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The Grove Gazette

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

Lee F. Derby, Principal
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A Great Beginning

We've had a great three weeks of school, and things seem to be running smoothly. I appreciate your patience as the transportation department worked out some glitches in the bus runs. We have had good arrival and dismissal times since the first week, and staff from the transportation depot come to school regularly to check on timing and other issues.

In school, students seem to have settled into our routines and are doing a great job of following school rules and classroom procedures. This, of course, lets teachers and students focus on the important stuff -- learning. By now, students have been placed in initial instructional groupings, based on a variety of formal and informal assessments, which are matched to their strengths and needs. These groups will be flexible throughout the year and will change as needed to best challenge all of our students.

It was great to see many of you at Back to School Night. Your attendance sent a strong message to us and your child about the importance you place on education and working together with school staff. I hope you found the evening helpful and informative.

We have some exciting events coming up. I hope to see you this Friday at our Welcome Back Picnic, and next Saturday, October 3, at the 5K Run.

Answering the Call

It's great to know that we can always count on our parents when help is needed. As the school year started, we asked for volunteers in our Kindergarten classrooms to help our youngest learners adjust to their new school. The following parents donated many valuable hours of their time to make sure that the year began smoothly: Mrs. Amick, Mrs. Campos, Mrs. Crosby, Mrs. Danis, Mrs. Hawasly, Mrs. Hoffpauir, Mrs. E. Horton, Mrs. Huh, Mrs. Ingalla, Mrs. Ren Na, Mrs. Leslie, Mrs. Neff, Mrs. Obendorfer, Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Wavering, Mrs. Wurtzel. One other "parent" helped out as well -- Mrs. Romagnoli's mother, Mrs. New.

At Back to School Night, I shared with everyone how our staffing cuts had affected our media program and asked for volunteers to work in the media center in the afternoons to allow open circulation all day long. Again, our community rose to the occasion. Thanks to the following volunteers who have said they can lend a hand: Mrs. Acevedo, Mrs. Alban, Mrs. Beadle, Mrs. Chan, Mrs. Chatterjee, Mrs. Fennell, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Ladas, Mrs. Ludwig, Mrs. Danielle Miller, Mrs. Tracy Miller, Mrs. Obendorfer, Mrs. Pasam, Mrs. Rasmussen, and Mrs. Smith. There are still a few spots to fill to ensure around the clock circulation. If you are able to donate an hour or so of your time weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly, let our media specialist, Mrs. Hirschhorn, know and she'll sign you up!

Saturday School

Are you looking for some additional instruction and reinforcement of classroom concepts and skills for your child? Have you considered enrolling him/her in Saturday School? The George B. Thomas Learning Academy offers these services for the very low price of \$30 for 23 sessions. I've received very positive feedback from parents and teachers of our students who have attended in the past. Please see the attached flyer for more information. Registration is this Saturday at any of the centers, and classes begin on October 3. The closest centers to us are Watkins Mill and Northwest High Schools. Additional information is available at www.gblearningacademy.org or on our counselor's Web page.

Hot or Cold?

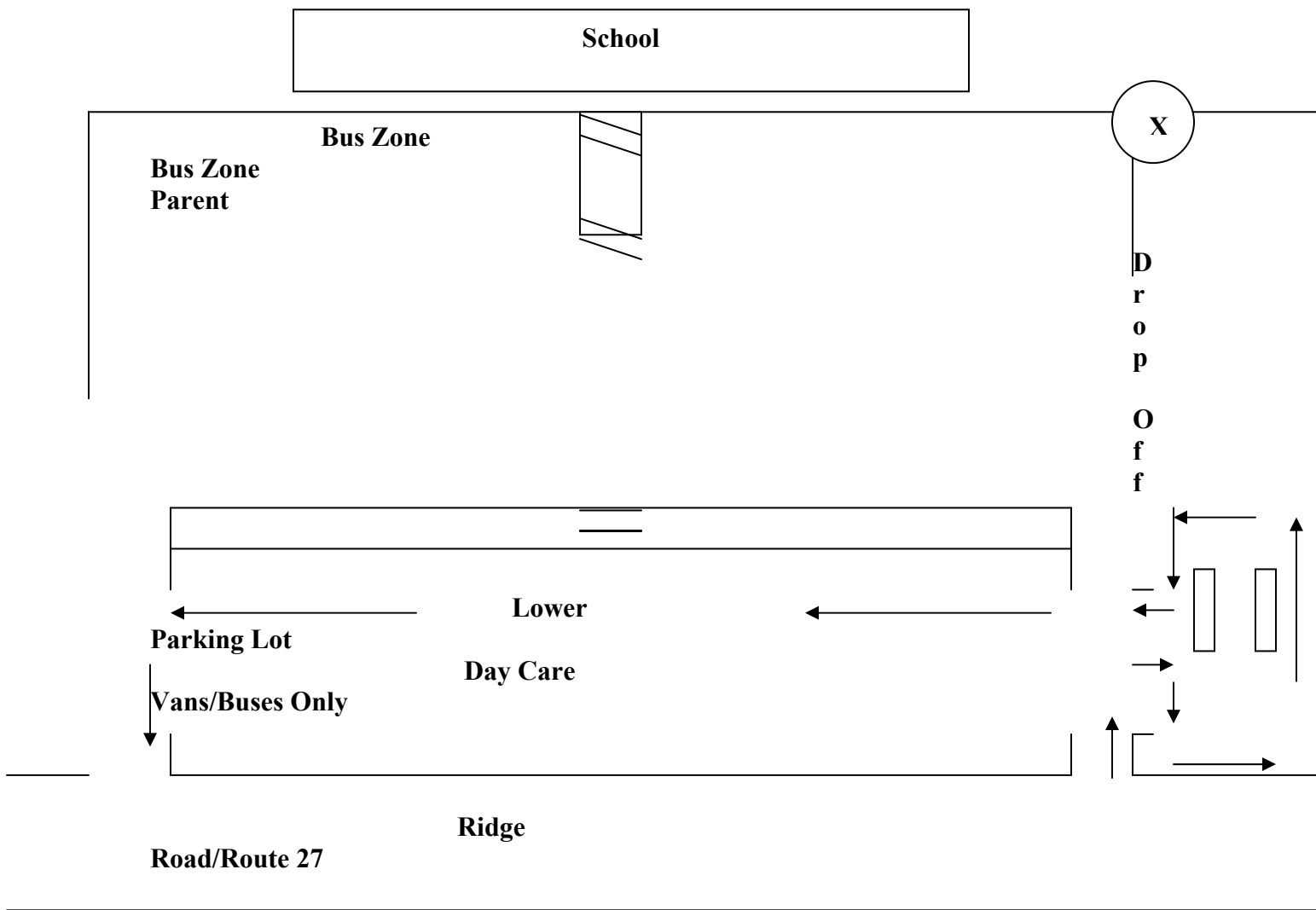
With the official start of Fall yesterday, we must start thinking about changing leaves, changing weather, and.....heat. The attached flyer from the MCPS maintenance department details the annual changeover from air conditioning to heating, which will take place over the next few weeks. During this time, there may be days when neither service is available. In addition, students will be going outside regularly for recess, PE, and curriculum-based activities. Please check the forecast daily and send your child to school dressed for the weather.

Pesticide Notice

Also attached is information regarding the pest management program in county schools. This flyer provides an overview of the program and lists which types of products may be used. In the event that these products are used sometime during the school year, a separate letter will be distributed that includes the specific product(s) used.

Safety First

All but 8 of our students are eligible for bus transportation to and from school. However, some parents choose to drive their children to school. If you do so, please observe our traffic patterns and parent drop off procedures that were outlined in our summer letter. A map of the traffic pattern is below. No students should be dropped off in the lower parking lot, as that is reserved for day care vans and would mean that students have to cross the bus lane. Additionally, we ask that you not park in the drop off loop, but use it as a Kiss and Ride. If you plan to park, please use a designated space. Thanks for your cooperation.



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- | Dates to Remember | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9/24 | FluMist Clinic |
| 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 |