



# BEAR FACTS

## Cedar Grove PTA Newsletter

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February 2016

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

### PTA Board

**President:** Michele Tregoning

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**Treasurer:** Anita Young

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[Click here](#)

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### Presidents Message

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

It is hard to believe we are already half way through the school year!! We have had so many great events for our school and we have many more to come! Thank you to Laurie Whitney and Aprajita Garg who stepped up to co-chair the Science Expo that was a joint effort with the school. There were so many great science questions that were tested and answered!

This month we have two grade specific events coming up: Moms & Muffins is for grade 2 ONLY and Dads & Donuts is for grade 3 ONLY. (Please leave your other grade level siblings at home as there are grade level events for each grade. We want these events to be special for those 2 grades). Thank you to those who were interested in being a part of the Naming Committee for the new Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School! Cedar Grove has a team of 4 parents who will represent our school in the process. We will keep you updated as we go through this process and let you know when we need your input! As I stated before, there will be many opportunities coming up to be a part of this exciting process of opening up a new school. One very important piece of this is to meet the new Principal, Dr. Woodward. She will be joining us at our upcoming PTA meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd. Please join us and hear all about the upcoming decisions and events that will affect your children.

Thank you to the many families who donated to our first ever "Feed the Bear" Campaign! We were just short of our \$15,000 goal with slightly over \$12,000, but with other great efforts like the Holiday Shop, we will NOT need to have any additional fundraisers this year!!

Thank you to each and every one of you who donate your time in any capacity to make Cedar Grove a great place for our kids!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or comments, please feel free to contact [me](#).

Sincerely,

Michele Tregoning

PTA President

## Moms and Muffins

Michael Blauer



### Attention 2nd Graders!

The Cedar Grove PTA invites you to: *Moms and Muffins*

Come join us February 23rd from 8:45 to 9:15AM in the Cedar Grove Cafeteria. Enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a Muffin! Due to space limitations this event is for 2nd grade students and their Moms/Mother-figures only. Looking forward to seeing you there!

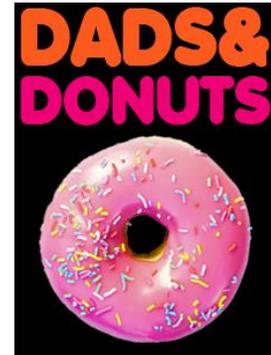
## Dads and Donuts

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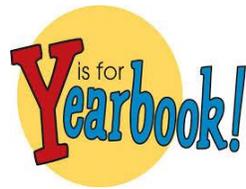
### Attention 3rd Graders!

The Cedar Grove PTA invites you to: *Dads and Donuts*

Come join us February 24th from 8:45 to 9:15AM in the Cedar Grove Cafeteria. Enjoy a cup of coffee or juice and a Donut! Due to space limitations this event is for 3rd grade students and their Dads/Father-figures only. Looking forward to seeing you there!



## Photos for the Yearbook



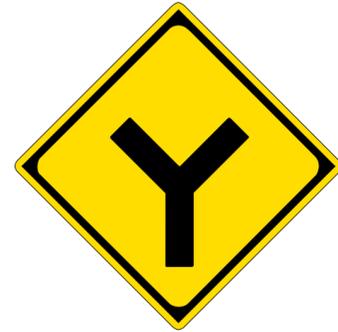
Many of us take pictures of our little ones in action at school events and classrooms. Wouldn't it be fun for some of those to be published in the yearbook?

If you have any high resolution pictures that you would like to share, please email them to [cedargroveyb@gmail.com](mailto:cedargroveyb@gmail.com). Please include teacher's name, grade and event when you share them. Pictures with groups of students are preferred so the students can cherish the moments spent with their friends.

## The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Yes. Well. January. I think we may have had classes in session for about 14 days. In fact, we were all just getting back into the groove of school routines when Mother Nature reminded us that she has her own idea of routines and blasted us with a snow storm that kept us out of school for a week. No doubt our students finally got outside and learned all about physics and geometry and biology as they built snowmen and snow forts, had their snowball fights, and felt the difference between freezing fingers in wet gloves and warm fingers around a mug of hot chocolate. I'm sure there were some music (think any or all of the *Frozen* songs) and art lessons and even a little math thrown in. But now February is upon us and we hope our third marking period will finally get started!



Our Annual Science Expo was a tremendous success. We had 147 participants, 103 projects and 19 visiting scientists. This year we extended the fair to grades K-5 and decided to hold the expo at Rocky Hill Middle School. With the PTA's support, this event was yet another opportunity to demonstrate how our community works together to empower discovery within our students. Thanks to all of our "Visiting Scientists" for spending their time with our young scientists who learned so much from this experience. The PTA also held a spirit night at Café Rio in spite of the snow, which we hope everyone had an opportunity to attend.

We hope you plan on attending the February PTA meeting, when we will have the principal of our new Clarksburg Middle School, Dr. Barbara Woodward, as a special guest. The meeting will be at 7 PM in the media center. Of course February also brings our Valentine's Day parties, which will be held in classes on Friday, February 12. Look for notices from your classroom teachers for more information!

## Feed the Bears Campaign

Annie Karp



Thank you again for everyone who participated and supported the Feed the Bears program! We are pleased with raising over \$12,000 for our students!

A special thank you to Pet Valu in Clarksburg for discounting our very popular Beta Fish prizes.

If you haven't had a chance to complete our

[Feedback Survey](#), please do so.

## Media Moments

### Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



The third marking period is upon us (and we can finally get it started!) and I am, as always, extremely excited about our inquiry projects.

In Kindergarten, we will spend the first half of this marking period examining fiction literature for literary elements. 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. In the media center, we'll focus on Maryland and its natural and human-made features, and then students will independently research a state of their choice.

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. In the media center, we'll model the impact of the automobile and discover that for every positive influence it has made on our lives, there may have been a cost!

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 end 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. In the media center, we'll focus on the elements of the mystery genre through the lens of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's immortal character, Sherlock Holmes.

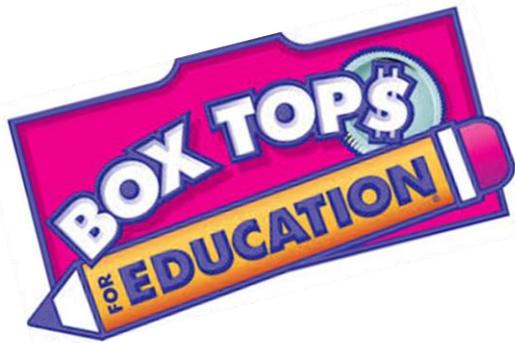
Our second TV News Crew has completed its shift, and we have changed to the third crew of the year. Unfortunately, the snow days have disrupted their new habits, but they are enthusiastic and eager so it won't be long before this crew, too, becomes comfortable in the studio. We hope you are availing yourselves to the daily newscasts, which are posted on our homepage.

As always, I am putting in a grateful plug to my library ladies who come and volunteer. I'm not even going to look at my January circulation data (it doesn't count, as far as I'm concerned!) although I will say that the first few days back from break we circulated 1,175 books. So, January WOULD have been record breaking! I hope you [continue signing up](#) and urge friends and neighbors in our school community to do the same. A few hours with us burns the same amount of calories as a good session at Planet Fitness! (This is meant for educational purposes and is not intended to be used to lose weight!)

## Upcoming Events And Important Dates

<b>PTA MEETING (Media center)</b>	Feb 2, 7pm (free childcare provided)
<b>Bear way Assembly</b>	Feb 3
<b>Jump rope for heart</b>	Feb 8 – 12 (during PE classes)
<b>Cluster Strings Concert</b>	Feb 11, 7pm
<b>Class Valentine's Day Parties</b>	Feb 12, times TBA
<b>Moms and Muffins Gr 2 ONLY</b>	Feb 23, 8:45am – 9:15am
<b>Dads and Donuts Gr 3 ONLY</b>	Feb 24, 8:45am – 9:15am
<b>Early release - Professional Day</b>	Feb 26
<b>PTA meeting</b>	Mar 1, 7pm

### 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](#).