

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 8

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

May 2015

PTA President: Holly Jankowski
Principal: Mr. Lee Derby

Vice Presidents: Annie Karp and Amy Hoffacker
Treasurer: Anita Young

Secretary: Michele Tregoning



PTA Vice-President's Message

- **Gr 1 FIELD TRIP - RED WIGGLER – CARROLL and STRONG** May 1
- **Gr 3 FIELD TRIP BALTIMORE MEUSUM OF INDUSTRY** May 1
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP ST.MARY's CITY** May 1
- **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION – NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTEN** May 1
- **SPIRIT DAY – TUTTI FRUTTI** May 2, 3
- **Gr 1 FIELD TRIP - RED WIGGLER – DAVIS** May 4
- **PTA MEETING** May 5, 7pm
- **IN SCHOOL CHORUS CONCERT** May 14, 2:30pm
- **SPRING IM CONCERT IN SCHOOL** May 19, 2pm
- **SPRING IM CONCERT CHS** May 19, 7pm
- **BOOK FAIR** May 21-29
- **SGA SPIRIT DAY –WEAR HATS** May 21
- **SGA MEETING - Music Rm** May 21, 12:20pm-1:00 pm
- **GREEN SCHOOL SUMMIT TRIP** May 29
- **SPRING PICNIC** May 29, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed Spring Break and was able to spend some quality time relaxing with friends and family! Even though we only have two months left of school, it always seems that is when all the activities happen so we hope you can attend a few more of our PTA events this school year!

The Earth Day celebration was enjoyed by all, our PTA Bingo Night was another success, and our spirit nights keep getting more popular! Coming up this month we have our Spring Dance, Book Fair and Family Picnic with a Silent Auction. Those are three events you won't want to miss! If you have any donations or connections for items for the Silent Auction, please contact us since they are greatly needed and appreciated!

Also, the new Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School Boundary Options were announced for the new Middle school. While all the options have Cedar Grove students attending the new school, we are still staying involved and providing feedback to ensure our concerns about school and class sizes are heard.

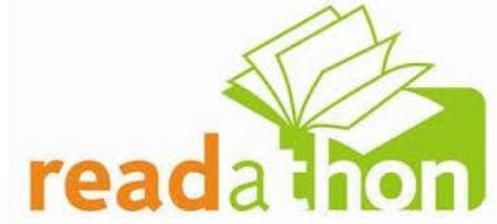
Towards the end of the year we also have to start thinking about next year and there are plenty of ways to become involved in the PTA. Jen Coakley is taking nominations for Board positions for next year, and we are always looking for volunteers to chair or help at events. If you have questions about how you can get involved, where you can help out, or the time commitment needed for something, please feel free to contact us. We need your help to continue to make Cedar Grove a great place for our children!

Let's hope the warm weather is on its way!!
Sincerely, Amy Hoffacker (PTA Co-Vice President)

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

Shobha Rajan, Editor
shobharajan@yahoo.com

Read-a-Thon Michele Tregoning



Cedar Grove Families- you are amazing!! This year's Read-a-Thon was very successful thanks to all of your hard work. We had over 74% of our students participate and earn lots of prizes along the way. We had a school goal to read 270,000 minutes and raise \$13,000. You came close to both of those goals by reading 254,505 minutes and raising \$9,194.50!! The best part about that is ALL of that money raised stays here at Cedar Grove to support our programs and activities!

The class that read the most minutes and the winner of a popcorn party is Ms. Cromwell's class with 22,769 minutes. The winning class for most funds raised with \$800.55 is Mrs. Davis' class. Gabriella Estrada and Zachary Trapani each won the drawing for the \$100 gift card for raising the most money in grades K-2 and 3-5. Thank you to Jen Coakley for helping me with the prize drawings on March 26th! We also had some local businesses donate prizes and we are thankful for those as well. Thank you to Wai Ling Wang (second grade parent) from Baja Fresh, Bowl America, Grill Marx, Shadowland, Chick-Fil-A, Cafe Rio, and Jersey Mike's.

A BIG thank you to ALL the families who supported this by gathering sponsors, sending in money, and encouraging your child to READ!! WAY TO GO CEDAR GROVE!!



Earth Day – Our Celebration! Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

In spite of so many obstacles, (not the least of which was the constant weather forecast of a cold, rainy, day) our celebration was immensely successful. The staff members of the Big Events Committee, charged with organizing and implementing this event, did all they could to support me as I cajoled, called, emailed, reminded, wrote lists, and panicked until the morning came. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the ever-patient and flexible Mrs. Coakley and her army of parent volunteers who signed up and showed up to help us celebrate why we live a Green Life -- why our Earth is worth the effort to pick up that piece of paper, turn off the water while we brush our teeth, or carpool. Of course, the animals were a great hit, but we also had representatives from the MCPS SERT, Montgomery County Recycling, WSSC, Kohl's Department Store, and Black Hills Nature Center help us in this endeavor. Even Mrs. Coakley manned a table supplied by MCPS Smith Center, which we happily dubbed the Exploratorium. This was our first time celebrating during the school day, and all of the scheduling work (thank you, Mrs. Birrer) was rewarded when we saw our students' happy faces.

STAFF APPRECIATION

Michele Tregoning



The week of May 4-8 is National Teacher Appreciation Week!! We will be celebrating the Cedar Grove Staff each day that week and invite you to participate in a number of ways. A flyer will be coming home with some ideas that include (but are not limited to), a small treat for your teacher, a note to a staff member, or a drawing to your favorite specials teacher. Please sign up using the [SignUp Genius](#) to donate something for one of the many treats we have planned for the week. If you have a business or something you would like to donate for one of our daily raffle drawings, please contact [me](#).

Thank you in advance for showing your appreciation for everything the Cedar Grove Staff does for our children!!



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We are thrilled that the Readathon has been a success in spite of the snow days and various other impediments to keeping the momentum going. Thank you so much for supporting such an excellent cause. Kudos to Michele Tregoning who has done an amazing job with this fundraiser yet again – it is extremely labor intensive and we owe her a huge thank you. Mrs. Young's organizational skills were evidenced again in the two Café Rio spirit nights that were held; I know our students love to "bump" into each other after school. I was lucky to attend Bingo, which was so much fun for adults and students alike (not to mention staff and their children)! Thank you, Mrs. Hoffacker for once again organizing this stellar event, which also had to be rescheduled. I especially want to note how much more positive the atmosphere was during the Bingo games, with folks cheering each win, and supporting each other. That is, really, the Cedar Grove Way!

Bingo Night

Amy Hoffacker



Our PTA Family Bingo Night was a great success with over 200 people attending! A HUGE thank you goes to our "Celebrity" Bingo Callers - Ms. Anderson, Mr. Bishop, Ms. Burgdorf, Mrs. Doyle, Mrs. Hirschhorn, Mr. Moxley, Mr. Oedemann, Mrs. Strong and Ms. Wilson - the students loved having you there!

Thank you to our parent volunteers - Sarenee Hawkins, Melanie Harper, Golriz Izadashenas, Pam Jones, Annie Karp, Phan Ma, and Jennifer Strouble! Also, a big thank you to all of our SLL students. We could not have done it without all of our volunteers!"



Relay for Life

This year, Cedar Grove is participating in The American Cancer Society Relay for Life on May 16, 2015. Any and every one can participate in the walk which will take place at Rocky Hill Middle School Saturday **May 16, 2015 from 12:00 pm until 4:30 am** Sunday morning. You do NOT have to be there or walk that entire time. You are more than welcome to come, support a good cause, and show some Cedar Grove pride. We will also be raising money to contribute to The American Cancer Society. Beginning May 1st, if you are visiting our school, you will notice 6 large, labeled, water containers in the front hallway. Each container will be labeled with a specific grade level. We would like students, staff and visitors to donate whatever they can by placing it in the container. All proceeds will go to The American Cancer Society. Every little bit helps, not only because the money is going to a good cause but also because the grade level that raises the most money will earn a Popsicle party.



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Kindergarten is just completing its Mealworm vs Butterfly research, since we've had so many days off with our snow days and testing days. We will spend some time enjoying literature and exploring literary elements before we move into our next research project.

Each first grade classes will be researching one of these topic areas: Saving Energy; Saving Water; Respecting Nature: Recycling; and Picking up Litter. We will take a discovery walk to activate our knowledge about how we share the earth, play a concept game (online!) to categorize positive and negative ways we do that. We will practice evaluating the best resource for our research and explore different ways to take notes. Then, we'll capture our information on a graphic organizer and synthesize it for our writing.

As we research our notable person, each second grade class is focusing on the different ways to take notes, and using two different graphic organizers to capture our information – another way to ensure that students see there's more than one way to achieve our goal. We are also reinforcing one of our key Thinking and Academic Success Skills – Persistence. Ask your second grader what that looks like!

Third grade has explored the elements of an issue and is now proceeding to research issues such as whether cats or dogs are better pets, or whether kids should get paid an allowance for doing chores. We chose topics our students might feel strongly about, to engage them in the research process. We will be using different note-taking methods

and capture our information on different graphic organizers, depending on the purpose of the end product.

Fourth grade continues to be exposed to different ways to get information about soil erosion, specifically how water is a primary culprit when it comes to soil erosion. And, most importantly, how humans impact the increase of water erosion and what we can do to mitigate it. A perfect connection to our Green efforts. After researching print and Web resources, we will synthesize all this information into a persuasive article.

For our 5th grade Career inquiry project, we will explore different occupations that interest our students. The information we get from our resources will help us write a persuasive article about a potential future career – how various factors such as society's needs, available resources, and innovation will prompt those future changes. Most importantly we will focus on the Thinking and Academic Success skills that will help us be successful in those careers.

As you may have heard, we have unfortunately gotten the news that Ms. Wilson will not be full time next year. Our population projection doesn't support the staffing. We're not certain when her media hours will be, but we will need our parent volunteers more than ever to keep the media center open – so plan on being part of our program!

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