



BEAR FACTS

Cedar Grove PTA Newsletter

Volume 29 - Issue 7

May 2016

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

PTA Board

President: Michele Tregoning

Co-Vice Presidents: Annie Karp and Chris Jansson

Secretary: Lori Andrus

Treasurer: Anita Young

Inside This Issue:

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Staff Appreciation
- 2 Around the World Night
- 3 Earth Week
- 3 The Intersection
- 4 Spring Dance
- 4 Media Moments
- 5 **PTA Board Nomination**
- 6 Upcoming Events
- 7 Join the PTA



[Click here](#)

Editor: Shobha Rajan
shobharajan@yahoo.com

Presidents Message

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

We are down to our last two months of school, but it always seems like that is when we are busiest with all of our school activities. I hope you will have a chance to attend our last few PTA events of this school year!

Thank you to Dawn Frazier who has stepped up to chair the always popular Spring Dance! I hope you can join us for that event on May 6th. Coming up at the beginning of next month we have our Family Picnic and Book Fair. Those are two events you won't want to miss! As we end this year, we also need to be thinking about next year. There are plenty of ways to become involved in the PTA. Jen Coakley, Mrs. Hirschhorn, and Mrs. M & M have been busy gathering nominations for Board positions for next year. We are thankful for their efforts. If we do not have people to step up for the PTA next year, our children may miss out on many fun and educational programs and activities. If you have questions about how you can get involved, where you can help out, or the time commitment needed for something, please feel free to contact me. I know I can find a spot for you to best serve our Cedar Grove community!

At the same time, we are also looking for people who are interested in helping to get the [Hallie Wells Middle School](#) PTA started! That is a very exciting time for our middle schoolers. If you have a 5th grader and are interested in serving on the Executive Board at the new school, please contact [me](#). There will be many opportunities to help out!

Happy Spring!
Michele Tregoning
PTA President

Staff Appreciation

Michele Tregoning

This week is National Teacher Appreciation Week! Every year I love to "rally the troops" and get the Staff Appreciation Committee to help show our hardworking and dedicated staff at Cedar Grove how much we appreciate everything they do for our children! The week



is filled with food and love from our school community. Thank you to all those families who showed their appreciation to a teacher or staff member! Thank you to those who provided something for the staff, whether it be a food item for our luncheon, our yogurt bar, a mailbox treat, or a prize for one of our afternoon raffle drawings. Thanks to Amy Allage, Amy Hoffacker, Jennifer Eng, Kristen Sullivan, Brittany Pond, Melissa Blanken, Jill Hooven, Goldie Bagheri, Shobha Rajan, Yumiko Matsuoka, Arpita Garg, Maria Wyman, Jyothi Puvvada, Gladys Rodriguez, Jen Coakley, Beverly Hazen, Holly Jankowski, and Lori Marshall. Special thanks to Anita Young for providing the staff with a luncheon. We thank the staff all year long for all of their efforts, but especially this week!

Around the World Night

Shobha Rajan



Our 12th Annual Around the World Night was a huge success, thanks to all the families who came out to celebrate the event on April 8th at Rocky Hill MS.

The event was a huge success thanks to all the families who took the time to come and represent and share information about their countries with us. Thirteen Countries were represented including: China, Philippines, South Korea, India, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Venezuela, Spain, Bolivia, West Africa, Nepal, and Vietnam. Families got to try many tasty delicacies from these countries and learn about the many different cultures. The children enjoyed travelling around the world with their passports and also received Henna tattoos and many participated in the fashion show.

Our special thanks to Mrs. Hirschhorn who emceed the wonderful fashion show as always. We would like to thank all the parents who came and participated in the event and our middle school volunteers for all their wonderful help. Special thanks to Mr. Derby and all the staff who came that evening.

Earth Week

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



We decided to go big and different this year and celebrate the Earth for an entire week – and boy did we have fun! Our PTA-sponsored **GreenNewIt** assembly set the tone for the entire week! Not only did we wear different earth colors every day and enjoy grade level rotations, but we had a Wasteless Wednesday lunch competition and a Drop Everything and Read Aloud session! Thanks to the Damascus Lions Club and their incredible donation of almost 30 copies of *The Greenling*, our entire school was reading the same book at the same time! You know that warmed the cockles of my heart! We had young poets reading their Earth poems; classes rap and sing about the Earth

under Mrs. Jackson's direction; and spur of the moment outdoor discovery walks. We filled out promise leaves and wore our Earth Day buttons! And many of our students were involved in planting and mulching several areas around campus to mitigate water erosion! The staff members of the Big Events Committee ensured that their team rotations celebrated our connections to the Earth! It was truly a special and memorable week and we hope your students enjoyed it!

The Intersection

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn

After a beautiful spring break, we came back to school busier than ever. Thanks to Mrs. Young's organizational skills we had another Chik-Fil-A spirit night which is always a favorite; I know our students love to "bump" into each other after school. The poet in residence has been happily at work with our fourth graders and thanks to the PTA, our Earth Week celebration had a marvelous kick-off with the **GreenNewIt** assemblies. There is also much going on to help our fifth graders transition to Hallie Wells, including [a poster contest](#) and [a Parent Night](#). Make sure you keep checking on the [Cedar Grove](#) and [Hallie Wells MS](#) Websites for more information!



Spring Dance

Dawn Frazier

The Cedar Grove "Spring Dance" will be held on **May 6, 2016** at **Cedar Grove Multipurpose Room** from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. The theme of the dance is "To Cedar Grove and Beyond". Come dance, play some fun games, and create your own galaxy! The cost is \$5 per family. [Flyers](#) for the dance will be distributed to students.



Please contact [Dawn Frazier](#) if you have any questions.

Media Moments

Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn



Kindergarten is going to research a habitat through an animal that lives in it! We started by reading all about habitats, and how animals adapt to live in a particular habitat based on its features and resources. Then we completed two consensograms and voted on the habitat/animal we want to research. This ensures that our little researchers will be invested in the process! We will come up with our own questions about our topics, and use a graphic organizer to help us organize the information that answers the questions as we look for information in various resources.

Each **first grade** class will be researching one of these topic areas: Saving Water; Recycling; or Picking up Litter. We activated our knowledge about how we share the earth by playing a concept game (online!) to categorize positive and negative ways we use our natural resources. We have practiced evaluating the best resource for our research and explored different ways to take notes. Now we're ready to use different resources to gather information and then we'll capture our information on a graphic organizer and synthesize it for our writing.

As we research our notable person, each **second grade** class is focusing on the different ways to take notes, and using different graphic organizers to capture our information – another way to ensure that students see there's more than one way to achieve our goal. We will explore different resources and different ways we gather information from each which we will then synthesize into a "new whole." We are also reinforcing one of our key Thinking and Academic Success Skills – Persistence. Ask your second grader what that looks like!

Third grade has explored the elements of an issue and is now proceeding to research whether cats or dogs are better pets. We chose topics our students might feel strongly about to engage them in the research process. We are exploring the idea that in order to persuade, we first need to gather as many facts as possible about each pet. Then we will

infer which pet is the ideal companion based on specific criteria. We will be using different note-taking methods and capture our information on different graphic organizers, depending on the purpose of the end product.

Fourth grade continues to be exposed to different ways to get information about erosion, specifically how water is a primary culprit when it comes to soil erosion. And, most importantly, how humans impact the increase of water erosion and what we can do to mitigate it. This inquiry project has a perfect connection to our Green efforts and the community action piece that our fourth graders are pursuing on the Cedar Grove campus. After researching print and Web resources, we will synthesize all this information into a persuasive article.

For our **Fifth grade** Career inquiry project, we will explore different occupations that interest our students. We started by investigating “extinct” occupations and wondering why we no longer need them. Then we examined the occupations that exist today, which did NOT exist 10-15 years ago. Then we took a personal survey to give us an idea what kind of an occupation we might be interested in pursuing. The information we get from our resources will help us write a persuasive article about a potential future career – how various factors such as society’s needs, available resources, and innovation will prompt those future changes. Most importantly we will focus on the Thinking and Academic Success skills that will help us be successful in those careers.

This is a tough time of year because there is so much going on in school – which includes meetings held during the instructional day for which Mrs. Wilson is asked to cover classes. This means that more than ever we need parent volunteers in the media center for circulation. Please consider [signing up!](#)

PTA Board Nomination

Jen Coakley

The end of the year is coming up and it is time to start thinking about a new PTA Board for next year. If you are interested in running for a position, or would like to nominate someone, please click on the link and fill out a [quick survey](#).

NOMINATE NOW!

Also, if you would like to Chair a committee or event there are several openings for next year. They are located at the bottom of the survey.

You are more than welcome to both nominate yourself for the Board and to be a Chairperson for a committee/event if you are interested in doing both. Please take a minute to check out which “chairs” are open.

If you have questions about anything, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you in advance for your nominations!

Upcoming Events And Important Dates

Gr 1 Field Trip (Rose Hill Manor)	May 2 (Mrs. Davis and Mrs. Wilson)
Gr 1 Field Trip (Rose Hill Manor)	May 3 (Mrs. Carroll and Mrs. Gardner)
PTA Meeting (Media center)	May 3, 7pm (free childcare provided)
Field Day (K and Gr 1)	May 4
Gr 2 Field trip (Imagination Stage)	May 4
Girls on the Run	May 3,5,10,12,17,19
Kindergarten Orientation	May 5,6 (No school for current K)
Hallie Wells MS Parent Night (RHMS)	May 5, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
Spring Dance (CGES)	May 6, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Spring Instrumental Music and Chorus concert (CHS)	May 10 , 7 pm
Gr 4 Field trip (St. Mary's City)	May 18
Girls on the run 5K (Montgomery mall)	May 22, 9 am
No School Memorial day	May 30

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](#).