

Bear Facts



Volume 27, Issue 2

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

November 2013

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 and Staff,

November is a time for us to remember all that we have to be thankful for. Everyone family here at Cedar Grove can be thankful for the teachers who work tirelessly each and every day to ensure our kids are getting the best education; for administrator who ensure that even though there are challenges along the way, each and every day is a productive one and all of our children are cared for and kept safe; and for the supporting staff who are always there to help make sure everyone has everything they need to be successful!

I personally have much to be thankful for as well! I began a new job when school started and that has not enabled me to be at Cedar Grove during the day like I was for the past few years. It has been quite an adjustment and I couldn't have done it without the help of my wonderful PTA Board! They have all stepped up when I needed them to and it is much appreciated. Many of you have also stepped up to help in various ways so that our PTA can offer fun and educational programs. Pam Jones and her committee did a fabulous job with the Fall Harvest Festival, Natasha Hammond continues to bring us Spirit Nights, and Amy Hoffacker coordinated the Joe Corbi fall fundraiser. Jen Coakley has stepped up to be our Volunteer Coordinator, so THANK YOU to each of you!!

Any amount of time you give to the students at Cedar Grove is greatly appreciated by the staff, the students, and the PTA. We do still have a few positions that are open that we would like to fill. If any of these interest you, please contact me or Jen Coakley at micheletregoning@yahoo.com or jen.coakley@me.com.

**Flyer copier- needed to make copies and distribute to teachers before an event
**Yearbook Coordinator- work with the yearbook company to publish school yearbook (already a few people signed up to help, just need someone to coordinate the efforts. Without this position, we will NOT have a yearbook this year.)

**Cafeteria Helper- Mrs. Pannell would like a volunteer to assist her during lunch on Fridays from 11-12:30. Thank you for considering the needs at Cedar Grove!! Coming up in November, we have our Variety Show. Thank you to Raj Sivarajan for chairing that event which will be held on Thursday, November 14th at Damascus High School.

I hope you will join us at our next PTA meeting held on Tuesday, November 5th at 7pm in the Media Center.

Sincerely,

Michele Tregoning (PTA President)

- **NO SCHOOL** Nov 1
- **CLARKSBURG CLUSTER PARENT MEETING- PRINCIPAL SELECTION PROESS MEDIA CENTER** Nov 5, 7-8pm.
- **PTA MEETING** Nov 5, 7PM
- **VARIETY SHOW AUDITIONS-CG APR** Nov 7 & 8, 6:30-8:30pm
- **EARLY RELEASE – PARENT CONFERENCES** Nov 11, 12
- **Gr 1 FIELD TRIP- KINGSLEY** Nov 13,14,15
- **VARIETY SHOW DRESS REHERSAL-DHS** Nov14
- **VARIETY SHOW DHS-** Nov 15
- **JOE CORBI PICK UP** Nov 20
- **EARLY RELEASE THANKSGIVING** Nov 27
- **NO SCHOOL – THANKSGIVING** Nov 28,29

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Save those Boxtops!

Annie Karp



For the month of November, we will have a contest to see which class can collect the most Boxtops. The winning class will have a popcorn party! Contest ends on November 21st so start clipping!

Also as the holidays approach, you can earn money for Cedar Grove by shopping online through the eBoxtops Marketplace!

Start your shopping by heading to <https://www.boxtops4education.com/marketplace> then you can go to your favorite online stores to shop. Every dollar you spend, benefits our school!

By clipping Boxtops and shopping through eBoxtops, CGES will earn money! Contact Annie Karp at anniekarp@hotmail.com if you have any questions about this program.



The Intersection Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Here's a late welcome to the 2013-2014 school year! In spite of a year we know will be very very different from what we're used to having here at Cedar Grove, we are confident that our PTA will support us throughout all our dips and peaks, as you always have. And, as always, we all benefit from your great efforts. Thank you

so much for the staff appreciation lunch during our professional week. The preservice week this year (it does seem long ago!) was especially busy with training and logistic adjustments, and so it was delightful to be able to catch up while enjoying delicious food. That goes for the staff appreciation lunch we had in September too (even though our staff lounge is a bit cozier than it has been in the past!). I think the book fair, in spite of the fact that it was only three days, was fairly successful. And the Welcome back picnic was a huge success, with gorgeous weather smiling on your celebration! It was wonderful to see familiar faces playing with new members of our ever-growing school community.

We are also so appreciative of the volunteer army which comes through our doors every day. We welcome everything you do to make sure that teachers and students can focus on instruction. We treasure your contributions to our school and we thank you for your time, your creativity, and your commitment to our mission. I'd especially like to send a shout-out to my media center volunteers, both familiar and new, who help circulate books for our students – and return! You tackle the task quickly, and have been dealing with huge numbers of students checking in and checking out books. Our school runs on the staff efforts, good leadership, student enthusiasm, and your commitment to our mission.



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Our new normal is starting a school year in a frenzy of dealing with space issues and new technology. AGAIN. Last year it was the renovation in the second half of the building and the Destiny management system, not to mention new MAP testing being added to our schedule. This year it's the Promethean Boards in almost every classroom and the loss of our computer lab because we have gotten very...cozy! In addition, all of our grade levels are now following the Web 2.0/EIC so that the media center has been hopping with planning, collaboration, and lessons almost from the first day back to school.

I know I say this every year since the cuts in the media assistant position, but it's true: I stubbornly feel that open circulation is the ONLY way to encourage readers and the ONLY way we can maintain that kind of a program is through media volunteers. And, as usual, I called and asked, and to my delight, Mrs. Hoffacker suggested we use *SignupGenius* to get volunteers signed up and in the media center on a regularly scheduled basis. Wow, what an impact that made. You signed up! So many of you! So, yes, I'm going to list you here because I can. So, many thanks to these ladies, who have signed up to work in the media center through Dec 20th (many of them on a regular weekly basis!):

Mrs. Abreau, Mrs. Bonnett; Mrs. Brophy; Mrs. Choi; Mrs. Chiang; Mrs. Cho; Mrs. Coakley; Mrs. Han; Mrs. Hoffacker; Mrs. Jankowski; Mrs. Lee; Mrs. Marcelo; Mrs. Moskowitz; Mrs. Mukhija; Mrs. Natarajan; Mrs. Pak; Mrs. Perera; Mrs. Perry; Mrs. Purohit; Mrs. Puvvada; Mrs. Turner; Mrs. Underwood; Mrs. Vakkalanka; Mrs. Wang; Mrs. Wangai; Mrs. Young. These ladies are the engine that keeps the media center open for us during the instructional day and we all, students and teachers alike, are grateful for their efforts.

We started the year by immediately digging into our integrated inquiry projects for our second, third, fourth, and fifth grade classes.

Kindergarten is in the process of discovering how a media center is organized, and why. They are examining the differences between fiction and nonfiction books, and exploring their preferences. We keep a consensogram handy to help them examine how call numbers are structured, and how that structure helps us find our books in the media center. Ask about the Fiction song – you may get a performance!

Second grade's first inquiry investigation is the COMAR-required Nutrition project. We are defining nutrition as we explore E-books; create and organize our own questions; locate information in trade books; and organize that information on a graphic organizer. We are in "food group" teams, and will create books in art based on our research.

Third grade's community action investigation is also in full swing. Since our school pursues so many community projects, we thought it would be awesome to weave those into our topic list. Therefore, we defined civic engagement and common good by exploring an E-book and trade books, and analyzed our student-created suggestions how to help our families, our communities, our school, and our planet. Then we did whole-class research on Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart. It was great to have the

Promethean Board to incorporate our lessons on note taking. Our goal is to understand why participating in these projects is so important and to share our understanding through informative writing.

Fourth grade's inquiry project this marking period is to get background knowledge so that students can write their own historical fiction story. This kind of research is right up my alley. We decided to pursue the Colonial period in America, and used *PebbleGo*, videos, and wonderful trade books to investigate life in Colonial times. We learned that note taking can take many forms, and that we need to choose a strategy that works best for us. It was so much fun to engage our students in learning how a slower, more strenuous lifestyle may not have been all bad for Colonial children!

Fifth grade started the marking period with investigations into renewable and nonrenewable energy sources in order to have the background knowledge to create an amusement park ride with the appropriate energy source to power it. Because Cedar Grove is a Green Ribbon school, and much of the new curriculum focuses on Environmental issues, our students had a good feel for the pros and cons of fossil fuels, biomass, hydro, and solar energy. We also learned about the different note taking and organizational strategies in the research process.

Above all, this marking period is focused on the skill of collaboration. So all of the media lessons involve teaching the skill and the process of collaboration. We do a lot of group work, a lot of restating and discussing, a lot of consensus building, which is integral to each step of these investigations. It is encouraging to listen to some of the group discussions as they explore their topics and their resources.

In the meantime, as always, please enjoy *Destiny Quest* with your students – browse the books they could check out the next time they come to the media center. I can think of no better homework!

Joe Corbi Fundraiser

Amy Hoffacker

Please come to the Cedar Grove Cafeteria on November 20, 2013 from 3:30-6:30pm to pick up your Joe Corbi orders. All orders will be available to be picked up on that day only! Any orders that are not picked up will be donated or given away since we do not have the ability to store the items.

We are still in need of volunteers to help with the sorting and handing out items.

If you are interested in helping or for any questions about the Joe Corbi fundraiser, please contact Amy Hoffacker at aankrapp@hotmail.com.



Join the PTA

If you haven't already done so, 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, as well as sent out via the PTA listserv, 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 October PTA meeting minutes can be found at: www.cedargrovepta.org, under Main Menu, Meeting Minutes.
