

Bear Facts



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CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

January 2015

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

- **PTA MEETING** Jan 6, 7pm – 8pm
- **GROUP PHOTOS** Jan 12
- **SGA HAWAIIAN SPIRIT DAY** Jan 15
- **SGA MEETING** Jan 15, 12:20pm – 1:00pm
- **ANNUAL SCIENCE EXPO** Jan 15, 6:30pm – 8pm
- **NO SCHOOL- Dr. MARTIN LUTHER KING Jr.'s BIRTHDAY** Jan 19
- **NO SCHOOL- PROFESSIONAL DAY** Jan 20
- **SPIRIT NIGHT - CAFÉ RIO** Jan 21
- **SIBLING PHOTO SHOOT** Jan 23
- **FLYER DAY** Jan 23
- **REPORT CARDS** Jan 29
- **PTA MEETING** Feb 3 7:30pm – 8:30pm (following Parent Tech Night)

Happy New Year Cedar Grove families and staff.

December was an exciting month! We hope you had a chance to take time to rest and reflect on the past year and enjoy spending time with family and friends during the holidays and our winter break.

We had a wonderful Holiday Shop, thanks to Anita Young and all of her Shop helpers!! It was great to see the students have so much fun shopping for everyone on their lists.

Many thanks to everyone who has stepped up and helped to make Cedar Grove a wonderful place for our students, whether through volunteering at events, helping our teachers with projects at home or in the classroom or contributing financially. Your support is greatly appreciated!

If you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns feel free to communicate that to me or to any of our board members. Looking forward to seeing you all at the PTA meetings coming up in the New Year! We meet the first Tuesday of every month (see dates on our PTA website) from 7pm-8pm in our Media Center (except in February, when we will meet at 7:30 pm following the school's Parent Tech Night). Every PTA member has the right to vote at meetings and we hope all of our members will attend.

I wish for you a safe and prosperous New Year!!

Many thanks,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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TOYS FOR TOTS

Mrs. Jackson

Cedar Grove has yet again, proven why it's one of the best schools in Montgomery County. Over the past couple of weeks we collected over 191 toys. Thank you to everyone who donated a toy!



Winter Concert update

Mrs. Jackson

The Winter Concert on December 17th was a success. Thank you PTA for securing Clarksburg High School again this year.

Thank you parents for getting your students to CHS dressed and on time. Without either group, the concert could not have happened, and the Cedar Grove Music department is truly, very appreciative.

*If you happen to have any plain white polo/dress shirts that your children can no longer wear, Mrs. Jackson would love to take them off your hands. They would be very helpful on the days we have our In-school concert when students occasionally forget to wear or bring their proper attire.



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We have survived December with its many activities, holiday preparations, and winter break, and we are now concluding our second marking period and starting on our third. It's difficult to believe that we are already at this point in the school year.

The Holiday Shop was extremely busy, we had a fun visit from a very large mouse, and the Kindergarten students made their gingerbread houses. The winter concerts were incredible in large part because of your support. Finally, the Toys for Tots campaign that our SGA sponsored reached not only its first goal, but surpassed its third (!) goal, again because of your support. We really have an incredible community.

We are on the eve of our annual science expo, which will be held on January 15 at 7 PM. Those of you who have student scientists actively involved, we salute your encouragement and support in their endeavors. We hope to see you at the Expo – and make sure you avail yourselves of the KidsCo shuttle which will be transporting folks to and from Potomac Valley Church that evening!

Spirit Day

Mrs. Jackson

The next S.G.A. spirit day will be Hawaiian Day on Thursday, January 15th. This means that students can wear a traditional Hawaiian Lei to school, or a grass skirt (with pants underneath of course); or a "Hawaiian themed" shirt. Since it will be January, students should still dress appropriately for the weather and there will be no swimsuits allowed on this day. Mark your calendars for January 15th -- our first Hawaiian Day spirit day here at CGES!



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

I never thought I'd have to ask, but its January now and we do need more media center volunteers. Mrs. Wilson, although in the media center more often, is scheduled to work in classrooms in the afternoon, so we really need parent volunteers to come in between 12:30 and 3:00 PM. Please consider donating some time to keep the media center up and running so our young readers can circulate books. It is so easy to [sign up](#).

Depending on the grade level, our second marking period inquiry projects are either complete or almost complete and we're looking towards the third marking period. Our grades K, 1, and 2 have a revised information literacy curriculum, now better connected with the writing indicators, so you'll see more exciting inquiry happening through the media program.

Kindergarten will spend January and February exploring narrative texts by drawing on prior knowledge to make connections. We will ask and answer questions about the setting, events, and characters in the stories that we read. But for the end of our second marking period, we will do a quick inquiry project into Winter, and how the season affects plants, animals, and people!

First grade will begin answering the question, *What is in a place?* We will select a place, examine an image of the place, and record notes about what we notice in the image. Based on prior knowledge, we will formulate one or two additional questions about the place and use a digital resource of images to find and record our answer(s).

Second grade will complete their audio recordings of their "flipped" traditional folk tales – changing the setting to a country they researched during marking period 2. We hope to be able to upload these onto our class Web pages.

Third graders will begin refining their inquiry skills to explore how writers convey real or imagined experiences so that we can write and illustrate our own realistic fiction picture book. We will read and examine a variety of realistic fiction picture books and analyze them to determine how a character's actions affect the problem and solution of a story and to identify theme. Then we will explore where authors get ideas by learning about and reading authors' notes.

Fourth graders will complete their research into the specialized business they believe can be absorbed by Clarksburg. Then, we will begin the third marking period by analyzing how advertisement works because we will make connections with our Clarksburg business and the best way to advertise it!

Fifth graders will change tracks and go from nonfiction to fiction research. We will apply the inquiry process for extended research in order to locate sources and record ideas for a narrative text. Before selecting the genre for the narrative we will write, we will read a variety of texts to analyze how authors use the characteristics of a genre to structure and develop a story. After selecting a genre for the Narrative Inquiry, we will conduct research to provide details for a setting, characters, and/or plot. In addition to publishing our narrative, we will create a book trailer that uses multimedia.

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.

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 December PTA [meeting minutes](#) on our PTA website www.cedargrovepta.org .
