

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 2

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

November 2014

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

- **BOXED – CANNED FOOD DRIVE** Nov 3 – Nov 14
- **NO SCHOOL – ELECTION DAY** Nov 4
- **PTA MEETING** Nov 5, 7pm
- **Gr 2 FIELD TRIP BLACK HILL PARK** Nov 5,6
- **EARLY RELEASE (1:00pm) PARENT CONFERENCE** Nov 10, 11
- **REPORT CARDS** Nov 12
- **BINGO NIGHT - RHMS** Nov 14, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **SPIRIT NIGHT JERSEY MIKES ALL WEEK/ALL DAY** Nov 17 – Nov 21
- **MAKE UP PICTURES** Nov 18
- **Gr 2 FIELD TRIP STRATHMORE** Nov 19
- **JOE CORBI PICKUP** Nov 19, 3:30pm – 6:30pm
- **AUTHOR VISIT Grades K – 2** Nov 20
- **EARLY RELEASE** Nov 26
- **NO SCHOOL THANKSGIVING** Nov 27, 28

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

24001 Ridge Road
Germantown, MD 20876

Shobha Rajan, Editor
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Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

It has been a busy October at school. We have had a very successful Open House! It was so nice to see so many parents come out and see what their students' morning routines are at school!

We have also had a nice cool week for the Fall Field Days at school and the students had a GREAT time enjoying the fun and active time during field day! Thanks again Mr. Jansson for organizing the Fall Field Days, along with a BIG thank you to Mrs. Hirschhorn for her DJ assistance and to all the parent volunteers who came and helped make these successful and fun days for our students!! WHAT an amazing team effort! We have a wonderful, caring, and organized team of staff and parents that knows how to give the students a fun day!

The Fall Harvest Festival was a lot of fun to help plan! Pam Jones really has all the events perfectly orchestrated and wonderfully made. In the midst of all the organized chaos of getting all the items to Rocky Hill, Pam really hit this one out of the ballpark again to make this such a huge success!

The new spirit wear is out and has been hanging in the school lobby area for a few weeks! Thanks to Macie Mogot for putting together some fun tie dye printed T-shirts and Sweatshirts! These shirts are sure to please -- there is a little something for everyone! If you did not get a chance to buy a green tie dye T-shirt, we do have some we can sell to you, please contact [Holly](#) or [Macie](#).

This week we will be having our classroom Fall Festival Parties that we hope your students enjoy. We hope you all have a happy and safe Halloween!

Thanks again to all those parents who came out to our very first PTA meeting of the school year! We had two SSL students who were ready and waiting to watch any younger kiddos so parents could come to the meeting and not have to worry about child care! Please come to our next meeting on Wednesday, November 5th from 7pm-8pm and feel free to bring your children!!

I am looking forward to a great November and if you haven't signed up to support our school by becoming a PTA member, it's not too late!

Many thanks,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

Membership

Annie Karp, PTA Co-Vice
President
Amy Hoffacker, PTA Co-
Vice President

Thank You!

A huge thank you to our Cedar Grove families and staff who have joined the PTA. We have over 330 PTA members this year! It's still not too late to join, click [here](#) for the membership form.

We are hoping to get the Student Directory to everyone by the end of November. Remember the Student Directory is exclusively for PTA members.

Joe Corbi Fundraiser

Amy Hoffacker



Thank you to all our students, parents, and staff for supporting our fall fundraiser by ordering delicious Joe Corbi foods and gifts! Please mark your calendar to pick up your items on Wednesday, November 19th from 3:30 - 6:30pm in the cafeteria. All items must be picked up on that day/time. Any items not picked up will be donated to a charity since we do not have freezer space. Thank you.

Please contact Amy Hoffacker with any questions at amypta75@gmail.com



BINGO

Amy Hoffacker

Our annual PTA Family Bingo night is back by popular demand! Come out on Friday, November 14th at 6:30pm to **Rocky Hill Middle School** for some fun! We have lots of prizes to win including sports items, games, gift cards and more!!

The cost is \$3/bingo card, and we will also be selling food. RSVP in advance to reserve your spot, so you don't get turned away at the door!



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Based on the temperatures we've seen this past month, I hesitate to say that we've moved into Autumn at Cedar Grove. But it's been to our benefit that we've had such wonderful, unusually warm weather. We thank you for coming out for our grade 2/3 and grade 4/5 field days, a new October venture that Mr. Jansson instigated very successfully. We've had class field trips, our Joe Corbi fund raiser, our first spirit night, and more! It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at our Open House, too. We look to November for an actual spirit week (!) and the ever-popular Bingo, as well as parent-teacher conferences. Cedar Grove is an example of education at its finest – because we have an involved community who do so much to help us focus on what's important: our young students.

At this point, I'd like to put in a plug for our upcoming annual science expo. We are again committed to producing a forum for young scientists in grades 2-5 to explore an inquiry-based experiment and bring those results to our expo on January 15, 2015. But we need your help. We are looking for adult "interviewers" to ask our young scientists questions about their experiment. You need not be a scientist; an interest in science or even natural curiosity is all it takes – and an hour of your time! Please contact [Mr. Oedemann](#) or [Mrs. Birrer](#) if you are interested in helping us that evening.



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Our inquiry projects for the second marking period are in full swing. And I'm grateful for my parent volunteers who show up and allow me to teach and Mrs. Wilson to do her 'behind the curtain' media work that keeps our media program up and running.

Kindergarten is working on its first research project. We are going to study the goldfish. We start by reading *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Scillian, a huge favorite fiction story. Ask your Kindergartner why on earth Mrs. Hirschhorn would choose to read a fiction story while doing research! We will proceed with nonfiction books about goldfish and access *PebbleGo* to round out our sources. We will complete our class Goldfish fact books, and cite our sources.

First grade has a new curriculum this year, so our inquiry project is going to respond to the question how an author creates details for his/her stories. We will investigate Tomie DePaola through four of his fiction works, and then verify what we know about Mr. DePaola through nonfiction research. The idea that we write stories based on what we know will be reinforced by the fact that Mr. DePaola uses his childhood as a basis of many of his stories; just as we can when it's time to write our stories.

Second grade's next inquiry project is one of my favorites. We look at a traditional fairy tale and change it based on a different setting. So we will define setting, and then research the culture and features of another country to help us create the sensory details we need when we transfer our traditional fairy tale to that new setting. Each class has a specific traditional fairy tale that will be transferred to one of seven countries. It will be fun to see how the characters and potentially the solution in the story changes because of the new setting!

Third grade's project involves the development of technology, based on human wants and needs. We activate this project by going on a technology scavenger hunt and defining technology. Then we'll explore a particular technology and see how it has changed over time and, more importantly, why. We will focus on how our human needs, which have also changed, affect the development of that technology. We will have our chrome books for most of this project and will be using a Google App to collaborate our findings.

Fourth graders may have already chatted with you about their project, researching demographics and business potential in Clarksburg in order to write a proposal for a new business. We will be finding out what natural, capital, and human resources we'll need for this business, what advantages the business will provide to the community, and what risks the business may have to take to establish itself. The focus here is on what a community can support, based on the people who live there...i.e., the consumer. We will use the PTA purchased Chromebooks to create a Google Form survey, so our students can reach out to their community and make the search for an appropriate business more meaningful.

Fifth grade's inquiry focus is the informative and persuasive piece students need to write, covering how one specific event may have instigated a revolution and/or a change in government in the US. Therefore, we will be comparing two American revolutions – the one that led to the American Revolutionary War and the Civil Rights Movement. We will discover the elements that lead to a revolution, how people can induce change given certain catalysts, and how that change can result in a change in laws.

Lastly, we will soon have our *I Wonder* question box set up in the media center to support the Science Expo. Please ask your student about the testable question of the week, and how we can find an answer to that question. We use the scientific method of investigation and inquiry and focus on the process of that investigation, rather than the results. We read a few student-created methods on the TV news every Friday.



Boxtops Annie Karp

Thank you to the families that submitted Boxtops so far. We have earned about \$200 for the school so far! Keep collecting those Boxtops for our spring contest.

Fall Harvest Festival

Pam Jones



What a huge success! It was an evening filled with a fun cake walk (one of the students' favorites), the Balloon creator (by far the most popular) and the costume contest (it was so very hard to choose only 3 winners). The SSL students took it upon themselves to crown a king and queen of the costume ball and they were two little, adorable two-year-olds who had a great time dancing!! It was a difficult thing to move all of the games and make several trips to get all the supplies to RHMS this year, but we thankfully had over 20 SSL students helping with the setup, running each game and breakdown! Thanks to all of our Cedar Grove families who attended the event.

Thanks to Fall Harvest committee members Holly Jankowski, Luz Veizaga, Farrah Khan and all the SSL students who helped make this event a huge success.

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, instead of being published in the Bear Facts newsletter. Please check the October PTA [meeting minutes](#) on our PTA website www.cedargrovepta.org
