



BEAR FACTS

Cedar Grove PTA Newsletter

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Cedar Grove Elementary School, 24001 Ridge Road, Germantown, MD 20876

PTA Board

President: Michele Tregoning

Co-Vice Presidents: Annie Karp and Chris Jansson

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[Click here](#)

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Presidents Message

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

This past fall we had our big fundraiser "Feed the Bears." We raised almost \$12,000. This is just a midyear reminder of all that the Cedar Grove PTA supports. We are a committed group of parents supporting our school with great programs, activities, and experiences. Here is a list of some of the programs and activities the CGES PTA supports/funds.

- * Dads & Donuts, Moms & Muffins
- * Poet in Residence for 4th grade
- * Cultural Arts Assemblies
- * Field Trip supplements in all grades
- * All of the social events and activities that occur throughout the year, as well as fun services like the holiday shop.
- * Teachers are supported with special lunches, dinners, and treats all year long; including teacher appreciation week and classroom reimbursements.

Thank you to all of you who have donated and supported our great school!

In February we had two grade level events- Moms & Muffins (2nd grade) and Dads & Donuts (3rd grade). Thank you very much to Mike Blauer and Ted Lipansky for chairing those fun events! Coming up in March we have our very popular Bingo event, which will be on March 11th. Thanks to Amy Hoffacker who is already getting ready for a fun night!

As always, the PTA appreciates everyone who donates any amount of time to our school!! We could not have any events without the help of our great parents.

We look forward to seeing all of you at Bingo and other future events!

Sincerely,
Michele Tregoning
PTA President

Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

In February, the Cedar Grove Staff was treated to a Dessert Bar! Thank you to Goldie Bagheri, Melissa Blanken, Revital Darmon, Tina Estrada, Jill Hooven, Jasmin Kaur, Erica Molnar, Gladys Rodriguez, and Anita Young for contributing to the yummy treats!! Thank you to Jen Coakley and Revital Darmon for setting up the staff lounge.



Our next Staff Appreciation event will be the staff's favorite to go with Around the World Night. If you have a native dish you would like to make for the staff and you are not already signed up to be on the committee, please contact [me](#) and I will make sure you get included in the invitation.

Thank you for making the staff feel appreciated!!

Bingo Night

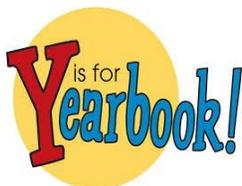
Amy Hoffacker



Our annual PTA Family Bingo night is back by popular demand! Come out on **Friday, March 11th** at 6:30pm at Rocky Hill Middle School for some fun! We have lots of prizes to win including games, arts and crafts, sports items and more!! The cost is \$3/bingo card, and we will also be selling food, extra cards and raffle tickets.

Yearbook

Bharath Kannan



Now is the time to [order a Yearbook](#) for your child. Orders placed before **March 15** are \$22. If you order after March 15, they are \$25.

If you have any high resolution pictures taken at school events and classrooms that you would like to share, please email them to 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.

New Middle School Update

Michele Tregoning

We are in the process of giving the new Clarksburg/Damascus Middle School a name! Thank you very much to those who joined me on the naming committee: Melissa Blanken, Vasavi Kota, and Erica Molnar. Thank you to all of you who responded to the survey and gave us input on a name you would like to see the middle school have! As you know, the Board of Education gave us 4 names: Dr. Alan Cheung, James Daugherty, Michael Doran, and Paul Vance. We, the Cedar Grove community, overwhelmingly wanted a name that was local to Clarksburg, and had something to do with the history that surrounds this area. We were able to give the BOE two additional names -- two people local to Clarksburg and who enriched our history: Hallie Wells and John Clarke. The Naming Committee selected Hallie Wells as our first choice largely because of what she stands for. Hallie and her husband, Ovid Hazen Wells, deeded 290 acres of farmland to the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission so that it might remain as open space and be used for recreation.

Hallie and Ovid died childless and wanted a place for kids to play and to protect their agricultural heritage. This land is now named Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park, and houses baseball and soccer fields, playgrounds, picnic shelters, walking trails, and open spaces. It also houses the Red Wiggler farm that provides job opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities.

In spite of having 20 siblings who could have benefited from the property, Ovid and Hallie Wells decided to donate their property to benefit children. As part of her gift to M-NCPCC was a stipulation that the historic 1915 Herschell-Spillman carousel, once operating at the Smithsonian and currently at Wheaton Regional Park, has its final location in Clarksburg at Ovid Hazen Wells Recreational Park "when there are sufficient number of park users." After 35 years Clarksburg continues to wait for M-NCPCC to fulfill the conditions of the deed.

The new school is located less than a mile from the park that bears only her husband's name. We want to honor the memory of Hallie Wells by naming the new school after a member of our community.

We thought it would be wonderful to teach our kids the lessons of charity, selflessness, and generosity -- to celebrate Hallie's legacy and the dedication she had to our community, the environment, and our children.

At this time, we are waiting on a date when a few people from the Clarksburg community can testify before the BOE to have our voices heard. We would like the Board of Ed to see how passionate we are about naming our school after someone local. Please [sign the petition](#) if you haven't done so already.

The BOE will name the new school on March 21st at their BOE meeting at 7pm. Stay tuned!!

The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

Although February was not only a short month, but also full of snow days, we thank you for supporting our community with so many goodies in such a short time! Yay for the Moms and Muffins and Dads and Donuts events – I understand these mornings were very well attended. The Staff Appreciation Dessert Bar was simply awesome and a fabulous Valentine's Day treat. On top of that, Mrs. Young is still furiously arranging PTA Spirit Nights, in both familiar and new locations, to support all the efforts our PTA undertakes on behalf of our school. As you can imagine, March is my favorite month because the PTA plans so much around reading! We will have our famous Bingo night and Read Aloud Day which is supported by the PTA again this year so each class can keep a new book for its classroom library. Speaking of Read Aloud Day, this year we will be celebrating Read Across America week, with a [theme for every day](#). We hope you encourage your students to participate. And, I hope you consider joining us for our Around the World Night. The application form is online now. Cedar Grove is enriched because of all the cultures we represent. Please consider representing yours so our students can discover your culture!



Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan

Join us on April 8th at Rocky Hill Middle School for a great opportunity to take a look at the various cultures and taste a variety of delicious foods from our Cedar Grove Families.

Highlights of the night will include:
An International Fashion show;
International food and drinks;
Passports for students as they travel "Around the world";
and
Cultural information and artifacts.



If you would like to participate or [learn more](#) about this event, please feel free to contact [me](#) .

Media Moments Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



Due to our snow days, and the possibility of more of them, we continue to play “catch up” with our curriculum. So of course the media center schedule is packed with classes and students circulating books. Especially students circulating books (yay!)

After spending several lessons reading fiction books about insects that undergo metamorphosis, **Kindergarten** will create their own questions, read for information, and document their facts about mealworms and butterflies. Throughout the month of March, we will be working on contrasting and comparing these two insects to see how their life cycles are similar, yet very different. We will be using *PebbleGo* as our main resource, as well as our own experiences in the classroom with our mealworms as a primary resource. If your Kindergartner is banging the syllables of new words on your dining room table, well, we’re learning scientific vocabulary, and this is a great way to remember it!

First grade is in full swing with their “place” research by analyzing an image they selected from *PebbleGoNext*. We will practice how to copy/paste the image into a Word document, cite the image, and then record information about the image and the place it represents. We will discover all kinds of natural and human-made resources which will help us respond to “What’s in a place?”

After gathering our opinions about the technology tool that has the greatest impact on us, **second grade** is concluding its research on the social impact of the evolution of the automobile. We are locating information about the effect on how the automobile has changed (and is still changing) how we work, play, and live. We’re using digital and print resources to help us come up with reasons why we can’t live without this technology tool and to change our opinions into facts because we can support them with information.

Now that we’ve defined realistic fiction, **third grade** is completing its exploration of the wonderful author, Judith Viorst and how she comes up with ideas for her stories, as well as how she pursues her craft. We hope to take some of her experiences and make them our own when we write our own realistic narratives. Partnered with that effort is our understanding of our illustrations support the text in a narrative, so we will be analyzing how illustrators make decisions as they practice their art.

Each **fourth grade** class has used the research into various media techniques to support how advertising can be responsible or irresponsible. We’ve analyzed a series of breakfast cereal commercials and investigated not only how the advertising for each product has changed over time but also analyzed how the various media techniques have been used to “sell us” the cereal. Being comfortable with the many different advertising techniques will help us create an ethical ad for the business we researched last marking period to be “included” into the Clarksburg master plan. We will also use our new skills on different platforms and analyze periodical covers, print book covers, to

see how publishers convey their content messages.

As we work our way through the elements of a good mystery, **Fifth grade** is discovering the very wooly world of the Internet when it comes to authorship and accuracy. We are spending our media time evaluating various Web sites based on scholarly criteria so we can make independent decisions regarding the authenticity and value of the Web pages we visit for our different purposes. We will also pursue the significance of citations in a world where information appears to be free and the idea of giving credit sometimes difficult to support.

Our third TV news crew is in full swing, and enjoying every moment. As an I. My FBI 5th graders diligently show up every morning to help with the everyday chores of getting the media center ready for the day. It's honestly thrilling to work with students and see them shine as they complete different responsibilities from what we usually see in school.

A shout out again to my amazing library volunteers – if I could clone you I would -- not only because you do such an excellent job, but also because we need more of you! Please consider [volunteering](#) if you can. With so much inclement weather, Mrs. Wilson has to cover indoor recess, which limits our open circulation even more than usual. Thank you!

Earth Day

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



We know we will see spring soon – we hope we'll see spring soon -- and along with spring comes our annual Earth Day Celebration! This year we will host it all week so we're calling it Earth Week! We are hoping to give more of our students the opportunity to celebrate with us.

Our kick off for the week will be an assembly on Monday, April 18, sponsored by the PTA, and then we'll have various activities during the school day all week! Look for an earth colored theme of the day for your students to wear! We'll have more details soon, especially information if you want to volunteer at any of our planned events!

After School Activities

Lori Marshall

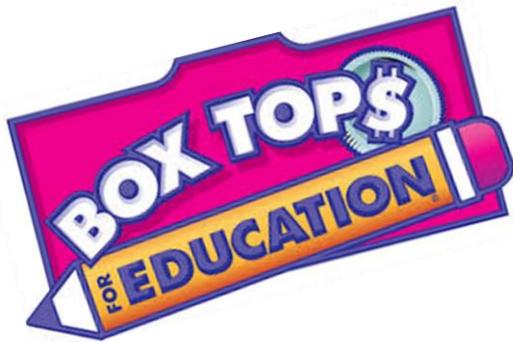


Cedar Grove's 2016 Spring After School Program Registration will begin Tuesday, **February 23rd** and end on **March 4th, 2016**. Classes/Activities will start the week of March 14th and run for eight (8) weeks, concluding the week of May 16th. Please [click here](#) for the registration form and for class details.

Upcoming Events And Important Dates

PTA MEETING (Media center)	Mar 1, 7pm (free childcare provided)
S.M.I.L.E. Spring registration	Feb 23 - Mar 4
Read across America	Feb 29 – Mar 4
Read Aloud day	Mar 2
Girls on the Run	Mar 8,10,15,17,22
Bingo Night RHMS	Mar 11, 6:30 – 8:30pm
Sibling Photo Shoot for Yearbook	Mar 14
Around the World Night Application deadline	Mar 18
No School Professional day	Mar 24
Spring Break	Mar 25 - Apr 1

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](#).