

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 5

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

February 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

- **INCOMING 6th GRADE PARENT MEETING RHMS**
- Feb 2, 6:30-7:15pm (Last names A-K) or 7:45-8:30pm (Last names L-Z)
- **PARENT TECH MEETING**
Feb 3, 6:30pm – 7:30pm
- **PTA MEETING** Feb 3,
7:30pm – 8:00pm
- **MOMS AND MUFFINS Gr 2** Feb 11, 8:45am – 9:15am
- **DADS AND DONUTS Gr 3**
Feb 12, 8:45am-9:15am
- **SGA MEETING** Feb 12,
12:20pm – 1:00pm
- **VALENTINES DAY PARTIES** Feb 13
- **SGA PICK UP AND PASS OUT CANDYGRAMS**
Feb 13
- **NO SCHOOL- PRESIDENTS DAY** Feb 16
- **SGA MEETING** Feb 19,
12:20pm – 1:00pm
- **SGA SPORTS DAY** Feb 19
- **AROUND THE WORLD NIGHT RHMS** Feb 20,
6:30pm
- **EARLY RELEASE** Feb 27

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

Happy winter! It sure has been a COLD January, with temperatures down in the single digits!! I trust you are staying warm and wearing your hats and gloves.

January's Science Expo was a huge success! There were wall to wall projects, students and proud parents in the gym without much room to stand or even walk. It was so nice to see our students with their science caps on and explaining their projects with such excitement! Thank you to all the students, parents and staff who organized this and came out that evening! We also had the yearbook photography company (Great American photo) come out to take sibling photos and classroom photos for our yearbook. Soon we will be asking the 5th grade parents for a close up photo of their 5th grader as a baby! This is always a popular feature in our yearbook.

Please check out our PTA website often as we have many events, and things to share with you like the Bell Times information. There is a survey you can take to add your thoughts about the starting times for schools. We also share with you after school clubs, spirit nights, important yearbook information, Around the World Night information, PTA meeting minutes and much more! Visit our [PTA website](#) today, make it a favorite, and stay informed!

The lunch/recess staff are looking for some substitutes. If you would like to help in the lunchroom and during recess and get paid, this position is for you! Please contact me.

As always feel free to contact me or anyone on our board should you have any questions or comments!

Sincerely,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
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Shobha Rajan, Editor
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Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan

Join us on February 20th at Rocky Hill Middle School for a great opportunity to take a look at the various cultures and taste a variety of delicious foods from our Cedar Grove Families.



Highlights of the night will include:
An International Fashion show;
International food and drinks;
Passports for students as they wander “around the world”; and
Cultural information and artifacts.

If you would like to participate or [learn more about this event](#), please contact me at shobharaian@yahoo.com.



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

First and foremost, I hope you are coming to our Tech Night, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, at 6:30 PM in the media center. Mrs. Gaudino, our Technology Consultant, will lead an introduction to not only Chromebook use but also the various Google Apps for Education that your third through fifth grade students will use throughout the year. The use of these technology tools is for instructional purposes and has already made a huge positive impact in our student engagement. But it comes with a lot of responsibility and we want to be sure that you are partners with us in this exciting endeavor.

After a nice long winter break, we had a busy month of January with a few snow days and delayed openings sprinkled in. But of course that didn't slow down our activities by any means. Our [Annual Science Expo](#) was a tremendous success. We had over 94 exhibitors in the gym. In spite of our parking issues and thanks in large part to KidsCo, this was a very well attended evening. Thanks to all of our “Visiting Scientists” for spending their time with our young scientists. This event was yet another opportunity to demonstrate how our community works together to support and empower discovery within our students. We also had a double spirit night at Café Rio, which we hope everyone had an opportunity to attend. We did miss our January PTA meeting because of weather closings (and had to reschedule our group class pictures not once but three times!), but I know that February will be full of all kinds of wonderful activities, and we're looking forward to them!



Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

The third marking period is upon us, and I am extremely excited about our inquiry projects. Kindergarten through second grade have new and improved inquiry projects connected to their writing indicators, which means I am able to realign the lessons and create new lessons and explore uncharted technology territory!

In Kindergarten, we will examine fiction literature for literary elements during the first half of this marking period. We'll read fiction books about butterflies and other animals that undergo metamorphosis. Following that, to connect to the science content in the classroom, we will research and compare two living things. We will begin with what we know about mealworms/darkling beetles and add to our knowledge through our research. Then we will research the butterfly to compare and contrast to the mealworm. We will work on creating questions; taking notes; reading for information; evaluating our information, and sharing that information.

First grade is responding to the question, "What is in a place?" for their inquiry. We will experience gathering details from an image, opinions from our peers, and then researching facts about that place. We will sort our opinions and facts and gather more information to support our opinions.

Second grade is going to answer the question, "What technology tool has the greatest impact on me?" We will gather opinions from our peers, narrow down our focus through discussion, explore one technology tool and categorize our opinions. Then we will locate additional facts about our technology tool to ascertain whether the tool we chose has, indeed, made the greatest impact on the way we work, play, and live.

Third grade is investigating how authors get their ideas and how an illustrator portrays real or imagined experiences. This project, which is directly connected with the writing process, will conclude with the students writing and illustrating their own realistic fiction picture book. In order to do this, we will explore the work and craft of Judith Viorst. We will read a few of her "Alexander" titles, examine the connections to realistic fiction and Mrs. Viorst's reality, as well as brainstorm some viable realistic fiction themes for our own writing.

Fourth grade is going to continue their exciting venture into investigating their community by researching how media messages are created and produce consumers. They will discover the different media message techniques, which we know will allow our students to evaluate advertisements and commercials more critically. You may never be able to watch a commercial with your fourth grader the same way again! Then they will create an ad for the business the students researched last marking period to be included into the Clarksburg master plan.

Fifth grade will not only discover the tricky world of Web site evaluation, but also write a story in a specific genre and then create book trailers for their stories. This year, because we are all on the GAFE platform, we will attempt to use one of the Chrome

applications. This will be new for all of us – although I have a feeling our students will be teaching me a few tricks!

Our second TV News Crew has completed its shift, and we have changed to the third crew of the year. It takes a few days, but they are getting into the routine of the morning news show. We hope you are availing yourselves to the daily newscasts, which are posted on our [homepage](#).

Last but not least, I want to again thank my parent volunteers – my Library Ladies – for always being there for us. You sign up on [SignUpGenius](#) and simply show up and make my mornings and afternoons. Between December 1 and January 20 – in spite of a longer than usual Winter break and our snow days and delays, we circulated 5,233 books to students. Thank you so much for all of your help. If you haven't signed up, please do. We need you so we can stay open!

To all Cedar Grove families! Did you know you might be able to get extremely [affordable Internet access](#)?

It's true! Comcast offers a special deal if you qualify. In order to [qualify](#), you need to live where Comcast offers Internet service; have at least one child eligible to participate in the National School Lunch Program; have not subscribed to Comcast Internet service within the last 90 days; and not have outstanding Comcast debt that is under one year old. Please take a look – now that so many of our students have Google Chrome accounts, it might be worth exploring!



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.
