

Bear Facts



Volume 27, Issue 6

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

March 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

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

Spring is almost here (at least that is what I keep telling myself)!!

February was made even shorter with all the snow and ice, but it didn't interrupt our wonderful Around the World Night. A huge Thank You to Shobha Rajan and all of her volunteers for turning Rocky Hill into a fun trip cultural experience for all!

Our March activities include Bingo Night at Rocky Hill on the 14th and Reading Night at Cedar Grove on the 26th. The shuttle service from Potomac Valley Church will be available that evening. On March 18th, we will have the Read-a-Thon kick-off at school so look for the packets to come home that day so you can begin reading and recording on March 21st. That is our biggest fundraiser of the year, so I hope all families will participate so we are able to fully fund all of the programs, activities, and special projects we have at Cedar Grove! Please [contact me](#) if you haven't already signed up to help and you would like to be a part of that.

The PTA will be starting a nominating committee to replace our current Board members since we have all come to the end of our allowed tenure. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact me or any of the other Board members.

In addition, much is happening with the new Clarksburg Village Elementary School, including the naming of it and starting up their PTA. If you would like to be a part of that but haven't yet let me know, it is not too late! Why not get involved from the start?

Thank you to all the families who have joined the PTA and support our programs by attending events! It means a lot to us, but more importantly to the kids at Cedar Grove!

Sincerely,
[Mrs. Tregoning](#) (PTA President)

- **MSA TESTING Gr 3-5** Mar 3 - 12
- **PTA MEETING** Mar 4, 7pm
- **Gr 1 FIELD TRIP- ADVENTURE THEATRE** Mar 5
- **Gr 2 FIELD TRIP IMAGINATION STAGE** Mar 7
- **SPIRIT NIGHT CHIK-FIL-A** Mar 12
- **BINGO NIGHT- RHMS** Mar 14, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **KEYS TO READING BEGINS-** Mar 17
- **READ-A-THON KICK OFF ASSEMBLY** Mar 18
- **READ-A-THON BEGINS** Mar 21
- **Gr 5 SCIENCE MSA TESTING** Mar 24-26
- **READING NIGHT** Mar 26
- **SPIRIT NIGHT – FIREHOUSE SUBS** Mar 27
- **NO SCHOOL- PROFESSIONAL DAY** Mar 28
- **HEARING VISION SCREENING** Mar 31 and APR 1
- **PTA MEETING** Apr 1, 7 pm

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Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan

We celebrated Cedar Grove's "Around the World Night" event on February 21st at Rocky Hill MS. The event was a huge success thanks to all the families who took the time to come and represent and share information about their countries with us. Ten countries were represented including: China, Philippines, Spain, Colombia, India, Hong Kong, South Korea, Iran, Pakistan and Venezuela. Families got to try many tasty delicacies from these countries and learn about the many different cultures. The children enjoyed travelling around the world with their passports and also received Henna tattoos and many participated in the fashion show. We would like to thank Mrs. Hirschhorn who emceed the wonderful fashion show. We would like to thank our volunteers Amanda Parsad, Bharathwaj Kannan and Trupti Bajpai and our middle school volunteers for all their wonderful help. Also, we would like to thank Mr. Derby and all the staff who came to the event as well.



BINGO Night

Amy Hoffacker

Our next PTA Family Bingo night will be on Friday, March 14th at 6:30pm at Rocky Hill Middle School. Please come and join us for some fun! We have lots of prizes to win and

the cost is only \$3/bingo card! Bring the family and have a cheap dinner since we will also be selling pizza, Chick-fil-A chicken nuggets, and more! RSVP in advance to reserve your spot!

BOXTOPS

Annie Karp

Keep Collecting Those Boxtops!

Don't forget that every Boxtop for Education you cut out gives Cedar Grove 10 cents! Those little Boxtops due add up with our last contest raising over \$700.

We will have another Boxtops contest in late April -so keep saving those Boxtops!





LANDGARD (Landscape and Gardening)

Kara Phillips

With the extreme cold we've all endured this winter, the LandGard committee has been in hibernation for a little while, but we are now gearing up for an exciting Spring!

Our plans include the installation of new plants, most of which are native to MD, in the empty front landscape bed near the student drop-off crosswalk in early to mid-April. In late May we will plant annuals and weed the front landscape beds, Sanders Learning Garden in the kindergarten courtyard, and interior courtyard in preparation for the 5th Grade Promotion in June. We wholeheartedly welcome and can ALWAYS use additional help from Moms and Dads with all of these tasks. A beautiful outdoor learning environment inspires young brains to learn, grow, and dream! If interested in helping out, please email [Kara Phillips](mailto:Kara.Phillips@cedargrovepta.org), committee chair. Happy Spring to all!

Earth Day

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

When you think of Earth Day, we are hoping you will think of it with AWE this year – and join us for our annual Earth Day celebration on April 27, from 2- 4 PM. The theme this year is, indeed, AWE! which stands for Air-Water-Earth! We are planning our traditional educational and inspirational stations to encourage the love and respect for our earth that we model in school every day. Of course, as in previous years, we depend on volunteers to man the stations and help our participants navigate around the various experiences. If you are interested, please contact [Mrs. Hirschhorn](mailto:Mrs.Hirschhorn@cedargrovepta.org), at 301 253 7000, [Mrs. Coakley](mailto:Mrs.Coakley@cedargrovepta.org), or [Mrs. Tregoning](mailto:Mrs.Tregoning@cedargrovepta.org).



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

As I type this, the weather forecast is for more snow. This is not what we had in mind when we said we wanted a “good winter.” But that didn’t stop our PTA from plowing through its plans to bring our community together!

Our Around the World Night was fabulous. The Rocky Hill auditorium was filled with color, movement, and joy. All of Mrs. Rajan's efforts and her organizing skills were clearly evident and paid off in the smiling faces of the adults and children attending. March will bring more activities, with the famous Bingo night and of course our much anticipated Read-a-thon. [Mrs. Hoffacker](#) and [Mrs. Tregoning](#) will lead these events. Please contact them if you'd like to help. There is absolutely nothing (not even Girl Scout cookies) that compares to the appreciation you get from participating in getting an event like this underway.



SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

Big Learning Science and Engineering

Maria Wyman

ALL three winter sessions for Big Learning Science and Engineering classes will be extended until March 26th due to the recent snow days.

Registration for the Big Learning Science and Engineering Spring Session will begin very soon. The enrichment science classes will continue to be on Wednesdays from 3:45-4:45pm after school at Cedar Grove starting on Wednesday, April 9th.

Please look out for the green PTA flyers about Big Learning registration which will come home soon.

If you have any questions please contact Maria Wyman at mwyman_pta@hotmail.com.



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Because of our snow days, and the possibility of more of them, we continue to play "catch up" with our curriculum. So of course the media center schedule is packed with classes.

Kindergarten is now documenting their facts about mealworms and butterflies. We are working on our comparison booklets and will be producing those through the month of March. We are very excited because we're discovering how these two insects have as much in common as they have differences.

First grade students have completed their Maryland research and discovered all kinds of Natural and Human-Made Features, as well as resources that our state has to offer.

In fact, we figured out that Maryland has so many natural features that we almost have all of them! Ask your first grader which ones we *don't* have!

Second grade is still digging through research to respond to, "How does a natural or human-caused change affect the way people live, work, or play?" Our discovery that change can be both good and bad within the context of our research topic has prompted us to look around for other changes that affect us both positively and negatively...all those snow days, for instance!

Third grade has learned how we adapt to living in different regions. We have been introduced to the Yanomami Tribe of the Amazon Rainforest. We are absolutely fascinated by the way they live, work, and play and have made real life connections to our own adaptations to our lives here in Maryland. We have completed our research and are looking forward to using our information for our writing.

Each fourth grade class has used the research into various media techniques and how advertising can be responsible or irresponsible for different projects. We have created advertisements for our proposed Clarksburg business and also written an opinion piece to prove how advertising can be responsible and successful.

Fifth grade has been extremely busy this marking period. We have researched planet Earth, in order to then do independent research on another planet and compare the two planets for what we would need to do in order to survive on that second planet. We have also written narratives, for which we are in the process of producing book trailers. We are using all kinds of technology skills to accomplish this: creating folders; saving images from Web sites; using an application to crop the images; using *Photostory* to produce the video; evaluating and selecting appropriate music; etc. It's been a lot of fun; in fact, the students are teaching me a lot in the process!

This month is testing month – which means that both the media center and I will be used for the testing schedule. Students will find our book-return cart in the hallway, and our Kindergarten schedule will be disrupted. We will circulate books whenever we can be open, but unfortunately we can't guarantee what days that will be. 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 testing. If we have a [volunteer](#) at the desk, we can open for circulation on those afternoons.

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.

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