



BEAR FACTS

Cedar Grove PTA Newsletter

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

PTA Board

President: Michele Tregoning

Co-Vice Presidents: Annie Karp and Chris Jansson

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Presidents Message

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving holiday and had time to spend relaxing with their family! December is always a busy time for everyone, but let's not forget to make time for what is most important - our children. Thank you to each of you who give your time to support your child through the PTA! We appreciate any amount of time you give. Without our volunteers, we would not be able to hold any of our events!

Our events for this month include the much anticipated Holiday Shop - where kids get to shop for others for the holidays - and Reading Night. I hope you will be able to join us for those fun events! Thank you to Anita Young for chairing the Holiday Shop - she has put countless hours in to purchase and tag all of the new merchandise this year! I am chairing Reading Night, which is one of my favorite events since I love when kids get the chance to listen to books for fun. Please note the date change for that event is December 7th.

We had a very special PTA meeting this month Paul Hadfield, a guest speaker, gave us a great presentation about Bullying. Thanks to Lori Andrus for setting up both the children's assembly, as well as the parent presentation.

As always, if you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Michele Tregoning

PTA President

Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

For parent-teacher conferences, the staff appreciation committee gave each classroom teacher a "Conference Survival Kit" filled with goodies to keep them going during the long 2-day conference period. Thank you to those who donated items for these kits: Melissa Blanken, Jen Coakley, Revital Darmon, Irit Goldman, Jill Hooven, Savitha Mathu, and Catherine Pak. Thank you for helping us make the Cedar Grove staff feel appreciated! If you did not get a chance to [sign up](#) for this committee and would like to help out, email me.



Reading Night

Michele Tregoning



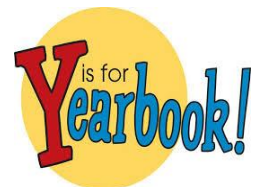
Even though we are not having our annual Read-a-Thon this year, we ARE still having READING NIGHT at Cedar Grove!! Come hear all of your favorite staff reading for fun. You will have a chance to hear 3 readers. There will not be

activities in the APR before or after the event, but the [Holiday Shop](#) will be OPEN! It will be the first day it is opened, so come check it out with your kids. It's a great place to get sibling gifts, gifts from your child to their aunts, uncles, grandparents, and you! Look for a [flyer](#) coming home soon so you can rsvp. Reading Night will be on MONDAY, DECEMBER 7th from 6:45pm -7:55pm. The Holiday Shop will be open from 6:00 pm - 8:15pm.

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

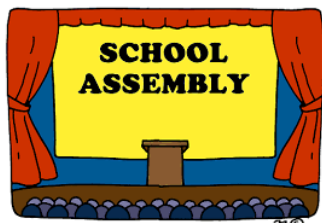
For some reason, the month of November always flies by. We held our parent conferences, and I know our staff enjoyed their survival bags. We've had more class field trips, as well as the continuation of our first ever Feed the Bear fundraiser – we certainly hope that the bear is getting stuffed! As we look forward to our Thanksgiving break, we also want to extend our gratitude for all you do to support the staff and our students as we work our way through our curriculum. 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 another plug for our science expo. We are again committed to producing a forum for young scientists to explore an inquiry-based experiment and bring those results to our expo on **January 13, 2016 at Rocky Hill MS**. We hope you are encouraging your students to fill out the [application](#), which is due on December 4. Please make sure to sign the application regardless of whether or not you can help us during the expo. We are still looking for adult "interviewers" to ask our young scientists questions about their experiment. You need not be a scientist; an interest in science or even natural curiosity is all it takes –and an hour of your time! Please contact [Mrs. Birrer](#) if you are interested in helping us that evening. We would like to have between 10 and 15 adult volunteers so you can spend time with these young scientists!

Cultural Arts Assembly

Lori Andrus



The Cedar Grove PTA sponsored our first Cultural Arts Assembly of the year called "Taking Care." The Assembly was held on Friday, November 20th, for all students at Cedar Grove Elementary. "Taking Care" is an anti-bullying presentation and a follow-up to a presentation that we had 2 years ago, called "Everyone Belongs." This presentation was led by Mr. Paul Hadfield who is a licensed, professional Counsellor. Together with his sidekick Mr. Barry Wood, they use a little bit of magic and lots of laughs to engage the students & empower them to make positive changes in their class, their school, and their lives. In this educational program, Paul Hadfield reinforced the concepts that we learned in the "Everyone Belongs" program, including the four rules to reduce bullying, bystander skills, and the importance of empathy.

He also introduced more specific issues including: peer aggression, teasing, rumors,

cyber-bullying, and "to do the right thing, even when no one is watching." If you would like to learn more about Paul Hadfield, or more about the show, please [visit](#) his Website. There are support materials for parents to further discuss this topic with your children at home. We truly hope your children learned a lot, and enjoyed this show! We also had a special presentation, just for Parents, in the December PTA meeting.

Feed the Bears Campaign

Michele Tregoning



THANK YOU TO ALL THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE DONATED SO FAR!!

We are more than 2/3 of the way to our \$15,000 goal. We have extended the deadline through the end of December, so it is not too late to donate to your child's school! No amount is too big or too small. Please consider donating if you haven't already. Every child is benefitting from this campaign, so please help us out and donate if you

haven't already. We would really love to see this have to be our only fundraiser this school year! The [FTB donation form](#) is on the school's webpage, but can also be found at the end of the Bear Facts. Thank you!

PTA Student Directory

Annie Karp

PTA Student directories have been ordered and should be distributed soon. These directories are so handy to use for playdates and birthday parties, and are ONLY available to PTA members. Also, again this year the company that produces our directory, A to Z, will also have an app with the directory data. It's great to look up a phone number or email on the go!

Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



Circulation in the media center is high, thanks to my parent volunteers. Just to give you a snapshot: from the first day of school through November 24 we circulated 13,970 books to our students. The media center can stay open because I can count on my ladies to ensure that our students can read for pleasure. But we have many days that aren't covered by parent volunteers, so I encourage you to sign up.

Our inquiry projects for the second marking period are in full swing, and it's delightful to be part of the discovery that's occurring during the student research.

When we return from Thanksgiving break, Kindergarten will start our goldfish research. We read a huge favorite, *Memoirs of a Goldfish* by Scillian – a fiction book from which we gather quite a few facts about goldfish. We have created a Graphic Organizer on *Kidspiration* to capture all the facts that we are learning from our various resources. The next step is to start taking notes from our *PebbleGo* Goldfish article, by highlighting key words and phrases.

First grade's focus on Tomie DePaola is in progress – we examine how he uses his strong connections to his family and his experiences in life to create ideas and write his stories. We are journaling responses to his four stories, and will proceed with the biographical research after we've captured some information about his life that we predict is true, again, based on his stories.

Second grade's research of a different country to get information about the sensory details we can use in our narratives is just beginning. We will use the facts that we gather about our various countries to recreate a traditional folktale in a different setting – changing the setting will force us to change the characters, what the characters encounter, the events of the story, and maybe even the problem and solution to the story. It's a great way to learn about another country and at the same time discover how important setting is to a story.

Third grade's lessons in the media center are also in progress. We are researching whether technology evolves because of our wants or needs through the lens of the telephone. More importantly, we are making connections to what we want by way of technology as opposed to what we need. In the process, we're learning how to differentiate what's valuable information and what is superfluous by taking class notes from various resources.

Fourth graders are extremely excited about their inquiry project. The fact that they are involved in researching elements of their community and can use their chrome books to create a survey on *GoogleForms*, is very engaging. We've spent quite a bit of time investigating the demographics of Clarksburg as well as existing types of businesses so that with the information we get from our survey, we will be able to make an educated

decision about what kind of business Clarksburg can still absorb. Even though we started by focusing on the new Outlets and the potential businesses that could open there, we are finding that Clarksburg can still absorb a lot of service businesses, too. Our information literacy focus is note taking as well as bias – we're looking at web site that give us slanted information and also learned how to create our survey with a bias!

Fifth grade's inquiry focus is an awakening for many of our students. By focusing on the various events of The Civil Rights Movement, our students are learning to appreciate the sacrifices that people make in order to make changes in government and therefore in the quality of their lives. We are using print resources of all kinds, including primary resources from the Newseum, as well as our Web and video resources to respond to the questions we've created.

We are already on our second news crew. Please feel free to access our [daily news show](#) on our Web page. I try to keep up and upload the show within 24 hours.

Lastly, as we all anticipate the Winter holidays, I hope you all have a wonderful Winter break with lots of laughter and outside play and, above all, the time to curl up with a good book.

Winter Concert Mrs. Jackson

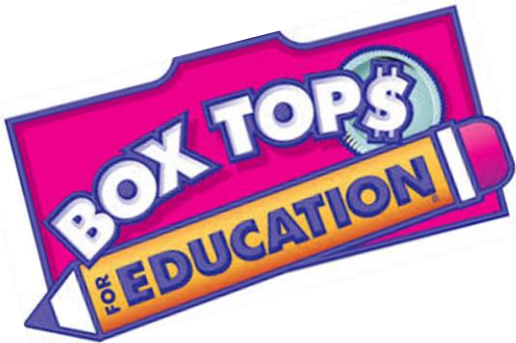
Greetings parents/guardians! This is a friendly reminder that our Winter Concert is coming up on Thursday December 3rd and Wednesday December 9th. Below you can find all of the details. Look forward to seeing you all in attendance.

- What:** The Winter Concert – In School – CHORUS ONLY
When: Thursday December 3, 2015
Where: Cedar Grove Gym
Time: 3:00 pm
Attire: Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top
- What:** The Winter Concert – Evening Performance – CHORUS AND INSTRUMENTAL STUDENTS
When: Wednesday December 9, 2015
Where: Clarksburg High School Auditorium
Time: 7:00 pm (chorus members should arrive by 6:30 pm)
Attire: Black bottoms, black shoes (no tennis shoes please) & white top

Upcoming Events And Important Dates

PTA MEETING (Media center)	Dec 1, 6:30pm (free childcare provided)
In-School Winter Concert	Dec 3
Gr-3 Field Trip Baltimore Museum of Industry	Dec 4
Holiday Shoppe	Dec 7 – Dec 11
Reading Night (CGES)	Dec 7, 6:30pm – 8:00pm
In-school Instrumental music concert	Dec 9, 3pm
Winter Concert (Instrumental and Chorus concert) (CHS)	Dec 9, 7pm
Winter Wonderland- during PE classes	Dec 14 – Dec 18
Flu mist clinic	Dec 16
Winter Break	Dec 24 – Jan 3

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](#).