

The Grove Gazette

Cedar Grove Elementary School
www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/cedargroves

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A Great Beginning

The 2009-2010 school year is off to a great start! Our 342 students came in on our first day smiling and eager to learn. This eagerness extended to the classrooms as well, and I have been very impressed by the focus and hard work I've observed on my daily walkthroughs. Thank you for sending us such well-prepared students.

We kicked off the school year with a school-wide meeting the first day in our All Purpose Room. During this assembly, we welcomed returning and new students; introduced all of the adults in the building that make up our school family; and reviewed our school rules and expectations. We hope that you will reinforce these rules at home as well. They are:

1. Follow directions.
2. Be where you belong.
3. Keep hands, feet, and objects to yourself.
4. Treat others with respect.
5. Take care of our school and materials.

Our students have traditionally demonstrated excellent behavior, enabling them to develop strong friendships and allowing all of us to focus on learning. We are looking forward to getting to know everyone better and to another fantastic year.



Working Together

This smooth start, like most successes we find in schools, was the result of the combined efforts of staff and parents. I'd especially like to thank the many parents who have helped out in our Kindergarten classrooms these first few days. Their support is much needed and much appreciated by the students as well as their teachers and families.

On behalf of the staff, I'd also like to thank the PTA for the Staff Appreciation lunch they provided on August 28. This delicious luncheon provided a welcome respite from teachers' last-minute preparations for the school year. Thank you to the PTA for organizing the luncheon and to all the parents who contributed your delicious dishes.

Back to School Night

Back to School Night for Grades 1-5 will be held this Thursday, September 10, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. The schedule will be as follows:

7:00-7:20	General Session-APR
7:20-7:50	Classroom Sessions
7:50-8:00	Transition Time
8:00-8:20	Classroom Sessions

Upon arrival at school, please go directly to the All Purpose Room for the general school and PTA session. Two classroom sessions will follow to enable parents of multiple students to visit all teachers. Due to limited parking space, we encourage

you to carpool. Our blacktop will be open for parking that evening.

Back to School Night is a parents-only program. Please make child care arrangements so you and your teachers can devote full attention to the nights' content. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Have You Done Your Homework?

Several important forms were sent home with students last week that require your attention. Among these are the Student Emergency Information forms (yellow cards); Authorization for Release; Emergency Closing Instructions; FluMist Consent Form; Science Lab Contract; and Free and Reduced meals applications. Do we have yours yet? If we do, thank you for your prompt attention to these documents. If not, please take the time to fill them out tonight and send them back tomorrow. We have additional copies of all forms. Please contact us if you need any.

Keeping In Touch

Home-school communication is critical to our children's success. We will use various communication methods throughout the year to keep you informed on happenings and issues in the school, the cluster, and the county. The first of these methods is this newsletter, which will be sent home every other Wednesday. I love to feature the accomplishments of our students in the classroom and beyond, so if you have some great news to share about your child or a group of our students, please let me know so I can include it. Other ways we'll share news with you include our new and improved Web site [<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cedargroves/>] and the Connect-Ed automated phone messaging system. Every grade-level team has a Team Page linked from the Staff Page on our Web site. Please avail yourselves to the information that is uploaded on a regular basis.

Attendance and Arrival Reminders

We take the safety and security of all our students seriously and need your help in accounting for all of them.

Whenever your child will be absent or tardy, we ask that you call the school (301-253-7000) by 9:30 a.m. An answering machine is available outside of regular office hours. Parents whose children are absent and who have not notified us by that time or whose children are out with an unexcused absence will receive an automated message from our office. The only excused absences recognized by the school system are personal illness, religious observances, and significant family events, such as the death of a relative.

In accordance with Maryland state regulations, students who attend school for less than two hours during the day will be marked as absent for that day, and those that miss more than two hours will be marked absent for half the day. A note explaining any absence is to accompany the child upon his/her return.

If you bring your child to school, arrival time is no earlier than 9:05 a.m., as staff is not available to supervise students dropped off earlier. Students arriving late (after 9:15) must be signed in by an adult in the office.

Health Room News

Attached to this newsletter is important information regarding the prevention and treatment of head lice. We do not currently have any identified cases of head lice. Rather, we are providing these tips, as we do annually, in an attempt to prevent or minimize any potential lice outbreaks.

Also attached is information regarding the seasonal and H1N1 flus.

Asbestos Management Plan

We are also attaching information regarding our asbestos management plan. Please note the last paragraph of the notice which emphasizes the safety of our building and others under normal conditions despite the presence of asbestos-containing materials.

Lunch Loan Procedures

While the SNAP account and My Lunchmoney.com make it easy for parents to monitor their children's meal accounts and add to them when necessary, there may be times that students do not have money in their accounts. For the first four times, students will receive the meal ordered, and their account will be charged the full price (\$2.40 for lunch or \$1.30 for breakfast). After that, the student will receive a cheese sandwich and be charged \$.25 until the account is repaid and brought up to a positive balance.

Community Forums

Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to testify at community forums sponsored by the Board of Education on September 17 and October 15.

Each person will have 3 minutes to speak on the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the Montgomery County Public Schools strategic plan should we focus to improve achievement for all students?" See the attached flyer for more details.

Dates to Remember

9/10	Back to School Night
9/25	Back to School Picnic
	Book Fair begins (through 10/1)
9/28	No School-Yom Kippur
9/30	Individual Portrait Day
10/2	Early Release Day
	Students dismissed at 1:00