

Bear Facts



Volume 28, Issue 7

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

April 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

- **NO SCHOOL – GOOD FRIDAY** Apr 3
- **NO SCHOOL EASTER** Apr 6
- **SPRING BREAK** Apr 7-12
- **PTA MEETING & CLARKSBURG DAMASCUS MIDDLE SCHOOL BOUNDARY STUDY** Apr 13, 6:30pm – 8:30pm
- **SPIRIT NIGHT CAFÉ RIO** Apr 15,16
- **SGA MEETING** Apr 16,12:20pm - 1:30pm
- **EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS** Apr 17, 10 – 2 pm
- **BINGO RHMS** Apr 17, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
- **JANSSON'S PARK** Apr 20 - 24
- **PARCC TESTING** Apr 20 – May 15
- **TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY** Apr 23
- **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION NO SCHOOL FOR KINDERGARTENERS** Apr 30, May 1

Dear Cedar Grove Families and Staff,

March did come in like a lion and now it seems to be going out like a lamb! Finally some warmer weather is here!

We had some great times this month with fun spirit nights at Panera bread and Chuck E Cheese. Thank you all who attend these events! Our students enjoyed fun events at the Read-a-thon "Reading Night" with the staff. This is always such a great time for students and parents as well. Many thanks to the staff who came out to read! The PTA sponsored Step Afrika assembly was a fun way to learn about commitment, teamwork and discipline. This was so much fun to see the students and staff stand up and learn some dance steps themselves. You must ask your student to give you the details and tell you part they enjoyed best. All the assemblies the PTA has brought to our students will be put on our PTA website. Please check out the PTA website often.

Be sure not to miss our next PTA meeting on Monday, April 13th from 6:30 – 8pm. You will get to hear from our representative all about the Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School boundary study. We will have child care from our fabulous SSL volunteers.

Visit our PTA website where you can sign up to receive the latest news and all the events the PTA sponsors! If you check out our PTA website now, you will see some of the Auction sponsors who have donated something for our Silent Auction during the Spring picnic in May.

We rely on your membership support every year. It is not too late to join the PTA. As always, feel free to contact me if you have any questions or comments.

Enjoy your holidays and spring break!

Sincerely,
Holly Jankowski
PTA President

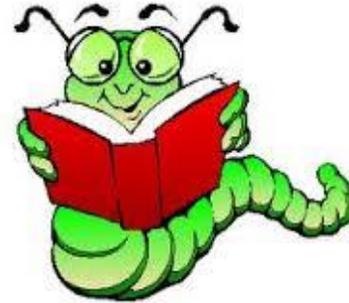
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Reading Night

Michele Tregoning

On March 12th we had our 5th Annual Reading Night! As usual, it was a packed house to hear some of our favorite Cedar Grove staff members read to us. Thank you to Mrs. Anderson, Mrs. Burgdorf, Mrs. Carroll, Ms. Cromwell, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Gardner, Mrs. Hirschhorn, Mr. Moxley, & Mrs. Strong who were our readers, and to Mrs. Gordon for helping with check-in and taking pictures, and to Mrs. Gross for having an informative session for parents!



Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out: Jen Coakley, Rona Han, Lori Marshall, Shobha Rajan & Jen Strouble. We also had a few great SSL helpers!! Thank you to the many families that came out to support Reading Night, to support the Read-a-Thon, and to have an enjoyable evening of reading and prizes!

Read-a-Thon

Michele Tregoning

At this time our 5th Annual Read-a-Thon has come to an end, but is far from over! Reading minutes have been logged and tabulated and pledges have been collected. All packets were due on March 26th and everything will be calculated and prizes will be awarded. We have many prizes for the top readers, top fundraisers, classes that reach their minutes read goal, the class that read the most minutes, class that raised the most money, and teacher prizes too! The prize drawings took place on April 2nd just before Spring Break!



Thank you to all of the families who supported the Read-a-Thon! I am looking forward to seeing who all of the winners will be. Stay tuned to next month's edition to find out what all of our amazing totals are!!



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Aside from this eternal Winter (which shows signs of slowly ebbing away) and of course our PARCC testing, we seem to have gotten through March without too much of a hitch. Mrs. Young has kept us in Spirit Nights, and we hope you've participated and enjoyed them. Sadly, Bingo had to be postponed to April 17, and I know it's going to be wonderful because Mrs. Hoffacker has been working so hard. But we did have an incredible Readathon, a favorite event for both students and teachers, who are happy to encourage your children to read (more and more we're learning how

important it is for our students to read!). We hope that you attended the Reading Night. It is the highlight of our Readathon and I know our participating staff really enjoyed it. The cultural assembly, Step Afrika, was amazing and our students had a blast. Lastly, I know we will have tremendous support from our PTA for our Earth Day celebration. We hope to see you chaperoning your students' classes and enjoying the day.



Earth Day

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

We know we will see spring soon, and along with spring comes our annual Earth Day Celebration! This year we will host it during the school day, on Friday April 17, between 11 and 2 PM. We are hoping to give more of our students the opportunity to celebrate with us. You should have received an information sheet with details about this event. Please contact [Jen Coakley](#) if you can donate some of your time. It will be a wonderful way to help our students appreciate why we need to take care of our planet and all its beauty.

Cultural Arts

Lori Andrus

The Cedar Grove PTA sponsored our second Cultural Arts Assembly of the year titled Step Afrika! The Assembly was held on Monday, March 23rd, for all students at Cedar Grove Elementary. The Step Afrika troupe was made up of 5 highly energetic African-American College graduates, who dazzled the students with their high-flying kicks, jumps, stomps, and beautiful vocals. The students also learned about the roots of step dancing through a traditional South African gumboot dance. Throughout the step dancing show, the dancers continually conveyed messages to the students of the importance of doing well in school, and to continue their education by attending college. They also conveyed the importance of teamwork, discipline, commitment and dedication. At the end of the show the step dancers taught our students a basic step dance, while again teaching our students to show respect to their teachers, parents, family and friends, to strive to learn and understand different cultures, and to always remember that each of us is very special. It was an incredibly fun and exciting show, filled with beautiful messages for all of your children. If you would like to learn more about Step Afrika, please visit their [website](#). I truly hope your children enjoyed this show!





Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Of course our media center has been greatly affected by the snow and testing days – and continues to be impacted by testing for several weeks in April. The computer lab is completely compromised because the tests are online, which limits the access our students will have to technology both for research and for project production.

Kindergarten has completed its mealworm vs caterpillar research project and you should see our booklets coming home. We are starting the marking period by reading and examining literature and then will move into another research project.

First grade will pursue the five ways we can help conserve our resources on the planet. We will go through a few interactive activators, and then drill deeply into one of those ways to further understand our responsibilities to help the Earth. This coincides beautifully with Earth Day and helps build background knowledge for the upper grade inquiry projects.

Second grade will begin one of my favorite projects: researching how persistence and effort are vital to success. We base our investigation on the biographies of Harriet Tubman, Helen Keller, the Wright brothers, and Thomas Edison by studying their failures and obstacles and then their impact on our lives. We will continue improving our note taking skills by using different types of resources to get our information.

Third grade will write its first real argument by researching two sides of an issue. Should there be homework? Do graphic organizers “count” as “real reading”? Should students wear uniforms in public schools? What’s a better pet, a dog or a cat? We will use various resources to build a solid argument and disarm our opposing argument.

Fourth grade is going to respond to the question: how do humans alter the face of the earth? We will explore different forms of erosion, and investigate how much of that is natural and how much is human-caused.

The last inquiry project for our **5th grade** is a career investigation to respond to the question, which of our Thinking and Academic Success Skills (TASS) will you use most to obtain the education and skills you need to attain your career choice? We will explore occupations we’ve selected with primary and secondary resources and make connections with those TASS.

Because the beginning of the marking period is extremely busy in terms of instruction, our biggest issue is keeping the media center open for circulation. Please [sign up if you can volunteer](#) – there are times when the media center will be open but neither Mrs. Wilson nor I will be available because of our instruction schedules. If we have a volunteer at the desk, we can keep our students “in books”! In addition, our media assistant hours have been reduced, and Mrs. Wilson will be part time media assistant next year. So if you’re interested in joining us on a regular basis, it’s great to get your training and experience in now so you can come more often next year!
