

# Bear Facts



Volume 27, Issue 5

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

February 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** Feb 4, 7PM
- **Gr 5 BAND CLUSTER CONCERT- CHS AUDITORIUM** Feb 6, 7pm - 8pm
- **SGA CANDYGRAM SALES** Feb10 – Feb 14
- **SGA TWIN DAY** Feb 12
- **NO SCHOOL – PRESIDENTS' DAY** Feb 17
- **Gr 5 CLUSTER STRING CONCERT- CHS AUDITORIUM** Feb 20, 7pm - 8pm
- **AROUND THE WORLD NIGHT - RHMS** Feb 21, 6:30pm - 8:30pm
- **EARLY RELEASE** Feb 28

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

January was a very cold and snowy month! While we didn't have any PTA events, it was still a busy time of year. Our PTA Bylaws need to be reviewed every three years, and this was our year. The newest copy is available on our PTA website for your review. We will be voting on their approval at our next PAT meeting on February 4. We hope you can join us at that meeting as we have a guest speaker - our very own guidance counselor, Mrs. Spoales will be giving a presentation on Bullying. I am sure she will share information relevant to everyone!

As many of you have heard, our PTA website was hacked and had to be started from scratch. I would like to thank Ramsey Hawasly and Susie Audet for getting that up and running again! If you have something you would like to see on our website, please contact our webmaster Susie Audet at [audetpta@gmail.com](mailto:audetpta@gmail.com)

It is also time to start thinking ahead to next year! Our PTA Executive board have all served 2 years in their current position. According to our Bylaws, no one can serve more than 2 years in the same position except for the Treasurer. That means we need to have a Nominating Committee to find interested people to serve on the PTA Board for next year. If you are interested in either being on the PTA Board or serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact me at [micheletregoning@yahoo.com](mailto:micheletregoning@yahoo.com) or 301-528-0732.

The new Clarksburg Elementary School is also looking for people to serve on that PTA Board. There are already two individuals who have stepped up to be the President and President-elect. If you are interested in being on the PTA Board at the new elementary school, please contact me as well.

I look forward to our big event in February, Around the World Night! I hope to see all of you at that event, which will take place on February 21 at Rocky Hill Middle School.

Sincerely,  
Michele Tregoning (PTA President)

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**Shobha Rajan, Editor**  
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## Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning,  
PTA President

# STAFF APPRECIATION

A little snow couldn't stop us from showing our appreciation and feeding the Cedar Grove staff! Thank you to all those who contributed to our International Luncheon! Some even brought more than one dish to make sure we had enough food for everyone. Thanks to Vanessa Bentley, Yongbok Bivin, Jen Coakley, Tina Estrada, Rona Han, Jill Hooven, Hawah Jallah-Jamboria, Denise Miller, Erica Molnar, Amy Mukhija, Kathi O'Connor, Chetan Paul, Brittany Pond, Catherine Powell, Gladys Rodriguez, Maria Wyman, and Anita Young. Thank you to Amy McPeak, Amelia Silva and Anita Young for their help with set up and clean up!

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## Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan

Join us on February 21<sup>st</sup> at Rocky Hill Middle School for a great opportunity to take a look at various cultures and taste a variety of delicious foods from Cedar Grove Families.

Highlights of the night will include:  
An International Fashion show;  
International food and drinks;  
Passports for students as they wander "around the world"; and  
Cultural information and artifacts.



If you would like to participate or learn more about this event, please contact me at [shobharajan@yahoo.com](mailto:shobharajan@yahoo.com).

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## Boxtops

Annie Karp

Please continue to collect those Boxtops all year long. You can send them into the school with your child at any time. Remember each little Boxtop is 10 cents for CGES!



Don't forget to check out [www.Boxtops4Education.com](http://www.Boxtops4Education.com) for contests, money saving coupons, and to shop through the Boxtop Marketplace to save even more for Cedar Grove!

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## The Intersection

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We had a personal favorite staff appreciation lunch this month that was absolutely wonderful and delicious. In spite of our space limitations, we managed to squeeze into our “staff lounge” with all the extraordinary International dishes. Thank you so much for making our crazy snow week better. And, that same day we did indeed hold our Annual Science Expo. What a success. Again, in spite of our parking issues and thanks in large part to KidsCo, the expo was packed with investigative experiments and their proud young scientists. But we needed our Expo Interviewer volunteers to make those impressions on our young scientists. This event was yet another opportunity to demonstrate how our community works together to support and empower discovery within our students. January has been a cold, short instructional month. It was a very good month because of the PTA. We are so looking forward to February! And speaking of International, please consider participating in our International Night on February 21. This is a huge favorite event for Cedar Grove, as our students learn about each other in this festive setting. We want to be sure all of our cultures are represented because we are, indeed, an incredibly culturally rich school. Please contact Shobha Rajan for more information!

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### **Attention Clarksburg Village Elementary School Site #1 Families:**

Now that Mr. Sean McGee has been named as Principal of the new school, it is time to start thinking about giving it a permanent name!

Mr. McGee is looking for representatives from both Cedar Grove and Little Bennett Elementary Schools to serve on the naming committee. He would like to have representatives from each HOA as well as community members as part of this exciting process! If you are interested in serving on this naming committee, please contact Mr. McGee directly at [Sean\\_P\\_McGee@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sean_P_McGee@mcpsmd.org).

Another important part of opening up a new school is forming their PTA. The two feeder schools are establishing a steering committee which will work with MCCPTA coordinators to schedule meetings with those interested to build a slate of nominations of officers for the new PTA. There will be a meeting held in late April during which the steering committee will announce the nominations, and an election will be held. The elected officers will then begin the exciting part of planning fun activities to bring the two communities together, as well as planning their activities for the coming year.

Little Bennett ES has two parents who are interested in being Co-Presidents to get the first year started off. It would be great if there was some Cedar Grove leadership, as well! If you are interested in being a part of the new PTA Board, please contact me at [micheletregoning@yahoo.com](mailto:micheletregoning@yahoo.com).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Michele Tregoning with those as well either by email or by phone at 301-528-0732.



## Media Moments

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Unbelievably, in spite of all of our snow days, we have started our third marking period – which means new inquiry projects for the media center for every grade level. The media schedule is packed with classes and I'm excited about getting started.

To complement the science content in the classroom, Kindergarten will be researching and comparing two living things. We will begin with what we know about mealworms/darkling beetles and add to our knowledge through our research. Then we will research the butterfly to compare and contrast to the mealworm. We will be working on creating questions; taking notes; reading for information; evaluating our information and sharing that information.

First grade will be studying natural and man-made land features as well as natural resources by researching the American regions, specifically a state in that region. We want to know how the differences in these regions affect how we live and work. I will model researching the state of Maryland and then students will do independent research based on the state of their choice within a specific region. We will use text features in print and online resources to help us gather information and learn about these elements of our vast and varied country!

Second grade is going to answer the question, "How does a natural or human-caused change affect the way people live, work, or play?" by researching both man-made and natural changes. We will have our classes in groups and use print and online resources to learn about the changes in the seasons, trees, the telephone, the light bulb, or the car. We will also explore how changes can be both good and bad.

Third grade is investigating how authors get their ideas and how an illustrator portrays real or imagined experiences. This project, which is directly connected with the writing process, will end with the students writing and illustrating their own realistic fiction picture book. So in the media center, we will be integrating the Social Studies content, studying how people adapt to different regions around the world – the mountains, the Rainforest, the Savannah, the Arctic/Polar, and the desert. We will research one region which will become the setting in our realistic fiction story. In addition, we are using the academic skill of risk-taking and the creative skill of originality this marking period, and encourage you to support your children as they learn these skills.

Fourth grade is going to continue their exciting venture into investigating their community by researching how media messages are created and produce consumers. They will discover the different media message techniques, which we know will allow our students to evaluate advertisements and commercials more critically. You may never be able to watch a commercial with your fourth grader the same way again! Then they will create an ad for the business the students researched last marking period to be included into the Clarksburg master plan.

Fifth grade is tasked with writing a narrative in any genre but, as we know, all stories must have a strong believable element to keep the reader hooked. Therefore, again

integrating another content area (this time Science), we will research the solar system. We will compare the earth with another planet and use the information we locate to create a realistic setting for our story.

Our second TV News Crew has completed its shift, and we have changed to the third crew of the year. It takes a few days, but they are getting into the routine of the morning news show. I will be planning our 5<sup>th</sup> grade spring book club and sending out applications soon, so be on the look-out for those!

Last but not least, I want to again thank my parent volunteers – my Library Ladies – for always being there for us. You sign up on *SignUpGenius* and simply show up and make my mornings and afternoons. For the month of January (through January 24) we circulated 3, 238 books to students. Do you remember how many school days we had in January? Do you have any idea how wonderful this is? I do! So, thank you!

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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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## 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 listserve, 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 January PTA [meeting minutes](#) can be found at our PTA web site.

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