

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 6

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

March 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

- **PARCC TESTING** Mar 2-26
- **READ ALOUD DAY** Mar 2
- **PTA MEETING** Mar 3, 7:00pm – 8:00pm
- **READ-A-THON KICKOFF ASSEMBLIES** Mar 5
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP Ms.KOAR's CLASS** Mar 5
- **READ-A-THON BEGINS** Mar 6
- **BINGO – RHMS** Mar 6, 6:30pm – 8pm
- **SPIRIT NIGHT PANERA BREAD SENECA PKWY** Mar 9
- **Gr 4 WEATHER PERSON VISIT** Mar 11
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP Mr.MOXLEY's CLASS** Mar 12
- **READ ALOUD NIGHT** Mar 12, 6:30pm
- **SGA MEETING** Mar 19, 12:20pm - 1:30pm
- **READ-A-THON ENDS** Mar 20
- **SPIRIT NIGHT CHUCK E.CHEESE GAITHERSBURG** Mar 20
- **NOSCHOOL PROFESSIONAL DAY** Mar 27
- **JANSSON'S PARK** Mar 30 –Apr 2

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

Thank you to all the parents who came out to our February PTA meeting. My oldest daughter's chorus concert was cancelled two times due to snow and rescheduled during the PTA meeting. I was happy to hear many parents stayed after the tech night.

February was a fun month! We had well over 50 moms and dads come out to Moms & Muffins as well as Dads & Donuts. These events still had huge parking challenges and they were only for one grade level each! Imagine if these events were opened up to the entire school?! I am aware that many families want these events opened up to the entire school, and to you I say we welcome your ideas on how to logistically handle that. Due to the parking restraints, these events were intended for only one grade level. We also wanted to allow each grade level to enjoy a day with their parent.

Kindergarten - made their Gingerbread House craft

1st Grade - will be having their parents come in to enjoy a "review" of the year

2nd Grade – Moms & Muffins

3rd Grade – Dads & Donuts

4th Grade - Authors Tea to share poetry with parents over tea

5th Grade – Promotion.

Around the World Night was a huge success despite the brutally cold weather.

Thank you to Shobha Rajan and all of the ATWN volunteers for putting on a smashing event as we were taken around the world in the most elegant way! The dresses and table decor were breathtaking!

March brings some fun activities like BINGO, Read-A-Thon FUN and soon some wonderful spring weather!! YES, spring will be here soon! Visit our PTA website where you will find information on the **Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School Boundary Study Timeline.**

As always please contact me if you have any questions or concerns! It is still not too late to join the PTA! Your support is greatly appreciated throughout the year!

Sincerely,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan

Thanks to all the families who came out despite the freezing temperatures to celebrate Cedar Grove's "Around the World Night" event on February 20th 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. Twelve Countries were represented including: China, Colombia, U.S.A., India, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Russia, Bolivia, Puerto Rico, and Egypt. 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.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Hirschhorn who emceed the wonderful fashion show as always. We would like to thank our volunteers Farrah Khan, Bharathwaj Kannan, and our middle school volunteers for all their wonderful help. Special thanks to Mr. Derby and all the staff who came that evening.

Read-a-Thon

Michele Tregoning

The Read-a-Thon is coming!! Our 5th Annual Read-a-Thon will be kicking off with school-wide assemblies on Wednesday, March 5th. Students will be bringing home their packets and can begin collecting sponsors. Everyone at Cedar Grove is being challenged to help beat last year's school-wide mark of 263,000 minutes read!! This year we are aiming to read 270,000 minutes as a school!! I know we can do it together! There will be lots of fun prizes to be won throughout the two weeks. I hope you will encourage your child to read each evening and be a part of this exciting fundraiser. Thank you for your support of the Cedar Grove PTA!!



Bingo Night

Amy Hoffacker

Our annual PTA Family Bingo night is back by popular demand! Come out on Friday, March 6th at 6:30pm at Rocky Hill Middle School for some fun! We have lots of prizes to win including games, arts and crafts, sports items and more!! RSVP in advance and receive a bingo game card for a special game and prize - this will not be given to walk-ins!!! The cost is \$3/bingo card, and we will also be selling food, extra cards and raffle tickets.



Reading Night Michele Tregoning

Our 5th Annual Reading night is coming to Cedar Grove on Thursday, March 12th!

From 6:30-7:00pm there will be activities in the APR, then from 7:00-8:00pm students get to hear some of their favorite teachers read fun stories. At 8:00pm we return to the APR for PRIZES!! It's a fun evening that you will not want to miss out on.

Please check your child's backpack in the coming days for the rsvp flyer. If you wish to help with Reading Night, please contact me at micheletregoning@yahoo.com or 301-528-0732. Thank you!

The Intersection Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

As I type this, I am at home during a complete white-out blizzard. Oddly enough, this was the same thing that happened last year! But weird and frigid weather didn't stop our PTA from plowing through its plans to bring our community together!



The Moms and Muffins and Dads and Donuts mornings were very well attended. Our Around the World Night was incredible, again under Mrs. Rajan's leadership. 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 is my favorite month because the PTA plans so much around reading! We will have our famous Bingo night, Read Aloud Day which is supported by the PTA this year so each class can keep a new book for its classroom library, and of course our much anticipated Readathon. [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.

On top of that Mrs. Young has been furiously arranging PTA Spirit Nights, in both familiar and new locations, to support all the efforts our PTA undertakes on behalf of our school.

Box tops Annie Karp



Congratulations to Ms. Ward's class for winning the Boxtops Contest! They collected over 1,200 Boxtops. Don't forget to continue to clip Boxtops all year round. You can save them or send them into the school during the year. As a school we collected over 7,700 Boxtops which equates to over \$770 for Cedar Grove! A special thank you to my awesome volunteers Alicja Ghaznavi, Swetha Balasubramanian, and Yamini Kamalahasan.

Earth Day Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We know we will see spring soon, and along with spring comes our annual Earth Day Celebration! This year we will host it during the school day, on Friday April 17, between 11 and 2 PM. We are hoping to give more of our students the opportunity to celebrate with us. But we need parent volunteers to make this a successful event for all. Please contact [Jen Coakley](#) if you can donate some of your time. It will be a wonderful way to help our students appreciate why we need to take care of our planet and all its beauty.



Landscape/Gardening (LandGard) Committee Kara Phillips

Happy Almost Spring! The LandGard Committee has been in moderate hibernation with the very snowy, cold winter we have all endured. Although this is a typically dormant period for this committee, we arranged for Ruppert Nurseries to install some new trees you might have noticed in front of the school. One is a Zelkova tree, which was installed in the center of the new landscape bed near the student drop-off crosswalk. As it grows, its canopy will have a lovely V shape and provide some really nice shade to that area of the school. The other two trees installed are Linden trees, located on either side of the row of existing 5th grade class legacy crape myrtle trees between the parking lot and bus lane. Ruppert Nurseries generously donated these lovely 2 inch caliper trees and installed them for free as well, for which we are extremely grateful! These trees have been planted in honor of this

year's and next year's 5th grade classes. Tree markers with the name of each class will be installed this spring. The LandGard Committee and current 4th and 5th grade teachers and students will care for these trees especially this year and next to make sure they adjust well to their new home at Cedar Grove.

With the promise of the thaw of Spring coming, the LandGard Committee will go into action as we do each spring to beautify the landscape beds of the school located in the kindergarten courtyard, interior courtyard, and front of the school. More hands make less work for all, so if you would kindly like to help us with our spring cleanup efforts, please contact [Kara Phillips](#) so you can be sent information on when the cleanup days will be. You do not have to be a green thumb to be welcomed on this committee. We welcome everyone!



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. Throughout the month of March, we will be working on contrasting and comparing these two insects to see how their life cycles are similar, yet very different. We will be using *PebbleGo* as our main resource, as well as our own experiences in the classroom with our mealworms as a primary resource.

First grade have completed their place research by analyzing an image they selected from *PebbleGoNext*, a trial subscripitive site from the makers of *PebbleGo*. We learned how to copy/paste the image into a *Word* document, cited the image, and then recorded information about the image and the place it represents. We discovered all kinds of natural and human-made features which helped us respond to “What’s in a place?”

After gathering our opinions about the technology tool that has the greatest impact on us, second grade is concluding its research on the social impact of the telephone. We are locating information about its impact on how we work, play, and live. We’re using digital and print resources to help us come up with reasons why we can’t live without this technology tool and to change our opinions into facts because we can support them with information.

Now that we’ve defined realistic fiction, third grade is exploring the wonderful author, Judith Viorst and how she comes up with ideas for her stories, as well as how she pursues her craft. We hope to take some of her experiences and make them our own when we write our own realistic narratives.

Each fourth grade class has used the research into various media techniques to support how advertising can be responsible or irresponsible. We’ve analyzed a series of

breakfast cereal commercials and investigated not only how the advertising for each product has changed over time but also analyzed how the various media techniques have been used to "sell us" the cereal.

Fifth grade is discovering the very wooly world of the Internet when it comes to authorship and accuracy. We are spending our media time evaluating various Web sites based on scholarly criteria so we can make independent decisions regarding the authenticity and value of the Web pages we visit for our different purposes. We will also pursue the significance of citations in a world where information appears to be free and the idea of giving credit sometimes difficult to support.

This month is testing month – students will be using their chrome books to take the PARCC test. We hope to keep the media center open and in business. However, if we have to close for accommodations, students will find our book-return cart in the hallway, and our Kindergarten schedule may 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 and/or information literacy instruction. If we have a [volunteer](#) at the desk, we can open for circulation on those afternoons.

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