

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 1

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

October 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

- **PTA MEETING**
Oct 7, 7PM
- **OPEN HOUSE** Oct 13
9:15am - 11 am
- **NO SCHOOL – MSEA CONFERENCE** Oct 17
- **FIELD DAY Gr 2 – 3** Oct 23 AM only, picnic at 12
- **FIELD DAY Gr 4-5** Oct 24
- **FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL- RHMS** Oct 24
6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP – AGRICULTURAL FARM PARK** Oct 27
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP – KINGSLEY** Oct 29, 30
- **CLASSROOM FALL FESTIVAL PARTIES** Oct 30
- **NO SCHOOL – PROFESSIONAL DAY FOR TEACHERS** Oct 31

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

What a busy and productive beginning to the school year, we have had! We are so proud to be a part of such a caring community we call Cedar Grove Elementary School!

We have begun this year with some fun activities! We had a wonderful luncheon for the staff a week before school opened. Thanks to Michele Tregoning and Anita Young for setting up the feast. We also had our Fall Book Fair which did very well this year, it was so much fun having it end with the Welcome Back picnic. We appreciate all the hard work that went into both activities, especially running the Book Fair all week long! Thanks to Annie Karp and Amy Hoffacker for coordinating the Welcome back picnic and to everyone who volunteered their time to make the event a success.

Annie Karp has been very busy collecting our PTA membership information and filling out PTA cards to give to our new PTA members, along with being our go between for our new student directory - which is due to be printed very soon!!! Our Volunteer Coordinator, Jen Coakley has been conducting 2 volunteer training sessions; one during the Kindergarten coffee chat and one last week! The Kindergarten Coffee Chat was a lot of fun and several of the moms are beginning to come in and help us right away at the book fair and Welcome Picnic – how great is that!!

Macie Mogot has been busy designing a fun new t-shirt design to be unveiled at our Open House on Columbus Day – be sure not to miss that!

We had a great turnout at the Chick fil A Spirit Night, on Monday evening! It was so nice to see so many of our school families and staff at Chick fil A supporting our school!

We hope to see you all at our first PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 7th in the Media Center from 7pm-8pm!

Sincerely,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

With the start of school, we always like to welcome our teachers back and show them how much we appreciate them and all the time and work they put in over the summer getting ready for the new school year!

STAFF APPRECIATION

Thank you to the following who contributed items to our welcome back luncheon: Jen Coakley, Revital Darmon, Tina Estrada, Karen James, Holly Jankowski, Brittany Pond, Gladys Rodriguez, Kristie Scott, Hilary Szczublewski, Maria Wyman, and Anita Young.

Thank you to the many families that have contributed \$5 towards upcoming luncheons and other staff appreciation treats throughout the year! It is not too late to still make a contribution. You can send in your \$5 (cash only, please) in an envelope marked "Staff Appreciation".

A BIG thank you to those who have also signed up to be on that committee this year. If you would like to sign up but didn't get a chance, you can email me at micheletregoning@yahoo.com and I will add your name to our Signup Genius list. Thank you for helping us show the Cedar Grove staff how much we appreciate all they do for our children!!

Welcome Picnic

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



Thank you to all of the families who came out to our Back to School Picnic!

It was a fun-filled evening. The weather was nice and cool, the food vendors had such yummy food and the DJ (our very own Mrs. Hirschhorn) knocked it out of the ball park with her skills and fun tunes she played all night!! Thanks to Kids-Co for the Bouncy house and the shuttle which ran families back and forth all night from Potomac Valley Assembly Church, due to parking restraints. Our dessert table looked great with all the donations!

A big thank you to all of our parent and SSL Volunteers, Mr. Jansson, and Mr. Green for making it such a success!

Book Fair

Holly Jankowski

PTA President

Thank you to all the Cedar Grove Families who worked at or purchased books from our book fair to make it such a successful book fair this fall! Together we sold over \$10,000 in Scholastic books/products!



We had so many volunteers who worked 3 or more times for us all week and there were many people who jumped in last minute to help clean-up and pack up the book fair after the picnic, whose names I do not have.....I thank you one and all!!!

Thanks to Helen Bahk, Donna Coffman, Melissa Hubbard, Jennifer Coakley, Natasha Perry, Amy Burgaleta, Ann Moskowitz, Susan Bonnett, Monique Schobitz, Annie Karp, Anita Young, Trang Nguyen, Joan Lee, Jennifer Glinski, Rachel Henry, Amy Mukhija, Yamini Kamalahasan, Pam Jones, Kobie Buttery, Nafissa Keinde, Tejal Patel, Michelle Senk and Ted Lipanski for making this ROYAL affair such a success!!

We have another book fair in the spring – please email HollyjanPta@gmail.com – if you want to help!



Volunteering at school

Jen Coakley

I am so excited for the new school year and hope everyone is off to a great start!

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you how important and valued our volunteers are. Without volunteers, many of our school

events (during and after school hours) would not be possible. Field Day, Read Aloud Day, and School Picnics, for example, all rely on volunteers. Any amount of time you have and are willing to share with our community is greatly appreciated! Whether it's helping set-up or break down an event, volunteering in our Media Center, making copies for the PTA or picking up supplies, every volunteer makes a difference.

If you are interested in volunteering and didn't have the chance to sign up, or just weren't sure what you wanted to sign up for, please feel free to contact me jen.coakley@me.com. I can also add your email address to the "Volunteer Pool", which we use to send out emails throughout the year when we are in need of extra helping hands for events.

Thank you in advance for helping to make this a fabulous year!



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Welcome to the 2014-2015 school year! This is a year of new beginnings, including a PTA board which I know has already been incredibly involved in making this year exciting and invigorating.

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 was especially packed with training and so it was delightful to be able to catch up while enjoying delicious food. The Welcome back picnic was a huge success, with gorgeous weather smiling on your celebration! It was wonderful to see familiar faces playing and enjoying each other's company. And I can tell from first-hand experience that the book fair was an incredibly busy place and I hope, a rousing success for the PTA.

Thanks to the PTA, and the incredible success of the Readathon and other fundraisers last year, we are the proud owners of two Chromebook carts. Although these have not arrived yet, we already have grand plans for them – and our teachers have been or are going to Google Apps for Education training as I type. Having these carts will open our computer lab to our primary grades, which need access to that technology more than ever.

I know that Mrs. Coakley is creating an incredible volunteer “army” which will come through our doors every day. We appreciate 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 have learned how to circulate and shelve books for us. You tackled the task quickly, and have been dealing with huge numbers of students checking in and checking out books. To my new library volunteers, as well as to my returning ones, we need you and we appreciate you. As one of our students said marching out of the media center with an armful of books: “Yes, the media center was open!”



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Our summer was, amazingly, calm this year. Although we held a summer media program, we didn't see any building renovations or hear any machinery. So it was wonderful to come back to work in August and just breathe for a minute. But, that's really all we had. A minute. Mrs. Wilson, our media assistant, is “full time” again this year, which is an enormous blessing. However, as I sat across from her yesterday, I asked her: do you feel any less time-stressed now that you're here more of the day? We simultaneously laughed and agreed that the answer is a resounding “no”! Our media center work – supporting staff and students -- is like water. It fills a vacuum regardless of how large or small that vacuum is! So I must repeat my mantra again: 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. The [signup genius app](#) is on our homepage and I encourage you to please sign up and spend a few hours helping us help our students. Our volunteers 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 with one week of media and computer lab orientation. And then immediately began our integrated inquiry projects for our 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 are becoming familiar with call numbers, especially for our fiction books, and exploring how call numbers are structured, and how that structure helps us find our books in the media center.

First grade has, for the first time this year, a small research project which we will begin towards the end of the marking period. The curriculum connecting writing and information literacy has been updated this past summer, so we will explore what features animals use to survive - the animal we're focusing on is the ant!

Second grade's first inquiry investigation is the 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 use the information we gather for our writing.

Third grade's community action investigation is just starting. We will define civic engagement and common good by exploring an E-book and trade books, and analyze our student-created questions about environmental stewardship. Before beginning our research, we want to ensure that we understand what that means. Our goal is to understand why participating in a project that helps our planet is so important and to share our understanding through informative writing which will connect to a project that the third grade team is planning with Black Hills Regional Park.

Fourth grade changed the focus of their historical fiction project from Colonial times to the Woodland Tribes of the Northeast Region to better connect with their social studies content. It was an incredible journey through time, which gave our students perspective and information on one of over 500 American Indian tribes and their cultures which lived in our country before it was settled by Europeans. We used print and nonprint resources to collect details that will enable our students to write a historical fiction story set in that time period. We explored how facts abound in good historical fiction in order to make the story authentic and believable.

Fifth grade researched biomass and biofuels in the media center, which will lead to independent research on various energy resources and creating a proposal for the best energy resource to power the amusement park ride they are designing in science. We modeled note-taking from print and nonprint resources, ethical research, analyzing and evaluating information and resources for bias, as well as for our purposes.

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.

We are for the first time this year (we like firsts in the media center, we have a lot of them!) capturing our TV news broadcasts. This will enable all of our classes to see the broadcasts and also allow us to upload them onto our homepage. Look for a link on our homepage!

In the meantime, 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

Fall is here and so is our Joe Corbi fundraiser...but we've expanded to add Auntie Anne's and Mrs. Fields Cookies! You should have received your green Joe Corbi catalog packet at the end of September. Order forms are due back on October 10th.



Prizes will be given even if your child sells just one item but the more they sell, then the more prizes they will receive (just look at the prize list in the packet)! And then, the top seller this year will also win an Amazon Kindle while the second and third place sellers will win gift cards! Please contact Amy Hoffacker with any questions at amypta75@gmail.com



Fall Harvest Festival

Pam Jones

The season is changing which means it is time for our annual Fall Harvest Festival.

This year our event will be held October 24th from 6:30-8:30 pm at Rocky Hill Middle School. We will have more room to party and better parking. As in the past we will have games, dancing, crafts, an optional costume contest, food/drinks to purchase and fun with old and new friends. Mark your calendars and look for emails and fliers to come home with more information.

Boxtops

Annie Karp



We collect Boxtops for Education throughout the year. You can use the Collection form that was sent home in mid-September to collect up to 25 Boxtops (don't worry, you can print out additional sheets on the PTA website) or send in a bag full of Boxtops with your child.

We will also do a contest this spring for the classroom that collects the most Boxtops. Each Boxtop you clip is 10 cents back to Cedar Grove. Those little Boxtops do add up!! Thank you for collecting!

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.
