

Bear Facts



Volume 27, Issue 3

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

December 2013

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** Dec 3, 7PM
- **BINGO NIGHT – ROCKY HILL MS** Dec 6, 6:30 -8:30pm
- **INSTRUMENTAL CHORUS – CGES –** Dec 11, 2-3pm
- **INSTRUMENTAL CHORUS – CHS –** Dec 11, 7-8 pm
- **WINTER WONDERLAND PE WEEK** Dec 16 – Dec 20
- **WINTER BREAK BEGINS** Dec 23 – Dec 31.
- **NO SCHOOL – NEW YEAR** Jan 1

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday and got to spend some quality time with your family! The busy holiday season is already upon us, but let us not forget what is most important- our children. Take the time to ask them each day what they did in school, check over their homework, and ask them if they are having any problems. Just let them know you are interested in their education. I'd like to thank Raj Sivarajan for chairing the Variety Show again this year! The event was held at Damascus High School to accommodate all the acts. In fact, many of our upcoming events will be held in an alternate location. Both Bingo Nights, Around the World Night, and the Spring Dance will all be held at **Rocky Hill Middle School** so we don't have any issues with space OR parking!!

Thank you to Amy Hoffacker chairing the Joe Corbi fundraiser! Amy's organization makes for a smooth delivery and distribution of goodies.

Thank you to Lori Andrus for organizing a Cultural Arts Assembly for the whole school to see on Bullying. We will be having a presentation on bullying at an upcoming PTA meeting, so look for information about that in the future. Thank you also to Annie Karp for chairing our Boxtops fundraiser! It is tedious counting up all those box tops, but since each one is worth 10 cents for our school, we appreciate all the time that goes in to that effort! The classroom that collected the most will be announced later this month.

Coming up in December is the very fun Bingo Night! Amy Hoffacker is our chair for that and she always has great prizes and makes it fun for the whole family! Again, this event will be held at Rocky Hill Middle School, so bring the whole family and come out for a night of number calling and prize winning!!

By now you have heard that the boundary decision is finalized and you know where you will be attending school next year. Since the Board Of Education chose option #10, it allows for many families to remain at Cedar Grove. While we are thrilled to have so many stay, we are also sad to lose the families that will be attending the new Clarksburg Village #1 school. We will do everything we can to ensure that you have a smooth transition. We thank you in advance for the support you are giving to Cedar Grove for the remainder of the year, whether you are staying with us or moving to the new school. Did you know our PTA will be giving a large donation to the new school to help their PTA get started? We want every school and every child to be successful!

Thank you to each and every one of you that has joined the PTA and support what we do, whether it be attending a Spirit Night at a restaurant, send in box tops, or donate your time! Everything we do is for our children's education!!

Enjoy the holidays!

Sincerely,
Michele Tregoning (PTA President)

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
24001 Ridge Road
Germantown, MD 20876

Shobha Rajan, Editor
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Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning,
PTA President

**STAFF
APPRECIATION**

In November, Cedar Grove staffs spend 2 very long days to meet with all of the parents in their class. The Staff Appreciation Committee did our best to make sure they had plenty of snacks and water to get them through! Thank you to those that donated items for the "Conference Survival Kits": Jen Coakley, Revital Darmon, Hawah Jalloh-Jamboria, Amy McPeak, Kathi O'Connor, Chetan Paul, Kristie Scott, Jodi Wilbanks, and Anita Young. Thanks to Amelia Silva for helping me deliver the kits!

Winter Concerts

Melanie M. Jackson

1. **What:** The Winter Concert – In School
When: Wednesday December 11, 2013
Where: Cedar Grove APR
Time: 2:00 pm
Attire for BOTH performances: Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top
2. **What:** The Winter Concert – Evening Performance
When: Wednesday December 11, 2013
Where: Clarksburg High School Auditorium
Time: 7:00 pm (chorus members should between 6:15 pm and 6:30 pm)
Attire for BOTH performances: Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top

Science Expo Volunteers needed!

Would you be interested in interviewing one of our student scientists during the Cedar Grove Science Expo on January 23rd, 2014 from 6:45pm to 8pm? No experience is required, just a desire to hear the young scientists explain their experiments. We provide the interviewers with the questions to ask the young scientists. Please contact [April Thurn](#) or [Laura Strong](#) if interested!

Cultural Arts Assembly

Lori Andrus - Cultural Chair

The PTA sponsored our first Assembly of the year titled "Everyone Belongs," which was held on Thursday, November 21st, for all the students at Cedar Grove. The show was an anti-bullying presentation, and was put on by Mr. Paul Hadfield and Mr. Barry Wood. Paul Hadfield, who is a professional counselor and entertainer, teamed up with sidekick Barry Wood, to bring our children the knowledge and necessary skills to stop bullying in our schools. Combining a little bit of magic, a lot of laughter, and some role-playing with our CG students and staff, this duo took a serious subject and drove the message home -- all while making it engaging and fun. We really hope your students both learned from and enjoyed this Assembly! If you as parents would like to learn more about this presentation, or about Paul Hadfield, please visit his [Web site](#).

There are also support materials for parents on his Web site, so that you may further discuss this topic with your children at home. We will also be having a presentation for parents about bullying at an upcoming PTA meeting - please look out for future information about that. Preventing bullying is a team effort - we need all students, staff, and parents to understand and recognize what bullying is, so that we can prevent and eliminate it from our schools.



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Cedar Grove is in full swing and it has been, indeed, a busy, busy month. We held our parent conferences, and I know our staff enjoyed their survival bags – even I got one (yay!). We've had class field trips, the Variety Show, and the conclusion of our Joe

Corbi fund raiser, with the pickup of all of the orders. We had an excellent – even magical -- assembly, for which we thank you. It was truly full of sound messages for all of our students. 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 a 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 23, 2014. But we need your help. We are 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. Thurn or Mrs. Strong if you are interested in helping us that evening.

Our first S.G.A. spirit day will be Pajama Day on Thursday December 12th. All remaining spirit days will be on the second Wednesday of every month. The name of each day will be communicated at a later time and you can also check the school Web page for further information!



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We are absolutely thrilled to announce the successful “birth” of our computer lab. Yes, our lab is back, thanks to an amazing crew of MCPS staff who helped me put it all together. Having the lab again will make everything, including the many online tests we will undertake, so much easier. And, of course, our students will be more easily exposed to the technology they need.

Circulation in the media center is high, thanks to my parent volunteers. Just to give you a snapshot: from October 1 through November 25 we circulated 9,123 books. 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, incredibly, we could keep the Kindergarten classes on a fixed schedule in spite of having five grade levels completing an inquiry project this marking period.

Kindergarten is working on its first research project. We are going to study the goldfish. We started by reading *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Scillian, a huge favorite fiction story. Ask your Kindergarten why on earth Mrs. Hirschhorn would choose to read a fiction story while doing research! We will proceed with nonfiction books about goldfish and access *PebbleGo* to round out our sources. We will complete our class Goldfish fact books, and cite our sources.

First grade is exploring culture, customs, and traditions by interviewing our family members to learn about our own cultures. We’ve discovered that although many of us are different in many ways, in just as many ways we are very much the same. We started the project by reading *Same, Same, But Different* by Kostecki-Shaw. This was a great lead into how we might eat different foods, celebrate different holidays, yet it turns out we have so very much in common! Classes will create Culture Quilt squares, and then have a class quilt as a product of this research.

Second grade’s next inquiry project is one of my favorites. We look at a traditional fairy tale and change it based on a different setting. So we first define setting, and then research the landforms, climate, and human made features of another country in which we will set that traditional fairy tale. Each class has a specific traditional fairy tale, and it will be set in one of seven countries: Brazil, China, India, Japan, Mexico, Russia, or

South Korea. It will be fun to see how the characters and potentially the solution in the story changes because of the setting!

Third grade's project involves the development of technology, based on human wants and needs. We activated this project by going on a technology scavenger hunt and defining technology. Then we'll explore a particular technology and see how it's changed over time and, more importantly, why. We will focus on how our human needs, which have also changed, affected the development of that technology.

Fourth graders may have already chatted with you about their project, researching demographics and business potential in Clarksburg in order to write a proposal for a new business. We will be finding out what natural, capital, and human resources we'll need for this business, what advantages the business will provide to the community, and what risks the business may have to take to establish itself. The focus here is on what a community can support, based on the people who live there...i.e. the consumer.

Fifth grade's inquiry focus is the persuasive piece students need to write, covering how one specific event may have instigated a revolution and/or a change in government in the US. Therefore, we will be comparing two American revolutions – the one that led to the American Revolutionary War and the Civil Rights Movement. We will discover the elements that lead to a revolution, how people can induce change given certain catalysts, and how that change can result in a change in laws.

We are already on our second news crew, which is now housed in an actual TV studio. A very exciting development for us! Our crews have been absolutely fabulous and I hope they're enjoying their experience on the TV news.

Lastly, we now have our *I Wonder* question box set up in the media center to support the Science Expo. Please ask your student about the testable question of the week, and how we can find an answer to that question. We use the scientific method of investigation and inquiry and focus on the process of that investigation, rather than the results. We read a few student-created methods on the TV news every Friday.

The S.G.A is sponsoring Toys for Tots this holiday season. Collection starts December 2nd and lasts until December 19th. Let's show some Cedar Grove spirit by bringing in a new toy to donate to kids all the way to age 16 to help them have a happy holiday.

Melanie M. Jackson
General & Choral Music Educator
Cedar Grove ES
301-253-7000

Joe Corbi Amy Hoffacker

Our Joe Corbi fundraiser was a wonderful success again this year! With great selling from our students, parents and staff, we were able to raise approximately \$5,700 for the Cedar Grove PTA (that's over \$1,000 more than last year)!!!

Thank you to the parents for being so patient with us while picking up your orders. A HUGE thank you goes to those volunteers who came to help with the unloading, sorting and distribution of our orders! Thank you to our parent volunteers Jen Coakley, Rona Han, Holly Jankowski, Ann Moskowitz, Sarah Ruiz and Joana Underwood! Also, thank you to our student volunteer Hannah MacTaggart. We couldn't have done this without all of you!

Boxtops Annie Karp

Thank you for the overwhelming response to our Boxtops Contest! We will be announcing the class winners in early December! Please consider doing your holiday shopping through the **Boxtops Marketplace**. Every dollar you spend with a participating store online brings money to Cedar Grove through eBoxtops!

Please go

to <https://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace> to sign up.



Bingo Night Amy Hoffacker

Our annual PTA Family Bingo night is back by popular demand! Come out on Friday, December 6th at 6:30pm at **Rocky Hill Middle School** for some fun! We have lots of prizes to win including NFL sports items, rainbow

looms and more!!

The cost is \$3/bingo card, and we will also be selling food and raffle tickets. RSVP in advance to reserve your spot. Last year it was so packed, so we might have to turn people away at the door this year!

Join the PTA

If you haven't already done so, 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.

PTA Meeting Minutes

Please note that the monthly Cedar Grove PTA meeting minutes will be published on the PTA website, as well as sent out via the PTA listserv, instead of being published in the Bear Facts newsletter. Should you require a hard-copy of the meeting minutes, they will be available on the brochure rack in the front lobby of Cedar Grove. The November PTA meeting minutes can be found at: www.cedargrovepta.org, under Main Menu, Meeting Minutes.
