



BEAR FACTS

Cedar Grove PTA Newsletter

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Cedar Grove Elementary School, 24001 Ridge Road, Germantown, MD

PTA Board

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Editor: Shobha Rajan
shobharajan@yahoo.com

Presidents Message

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

November is a time for us to remember all that we have to be thankful for. Everyone here at Cedar Grove can be thankful for the teachers who work tirelessly each and every day to ensure our kids are getting the best education; for administrators who ensure that even though there are challenges along the way, each and every day is a productive one and all of our children are cared for and kept safe; and for the supporting staff who are always there to help make sure everyone has everything they need to be successful!

I personally have much to be thankful for as well! I have a wonderful PTA Board that works extremely hard to make sure our school has many fun and educational events! They have all stepped up and it is much appreciated. Many of you have also stepped up to help in various ways so that our PTA can offer fun and educational programs. Spahr Hanks and her committee did a fabulous job with the Fall Harvest Festival, Anita Young continues to bring us Spirit Nights, Mike Galipo has brought us awesome Spirit Wear, Sophia Papanicolas has stepped up to be our copier person, and Vinny Luc has been managing our PTA webpage, so THANK YOU to each of you!!

Any amount of time you give to the students at Cedar Grove is greatly appreciated by the staff, the students, and the PTA.

We had a great turnout for our October PTA meeting. We hope you will join us for our November meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd at 7pm in the Media Center. We will have childcare available for your CG student, so feel free to bring them as well! As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michele Tregoning

PTA President

Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

This month, the staff was treated to a special luncheon by the Terhune Family!! They are so appreciative of everything the staff does for their children that they had platters of Corner Bakery sandwiches for them to enjoy!

Committee members brought in drinks and desserts. Thank you to Daniel Andrade, Melissa Blanken, Revital Darmon, Rona Han, Reshma

Kotti, and Saritha Muthu. Thank you to Jen Coakley and Irit Goldman for setting up.

Thank you to the families who have contributed to the Staff Appreciation fund which will be used throughout the year.



Spirit wear

Michele Tregoning



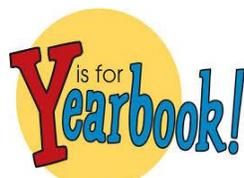
Want to show your Cedar Grove spirit??

We have a great line of spirit wear, including t-shirts, long sleeve shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts, zipper hoodies, beanie caps, and Under Armor shirts. All in a variety of colors!! This awesome spirit wear is available through an [on-line shop](#) only and goes through **November 8th**. All deliveries will be made to Cedar Grove in time for the holidays.

Thank you to kindergarten parent Mike Galipo for setting this shop up and for coordinating our spirit wear line! We will have another sale in the spring.

Is there an item you would love to see or a color you wish we could sell? Contact [me](#) and we can make that happen! All proceeds will benefit the Cedar Grove PTA- thanks again to Mike for that!

Photos for the Yearbook



Many of us take pictures of our little ones in action at school events and classrooms. Wouldn't it be fun for some of those to be published in the yearbook?

If you have any high resolution pictures that you would like to share, please email them to cedargroveyb@gmail.com. Please include teacher's name, grade and event while sharing them. Pictures with group of kids are preferred so the kids can cherish the moments spent with their friends.

The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Autumn, wearing her multi-colored robes, is visible everywhere, and with the warmer than usual temperatures our students can really enjoy her. We've been so lucky to have 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 tradition that Mr. Jansson implemented very successfully last year. This month we've had successful class field trips, our Feed the Bear Fundraiser, two spirit nights, and more! The staff appreciation lunch that was sponsored by the Terhune family was delicious and very much appreciated. We thank you for your support to raise funds for Heavenly Hats. And the Fall Festival was a success, in large part because of all of your efforts to make it one! It was wonderful to see such a great turnout at our Open House, too. We hope to see you here during our 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 non-competitive annual science expo. We are committed to producing a forum for young scientists in grades K-5 to explore an inquiry-based experiment and bring those results to our expo on January 13, 2016 at Rocky Hill MS which the PTA is co-sponsoring with us! This is a traditionally highly popular event but our students will need your help to ensure that their experiment fits the inquiry requirements!

Science Expo 2016

Grades : **K-5**

Date : **January 13, 2016**

Venue: Rocky Hill Middle school

The timeline will be as follows:

11/20/15: Applications and permission slips will go home with students interested in participating in the Science Expo.

12/04/15: Applications are due.

12/10/15: Participants will receive approval or advice as to how to improve their testable question.

1/13/16: Participants must be prepared to discuss their work with the public and visiting scientists on the evening of January 13, 2016 from 7:00-8:00pm.

Feed the Bears Campaign

Michele Tregoning



When this goes to print, our Feed The Bears Campaign will officially be over. Currently we have one week left to go and have raised \$9,300. While that is a great start, we are well short of our \$15,000 goal. I am optimistic that we will reach our goal and not have to have any future fundraisers. We would love to be able to fully fund all of our planned programs for the children and families of Cedar Grove!

It is never too late, however! Even though our contest will officially be over, your family can still contribute to our campaign by writing a check and sending it in with your child in an envelope marked "Feed the Bears Campaign". Thank you to the many families that have contributed!

Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



Our inquiry projects for the second marking period are being tailored even more to connect with our students' writing indicators. And I'm grateful for my parent media volunteers who show up and allow Mrs. Wilson to do her 'behind the curtain' media work that keeps our media program up and running while I'm teaching!

Kindergarten will be working on its first research project. But first we're going to focus on our nonfiction books and how they are organized in the media center. Then we will 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 will 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.

As you know, **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 a 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.

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 – our focus will be specifically the new Outlets that will open in 2016. 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 our 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.

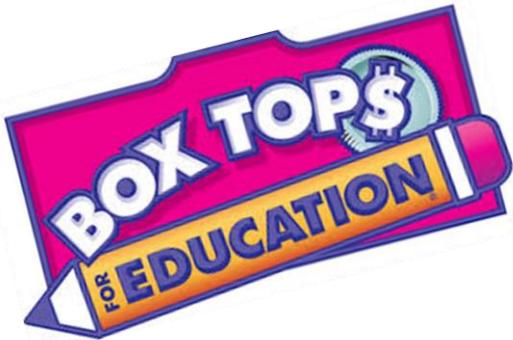
Fifth grade's inquiry focus is the informative and persuasive piece students need to write, covering how one specific event may have instigated a revolution and/or a change in government in the US. Therefore, we will either be researching how specific people contributed to the success of the two American revolutions – or the events that led to 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.

Upcoming Events And Important Dates

NO SCHOOL (Professional day)	Nov 2
PTA MEETING (Media center)	Nov 3, 7pm (free childcare provided)
BEAR WAY ASSEMBLY	Nov 4
SPIRIT NIGHT (Chik-fil-A, Germantown)	Nov 4 (All day)
LET ME RUN 5K	Nov 8
EARLY RELEASE (Parent conferences)	Nov 11-12
FIELD TRIP Gr K and Gr 3 (CHS)	Nov 13
EARLY RELEASE	Nov 25
NO SCHOOL (THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY)	Nov 26-27
PTA MEETING (Media center)	Dec 1, 7pm (free childcare provided)

BOXTOPS



Start clipping Box Tops today! Each one is worth 10 cents for your child's school. The school can use the cash to buy whatever it needs. Click [here](#) for more information including a list of participating products and how much your school has earned.

Thanks for your help!

FUNDRAISING

Many companies and stores offer money and credits for supplies and equipment to schools based on the purchases of customers. **THAT'S RIGHT**, you can help **OUR SCHOOL** support **OUR KIDS** just by doing your regular household shopping – at no additional cost to you!

Box Tops for Education

Amazon Smile

Giant

Safeway

Target

Harris Teeter

Find more [information](#) on the PTA website!

Join the PTA

If you haven't already done so, please download the [membership form](#) to fill out and send in with your child.



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 PTA [meeting minutes](#) on our PTA [website](#).