grove APR  
**Time:** 2:00 pm  
**Attire:** Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top
  
2. **What:** The Spring Concert – Evening Performance  
**When:** Thursday May 29, 2014  
**Where:** Clarksburg High School Auditorium  
**Time:** 7:00 pm (chorus members should between 6:15 and 6:30 pm)  
**Attire:** Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top

\*\*Mrs. Jackson is also looking for a few musically inclined parents to perform a song with us at the Spring Concert on May 28<sup>th</sup> and May 29<sup>th</sup>. The instrument parts are as follows: Shaker and Agogo; Cowbell; and Bass. If you're interested please contact [Mrs. Jackson](#).



## Reading Night Michele Tregoning

Reading Night was very exciting this year!! With over 175 students attending, they were treated to some great stories. Thank you to the staff who were our readers: Mrs. Birrer, Ms. Cromwell, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Hirschhorn, Mr. Moxley, Mrs. Prange, Mr. Sefcik, Ms. Thurn, and Mrs. Troup. Thank you to Mrs. Gordon for helping at the check-in table and being our

photographer! Thank you also to Mr. Derby and Mr. Delisle for attending! A BIG thank you to KidsCo for providing the shuttle service for us. Reading Night wouldn't have been possible without the help of our volunteers. Thanks to Jen Coakley, Rona Han, Annie Karp, Lori Marshall and Abby, Cheryl Moss and Paige, and Amanda Parsad.

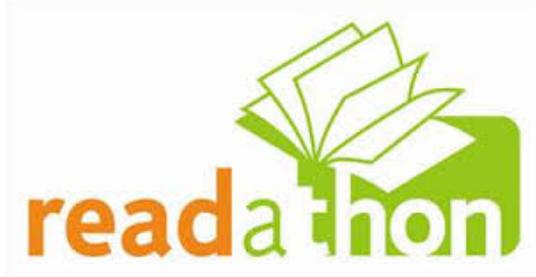
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## Read-a-Thon Michele Tregoning

The Read-a-Thon is more than half over! We have 81% of the students participating!! So far the students participating have received a participation prize and if they turned in their form, a half-way prize! There are more prizes

to be won!! Students will be getting another charm if they meet their set reading goal and another charm if they turn in pledges by April 8th. We will have our big prize drawings for the top readers and fundraisers, as well as many other things on Friday, April 11th. Be sure to turn in your envelopes by April 8th to be eligible! As a school we have a goal of reading 165,000 minutes. If we meet that goal, there will be a Seuss-ibration at lunch on April 11th. Be sure to turn your recording sheet in so it counts towards the school goal! All of the money being raised stays at Cedar Grove! We will use it to support the programs we have and be sure that our programs can continue. Thank you to the volunteers who have helped with the Read-a-Thon this year: Jen Coakley, Annie Karp, Lori Marshall, Kathi O'Connor, and Anne Scott!! Tune in next month for the final Read-a-Thon results!

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## The Intersection Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

It has been one of the more hectic months in my history at Cedar Grove, and the weather bit is only a small part of that. The impact of all the snow days was huge on our testing schedule, of course, and that in turn pulled staffing resources away from our usual schedules. But as always, we pulled up our

britches and got to work, changed course sometimes two or three times a day, and kept our objectives in full view. Never has the support of our PTA and volunteer parents been so important to our students and our staff.

So, thank you for the delightful Bingo evening – staff is still talking about it and those who couldn't attend regret it considerably; and for the dessert bar, a wonderful surprise after yet another snow day. Our two spirit nights came just at the right times. And now we are in the midst of our Read-a-thon, a favorite event for both students and teachers, who are happy to encourage your children to read (more and more we're learning how important it is for our students to read!) We hope that you attend the Reading Night, which as of this writing has not yet occurred. It is the highlight of our Readathon and I know our participating staff are very excited about it. I for one will be reading about smelly dogs. I hope to see you and your children in the media center! Lastly, I know we will have tremendous support from our PTA for our Earth Day celebration. We hope to see you manning one of our stations and enjoying the day.



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## Earth Day

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

On April 27 from 2-4 pm we will celebrate our wonderful planet. As of today, we will have a book swap, a sports gear swap, a blanket/towel drop off for the Humane Society, as well as a sneaker drop off for repurposing. We will have art tables, to include making magnets, garden pavers, snow globes, and butterflies with found junk. We will continue to complete our bottle cap art under the guidance of Mrs. M & M. We will have discovery stations, to include our stream study, thanks to the Tregonings; as well as our SERT and Environscape tables. We will have live music, a henna table and a face painting table, and of course we will have animals. Thanks to Mrs. Hoffacker, we will have a petting zoo! There's more but we need your help! We need parent volunteers for one of the two 1.5 hour shifts at our tables. We would also love to have high school students earn SSL hours through this event. Please contact [Mrs. Hirschhorn](#), [Mrs. Hammond](#), or [Mrs. Coakley](#) if you'd like to be a part of this wonderful event.

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## Attention Parents of Wilson Wims Elementary School

The Nominating Committee for the new PTA is seeking nominations for five (5) PTA Officer positions for the 2014-2015 school year. Help build a great leadership team and nominate yourself or someone you think would enjoy serving on the PTA Board. There is no limit to the number of nominations you can submit and they are anonymous. The PTA will be a vital support mechanism to help shape the future of our new elementary school. The five (5) positions are: President; Vice-President (2 positions); Treasurer; Secretary.

Please e-mail the [Nominating Committee](#) for a Nomination Form or access it via the [link](#) if you are interested in nominating yourself or someone else. The form includes a position description for each officer.

**Nomination Forms will be accepted through Friday, April 11th.** The Nominating Committee will then select and recommend the person who is considered to be the best fit for each of the 5 positions. In May, during the first PTA General Membership Meeting all PTA members present will vote to elect each officer position. Be part of a superstar team that will pilot the new PTA! Other PTA volunteer opportunities will be announced in the coming weeks.

The PTA Steering Committee for the new Clarksburg Cluster Elementary School will be meeting on April 9th at 7 pm at the Clarksburg Village Clubhouse (across the street from the new school). We will be continuing to develop the Bylaws and membership dues for our PTA. If you have questions please contact one of our Clarksburg Cluster Coordinators [Sue Amick](#) , [Seenu Suvarna](#) or [Steve Wilson](#) .

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## **A Message from Sean McGee** Principal of Wilson Wims ES

By now you have heard the great news that our school has been officially named, Wilson Wims Elementary School! We are thrilled to have our school named after a legend in our community. I think I speak for the members of the naming committee when I say that this is a fitting tribute to a man who gave so much to the community of Clarksburg.

With that said, it is time for us to vote on the colors and mascot of our school! Please complete the survey below and cast your vote for both a mascot choice and a choice of color. Please note that the colors and options offered are a suggestion and starting point for our school. We will be taking in "write in" choices as well. Most importantly, we need the input from EVERYONE including our students! Please share this survey with them and allow them to cast their vote.

Voting will begin on Friday, March 28, 2014 and will end on Friday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. The mascot and colors that get the most vote will officially be selected for the school. I will communicate the results to you as soon as the voting has ended. Finally, you will note that the colors were chosen by theme of professional/college teams. This is intentional as it gives our school the best chance to have many options for spirit wear.

Please let me know if you have any questions and happy voting!

**[VOTE HERE](#)**



## Media Moments

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Of course our media center has been greatly affected by the snow and testing days – and continues to be for the next week or so while we pilot PARCC. The computer lab is completely compromised because the tests are online, which limits the access our students will have to technology both for research and for project production.

The Read-a-thon which is our biggest fund raiser, is so vital to us since I'm hoping we will be able to increase our tech access with the proceeds.

Kindergarten has completed its mealworm vs caterpillar research project and you should see our booklets coming home. We are starting our big museum project, which is the highlight of our media research because of its heritage aspect. Students get to learn about themselves and their families by locating an artifact at home that connects to their heritage. We really need your help with this project. A letter from the Kindergarten teachers and me has come home, and we ask that you spend time with your Kindergartner choosing an artifact and filling out the form. **Without parent volunteers** on the Family Picnic night, **the museum will not open**, so we need an hour of your time, as well.

First grade will pursue the five ways we can help conserve our resources on the planet. We will go through a few interactive activators, and then drill deeply into one of those ways to further understand our responsibilities to help the Earth. This coincides beautifully with Earth Day and helps build background knowledge for the upper grade inquiry projects.

Second grade will begin one of my favorite projects: researching how persistence and effort are vital to success. We base our investigation on the biographies of Thomas Edison, Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, the Wright brothers, and Abraham Lincoln by studying their failures. We will continue improving our note taking skills by using different types of resources to get our information.

Third grade will write its first real argument by researching two sides of an issue. Should there be homework? Do graphic organizers "count" as "real reading"? Should students wear uniforms in public schools? What's a better pet, a dog or a cat? We will use various resources to build a solid argument and disarm our opposing argument.

Fourth grade is going to respond to the question: how do humans alter the face of the earth? We will explore weathering and erosion, and investigate how much of that is natural and how much is human-caused. I am in the process of locating a primary resource so we can have a focus group and we can interview an expert to get some of our information.

The last inquiry project for our 5<sup>th</sup> grade is a career investigation to respond to the question, how will this career/occupation change in the next 20-30 years? We will explore occupations of the Colonial period and note how they have either changed or perhaps disappeared. Then move to the present and make some predictions for the future. In order to help our students be successful, we thought it might be fun to have a

Career Day at Cedar Grove. You should have received a letter asking for your feedback and possible time to help our students explore your career. Please consider coming on April 28<sup>th</sup> for the morning so you can be part of our career walk-about.

Because the beginning of the marking period is extremely busy in terms of instruction, our biggest issue is keeping the media center open for circulation. Please [sign up](#) if you can volunteer – there are times when the media center will be open but neither Mrs. Wilson nor I will be available because of our instruction schedules. If we have a [volunteer](#) at the desk, we can keep our students “in books,” especially for the Read-a-thon!

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## Join the PTA

We encourage you to please join the PTA today! There is no better way to know what is happening in our school than to be involved! We play an important role in supporting our school's educational programs and building improvements. The PTA is a perfect opportunity to put your creativity and skills to use for a great cause – your child! If you haven't already done so, please download the [membership form](#) to fill out and send in with your child.

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