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The Grove Gazette

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

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Coming Together

The past few weeks have brought us several opportunities to join together as a school community and build those relationships that are so important to our children's education and happiness. With so many new families joining us this year, we've been working even harder to develop those connections between and amongst parents and school.

It was great to see many of you at the first ever Welcome Back Picnic. I hope you enjoyed the beautiful weather, great conversation, and chance to get to know classmates' parents and others, as I did. Thanks to our PTA for organizing the event.

Mother Nature also cooperated this past Saturday, and allowed the Cedar Grove/Gibbs 5K Fun Run/Walk to go on without a hitch. Cedar Grove was represented well among the walkers, runners, and volunteers. This event was another great example of the PTA's can-do attitude, and special thanks go out to Karen Ward for all her efforts in making it happen.

If you weren't able to participate in those events, don't worry, there are plenty of others coming up, starting later this month with our Spirit Night on October 14 at Chik-Fil-A and the Fall Harvest Festival on October 29. Look for details on these fun events coming soon.

Open House

Next Monday, October 12, is our annual Parent Open House. This is a time for parents, many of whom may be off work for the Columbus Day holiday, to visit their children's school, to sit in on their classes, and to see firsthand the curriculum and instruction that make up our school's today. I invite you to join us Monday morning from 9:15 a.m. through your child's lunch time. If you do visit, please be sure to sign in on the clipboard in the front hallway when you arrive and to wear a visitor badge throughout your stay. Also, please remember that this is a time for observation and not for parent-teacher conferences. We look forward to seeing you on Monday.

Halloween Happenings

Halloween is coming, bringing with it the traditional parade and parties. The parade will start on October 30 at approximately 2:00 p.m. and will be followed by the class parties. If you are able to help out with the parties, please let your room parents know.

Alternative activities will be provided by our non-classroom staff for students whose families do not celebrate Halloween. Please let your child's teacher know if he/she will not be participating in the parade and class party. We need to know by **Wednesday, October 28** so we can plan for the number of students participating in the alternative activities.

Student Banking Program

This Friday, October 9, marks the start of the student banking program at Cedar Grove. We are partnering with Sandy Spring Bank to bring their Sandy Dog's Savings Club here to your children. Each Friday morning before school students will have the chance to deposit money into their own Young Savers account and build their knowledge in math and economics. Detailed information has already been sent home, but if you'd like an additional copy, contact the main office or the staff sponsor, Mrs. Cromwell.

Tango Returns

If you visit the school on a Tuesday morning, you may see an unusual sight - students reading to dogs! Project READ (Reading Education Assistance Dogs) is back for another year at Cedar Grove. This program pairs volunteers and trained therapy dogs with students to improve and promote reading. We saw great results last year, as Tango and his owner, Laurie Luck, read weekly with several third graders. Hopefully we will get additional dog/volunteer teams working with us as well. If you'd like to find out more, go to www.wagsforhope.org and look for READ under the Programs tab.

Focus on Learning

This year, we are continuing our efforts to minimize interruptions to classroom instruction. As part of this effort, we will not be calling into rooms to relay messages concerning forgotten lunches, musical instruments, etc. If your child has forgotten an item, he/she should check in at the office prior to going to lunch or music class to see if you have brought it to school. Please do not ask

us to call into classrooms to relay these messages. Thanks.

Flu Vaccine Updates

We had a very successful FluMist clinic on September 24 thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Burke, our nurse; Mrs. Sutton, Health Room Technician; and several parent volunteers. That day, over 150 students received their vaccine, and only a very few tears were shed.

The Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services has changed their focus of their vaccination efforts. Please see the attached letter for details. Please also pay special attention to the last paragraph of the letter, which lists recommended practices to prevent the spread of flu and other illnesses.

Homework Hotline Begins

Homework Hotline Live! (HHL), a service of the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS), began its 24th season on October 6. Students can call 301-279-3234 to get help with homework in any subject area from MCPS teachers. *HHL* is live on TV every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 5:00-6:00 PM. It can be seen on Comcast channel 33, Verizon 35, and RCN 88. In addition to direct instruction, each program includes various learning experiences such as current events summaries and video clips. The show also features fun trivia and prizes for answering challenging "brainteaser" questions given by MCPS students.

Community Forum

Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to testify at the second and last community forums sponsored by the Board of Education on October 15 at 7:00 p.m. at John F.

Kennedy High School in Silver Spring.
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 on for the 2010-2011 school year
to improve achievement for all
students?"

Call the Board of Education office at
301-279-3617 or 1-800-735-2258
(Maryland Relay) to sign up to testify.

Saturday Discoveries

Montgomery College is again presenting
its Saturday Discoveries program. This
special one-day enrichment program for
gifted and talented students in grades 4
& 5 will be held on Saturday, November
14, 2009, from 8:30 a.m.-2:50 p.m. on
the college's Takoma Park/Silver Spring
campus. This program provides the
opportunity for students to explore
topics outside the school curriculum in
small group sessions covering a range of
areas in Science, Humanities, and the
Arts. There is also an option parent
workshop available. More information
and registration forms are available at
www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth
The deadline for registration is Monday,
November 9, but programs fill quickly,
so interested families should register as
quickly as possible.

Dates to Remember

- 10/12 Open House
- 10/14 Gr. 5 Parent/Student Clemente
Magnet Information meeting at
Clemente MS 7 PM
- 10/14 Spirit Night @ Chik-Fil-A
- 10/16 No School