

Bear Facts



Volume 29, Issue 1

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

October 2015

PTA President: Michele Tregoning
Principal: Mr. Lee Derby

Co-Vice Presidents: Annie Karp and Chris Jansson
Treasurer: Anita Young

Secretary: Lori Andrus



PTA President's Message

- **PINK OUT WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER**
- **EARLY RELEASE** Oct 2
- **INDIVIDUAL PICTURE DAY** Oct 5
- **PTA MEETING** Oct 6, 7PM
- **HEAVENLY HATS DAY** Oct 7
- **OPEN HOUSE** Oct 12, 9:25 am – 11am
- **Gr 2 FIELD TRIP – BLACK HILL REG. PARK**
Oct 13 – Gross, Stevenson and Strong
Oct 14 – Daly and Thurn
- **SPIRIT NIGHT- CORNER BAKERY** Oct 15, 4pm-9pm
- **NO SCHOOL** Oct 16
- **Gr 5 IN-SCHOOL FIELD TRIP** Oct 19
- **FIELD DAY Gr 2 – 3** Oct 22
AM only, picnic at 12pm
- **FIELD DAY Gr 4-5** Oct 23 ALL DAY
- **Gr 4 FIELD TRIP – AGRICULTURAL FARM PARK** Oct 27
- **FALL HARVEST FESTIVAL- CGES** Oct 30 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

24001 Ridge Road
Germantown, MD 20876

Shobha Rajan, Editor
shobharajan@yahoo.com

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

What a great start to the school year so far!! It was great meeting so many new people and seeing familiar faces at both the Open House and Back-to-School Nights! So many of you stopped by our PTA table and we appreciate that. THANK YOU to the many families who have already joined the PTA. If you haven't yet had a chance to do so, you can fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter or get a copy on our PTA webpage and send it to school with your child.

THANK YOU to the many people who have signed up to volunteer to be on a committee this year!! Most things you sign up for won't require much more than an hour of your time, but without your help, we wouldn't be able to have the event, so we are very appreciative of your time. If you know anyone who would like to be on a committee, but didn't get a chance to sign up, please contact [Jen Coakley](#), our Volunteer Coordinator. You can also contact Jen to sign up for our Volunteer Pool for those last minute volunteer needs.

It was great seeing so many families at our Welcome Back Picnic! That's always a fun chance to get to meet new families and catch up with old ones. Thank you to Annie Karp and Chris Jansson for coordinating that event Holly Jankowski and Beverly Hazen, our Book Fair coordinators, for manning the Book Fair all evening; and to everyone who volunteered their time to make the event a success! Thanks also to KidsCo for providing the shuttle bus service and moon bounce. A big thank you also to Mr. Greene for cleaning up and to all the Cedar Grove staff who came out to spend their time with our families. It was greatly appreciated!

October will be here before we know it and that means Fall Harvest Festival time! Look for flyers later in the month so that you can rsvp to this event and be a part of the fun!

We hope to see many of you at our first PTA meeting of the year, on Tuesday, October 6th at 7pm, at the Media Center. We will have babysitting services available for your school age children.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or any member of the Board. Please visit our [webpage](#) for updates, calendars, information, and forms.

Sincerely,
Michele Tregoning
PTA President

Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

STAFF APPRECIATION

The Cedar Grove Staff worked hard all summer to get ready for the upcoming school year! We wanted to show them how much we appreciated all of their efforts and look forward to working with them this year! Thank you to the following who donated something for the Welcome Back Luncheon: Revital Darmon, Rona Han, Jill Hooven, Fatima Kandji, Lori Marshall, Erica Molnar, Amy Mukhija, Chetan Paul, Gladys Rodriguez, Maria Sanchez, and Anita Young.

Thank you also to all of the families who have sent in their \$5 cash donation to be used for future staff appreciation events throughout the year. If you would still like to make a donation, please send in \$5 (cash only, please) in an envelope marked "Staff Appreciation."

Thanks to those who have also signed up to be on the committee and will help with making or purchasing donations for future events. If you would like to be on the Staff Appreciation Committee but did not get a chance to sign up, please contact [me](#) and I will add you to our signup genius group.

Thank you for helping to make our hard working Cedar Grove Staff feel appreciated!!!



Welcome Picnic

Annie Karp, PTA Co-Vice President

Chris Jansson, PTA Co-Vice President

Thank you to all of our families who attended our Back to School Picnic! Thank you to all of our SSL Volunteers... we couldn't do it without our volunteers. Mr. Bergman was a great DJ in Mrs. Hirschhorn's absence. It was a fun night with good food and friends!

Book Fair

Holly Jankowski



The book fair was a "MONSTEROUS" success!! We thank the volunteers who came in and shared their love of reading with our students so they could find some fun and intriguing books to read! The students LOVED the book fair and we LOVED seeing them head home with a brand new book that will open their world to fun new places and things! We sold over \$9100.00 of items from our fair and our online book fair site combined! Book fair brought to the school's PTA budget over \$2900! Thank you again Book Fair Volunteers, we appreciate your help, and could not have pulled off such a successful event without YOU! A special thanks to Beverley Hazen who was at the school every day and at night!



The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

This is my 11th welcome to a new school year – and I can't believe it! I know our new PTA board 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 setting up instructional spaces, so it was delightful to be able to catch up with each other while enjoying delicious food. The Welcome back picnic was a huge success, with gorgeous weather smiling on your celebration! I'm sorry that I couldn't be your DJ this year, but as fate would have it, I had to rest up! The book fair was in one of our portables this year, and we hope you made it out there to our learning village!

Thanks to the PTA, and the incredible success of the Readathon and other fundraisers two years ago, we could distribute chrome books to our 2nd grade classes this year, which will give our 2nd graders a head start on Chrome.

I know that Mrs. Coakley and Mrs. Luskey are 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 Mrs. Hoffacker, Mrs. Coakley, and my media center volunteers, both familiar and new, who have learned how to circulate and shelve books for us. Tuesdays are especially difficult and you rallied and signed up and showed up (and came back!). 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 may have appeared quiet this year but for some reason I was still really busy with Cedar Grove stuff! Once again we held a summer reading program, and we hope your students enjoyed it. But the big news is that we received new tables thanks to the PTA. Now we can move the tables around easily and regroup them as needed.

This is very, very cool!

Mrs. Wilson, our media assistant, is back to being part time again this year. So, in case you haven't been on *Facebook*, *Listserve*, at Back to School Night, or gotten any emails from my volunteer mavens, 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. Please check your schedules and THINK TUESDAYS!

We started the year with one intense week of media orientation and then immediately began our integrated inquiry projects. We have for the first time a hybrid media schedule, which allows for a fixed library time for all classes every other week, and still leaves plenty of room for individual class sign-ups for extra media lessons. Needless to say we are incredibly busy, which makes me incredibly happy.

Kindergarten is in the process of discovering the culture in the media center as well as 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 explored what features animals use to survive - the animal we're focusing on is the ant! We started by our research with fiction stories about ants, and moved toward researching with *PebbleGo*, nonfiction print books, and Web articles to locate information that would answer the questions we created. We did whole-class notetaking, using *Kidspiration* and watched as our graphic organizer grew and grew with all the information we learned!

Second grade's first inquiry investigation is learning about healthy eating. We are defining nutrition as we explore E-books; 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. In the process, we've also learned an enormous amount of new vocabulary: vitamins, minerals, muscles, blood pressure, nutritious, among others!

Third grade's community action investigation is just starting. This year we are focusing on bullying, but first we are defining civic engagement, community, and common good by exploring an E-book and analyzing our student-created questions about bullying. Before beginning our research, we want to ensure that we understand what bullying means and what it looks like. Our goal is to understand why participating in a project that helps our community is so important. We will share our understanding through informative writing which will connect to a project that the third grade team is planning to help their friends, their classmates, and their school.

Since last year, when **fourth grade** changed the focus of their historical fiction project from Colonial times to the American Indian tribes, we've been able to better connect with their social studies content. The point is to understand that the tribe's culture varied depending on the region in which it lived and the natural resources it had available to use for its survival. It is a journey through time, which gives our students perspective and information on one of over 500 American Indian tribes which lived in our country before it was settled by Europeans. We will use print and nonprint resources ([PebbleGo Next](#) for the first time this year!) to collect details that will enable our students to write a historical fiction story set in that time period. We will explore how facts abound in good historical fiction in order to make the story authentic and believable.

Fifth grade is in the process of researching 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 are modeling 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.

Finally, we are again capturing our TV news broadcasts with our first fourth grade crew. 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 can check out or hold.

CEDAR GROVE'S FEED THE BEARS DIRECT DONATION CAMPAIGN

This is the time of year when we would normally have our fall fundraiser. You could buy lots of pizzas, cookie dough, and wrapping paper. You would be spending a bunch of money for things you don't really need, while Cedar Grove would get 15% of the profit. This year we decided to replace our fundraisers with just ONE- the direct donation for our **Feed the Bears Campaign**. 100% of the money you donate will go towards the many programs the PTA funds and supports. This includes school-wide assemblies and guest authors, field trip supplements for every grade level, computer tablets with apps for classroom use in the primary grades, and special events like Muffins for Moms, Spring Picnic, Bingo, etc....

We have a goal of \$15,000 to fully fund all of our programs, so we are asking for 100% participation from the Cedar Grove families. After all, all of these things will benefit ALL children at Cedar Grove! No donation is too small (or too big). This will be replacing the Read-a-Thon fundraiser as well, so any money you would have donated towards that, you can donate now for this campaign.

This direct donation drive will run through November, with classroom prizes! Please send in your donation before then so your child's class is eligible for those prizes. The [form](#) can be found on the PTA website or at the end of the Bear Facts. If you have any questions, please contact [Annie Karp](#) .

THANK YOU to those families that have already contributed to our Feed the Bears Campaign!!

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.
