

Bear Facts



Volume 23, Issue 11

CEDAR GROVE PTA NEWSLETTER

November 2009

PTA President: Ching Ingalla
Principal: Mr. Lee Derby

Vice Presidents: Janet Kukla and Ramsey Hawasly
Assistant Principal: Mr. Vernon Jones

Secretary: Amie Bryson
Treasurer: Kristie Scott



- **FALL FESTIVAL**
October 29 7-8:30 PM
- **NO SCHOOL – Professional Day – November 2**
- **PTA MEETING**
November 3, 7 PM
- **CANNED FOOD DRIVE**
November 4-18
- **PICTURE MAKE-UP DAY**
November 5
- **FLYER DISTRIBUTION DAY**
November 11
- **EARLY RELEASE DAYS**
Parent/Teacher Conferences – November 11 and 12.
- **FAMILY FUN NIGHT BINGO**
November 20, 6:30 PM
- **EARLY RELEASE DAY**
Day before Thanksgiving
November 25
- **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Holiday**
November 26 and 27

Inside this issue:

Fall Harvest Costume Party	2
Book Fair	3
Welcome Picnic	3
Kidstuff Coupon Books	4
Joe Corbi Fundraiser	5
How to Earn \$ for CGES	7
Join the PTA	9

**CEDAR GROVE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
24001 Ridge Road
Germantown, MD 20876

Dawn Downey, Editor
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PTA President’s Message

Welcome to our first edition of *Bear Facts* for 2009-2010! We’ve had such an exciting and full beginning of the year, and it’s just the start! The Welcome Picnic was a huge success! It was a beautiful afternoon and we had many families come and enjoy meeting others and dancing to Mrs. Hirschhorn’s musical offerings! Thanks to Janet Kukla and her committee for planning this fun picnic. Also, a big thanks to Joe Corbi for coming and contributing the great food offerings for our families to sample.

If you haven’t done so already, please make sure you join the PTA. The membership form is attached. Joining the PTA has a lot of great benefits, the most important of which is the vote and voice you have in the PTA. You will also receive the Cedar Grove School Directory. This is an invaluable tool for parents.

This year, we are going to do some great fundraisers. Our first is Joe Corbi items. You should have already received the brochures and forms for this fall fundraiser. Joe Corbi offers great food as well as wrapping paper and gift items....just in time for the holidays. The forms are due on November 3rd. Please return to the PTA through your child’s teacher. For those who attended the Welcome Picnic, these are the same items that were available to sample at the picnic. You’ll all remember the fabulous pizza, cookies, etc. NOTE: We had asked to also have the pre- formed cookie offerings, and those brochures should have gone home as well. Please check your child’s backpacks for that information.

The next **PTA meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, November 3, at 7pm** in the Media Center. Please join us to get more information on the PTA, our vision for the year, and learn how you can volunteer. I hope to see you there. Remember, the Cedar Grove PTA is here for our children and families. In order for us to be successful, we need volunteers. You can make it as much or as little as you want it to be. You can volunteer in the classroom, at events after school, or even help with some small items in the evenings. If you have a lot of time, great! If you only have a little time, that’s ok, as we have something for you, too. There are many things that can be done in just one hour. The most effective way to know what’s happening in the school is to volunteer and be involved. It is a great way to

meet new people and get to know the school and the community.

Don't forget the Fall Harvest Party on Thursday, October 29 at 7pm in the All Purpose Room!

This is a great event for the whole family and I know the committee has been working hard to plan this evening. Remember to have your children dress in costume! All children in costumes will receive a small prize. Hope to see you all there.

If you have any issues or concerns regarding the PTA, please don't hesitate to contact me. I hope everyone has a great year! I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the year.

Sincerely,

Ching Ingalla

PTA President

cingalla@verizon.net



REMINDER: Family Fun Night

Fall Harvest Costume Party

Don't forget to bring the entire family out on Thursday, Oct 29th for Cedar Grove's first "Family Fun Night" this school year! We have many exciting activities for you to enjoy with your little ones including: the popular "Mummy Wrap," donut fishing, tattoos, crafts, games, prizes and snacks. Plus, any child that comes dressed in a costume will win a special prize!

This festive evening will take place from 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room on October 29th. The cost is \$3 per family. Hope to see you there!.



Flu Mist Vaccinations Appreciation

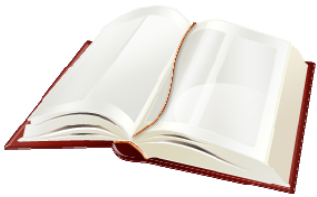
Karen Ward

Flu mist vaccinations were given to about 150 students on September 24. Thank you to Mrs. Burke and her nurses for taking care of all the students. A big thank you to our parent volunteers who came out to help with the students: Sandi Hines, Harriet Batis, Kathryn Hoffpauir and Karen Ward. Finally, we appreciate the extra efforts of our wonderful health tech, Mrs. Michelle Sutton.

Media Center Thanks!

Mrs. Hirschhorn

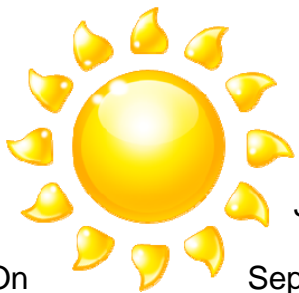
Mrs. Hirschhorn would like to thank her parent volunteers who have donated their afternoons to keep the media center open for circulation. Mrs. Smith, Mrs. Rasmussen, Mrs. Passam, Mrs. Obendorfer, Mrs. Alban, Mrs. Chan and Mrs. Ladas have recently spent time in the media center and made an enormous contribution to our program. Thank you so much. If you would like to join us, please contact Mrs. Hirschhorn by email or by telephone, 301 253 7000.



Book Fair

Janet Kukla

Cedar Grove PTA recently sponsored the fall Scholastic Book Fair, held from September 25 - October 2. The fair was a huge success - Cedar Grove families bought over \$5700 in books, bringing in a profit of more than \$1400 to the PTA. Your support put over 300 books into the hands of our students! It's great to see such enthusiastic support of reading! Many, many thanks to the more than 20 volunteers who graciously gave their time and worked at the fair -- we couldn't have done this without you! Working the Book Fair is a great opportunity to get to know other Cedar Grove parents and students, and it's wonderful to see so much parental involvement to support our children and school. We will have another book fair in the spring, so stay tuned!



Welcome Picnic

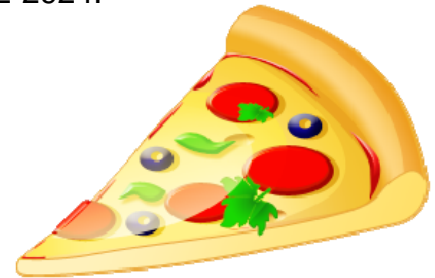
Janet Kukla

On September 25 the Cedar Grove PTA hosted a meet'n'greet picnic at our school. The weather cooperated while 400 Cedar Grove students, family members, and staff enjoyed a lovely evening of games, music, food, and fun! This was a great opportunity to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and come together as a community! Our Joe Corbi representative was there offering delicious free samples of the pizza and desserts that are currently for sale in our fall fundraiser. Mrs. Karina Hirschhorn, our media specialist, did a fantastic job as our dee-jay and master of ceremonies, getting us all to show off our dance moves! Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who brought desserts, greeted arrivals, manned booths, set up, and cleaned up to help make this function such a huge success. A special shout-out to Welcome Picnic committee members Dawn Downey, Hope Joyce, Janet Kukla, Danielle Miller, and Laurie Whitney for bringing this picnic together.

KidStuff Coupon Books

Janet Kukla

The PTA is offering *KidStuff* coupon books, a division of the Entertainment Books, for sale for \$25. These books include coupons for local stores, eateries, and entertainment venues including Kohl's, Macy's, Pizza Hut, Subway, Port Discovery and many, many more. Use just 2 or 3 coupons and you will recoup the cost of the entire book! There are a limited number of books left for sale, and once they're gone, they're gone! Books will be for sale at the Fall Harvest Party on Thursday, October 29, or you may purchase a book by contacting Kara Phillips at (301) 972-2924.



Joe Corbi Fundraiser

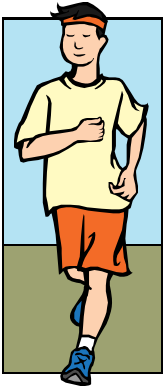
Janet Kukla

The PTA is currently running our fall fundraiser - Joe Corbi pizza kits, desserts and gift items. Students brought home packets with the brochures and order forms last week. Due to a mistake at the printer, the original order forms have been supplemented with another form offering cookie dough in pre-portioned packages as well. The pre-packaged option allows you to cook just one or two cookies at a time without thawing out the entire tub. For your convenience, all items are to be combined on the one original order form. Students can earn a variety of prizes depending on the number of items they sell. Online orders are also available - just register your student(s) on the Joe Corbi Web site and they will receive credit for any online sales to family and friends who are out of town. **The final day to turn in Joe Corbi orders has been extended to Tuesday, November 3.**

This is a big fundraiser for the PTA, and proceeds support field trips, cultural arts, classroom enrichment, family events, and much more. We appreciate your support! Completed order forms are due no later than Tuesday, November 3. **Items will be delivered on Wednesday, December 2 between 3 and 7pm.** Food items are delivered frozen and cannot be stored at the school past 7pm. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Janet Kukla at (301) 528-5032.

Cedar Grove Bracelets

The PTA has for sale Cedar Grove green and white bracelets for \$1.00 each. We will be selling these bracelets at all our PTA events. Show your school spirit and buy one or two.



5k Fun Run/Walk

Karen Ward

On October 3, over 100 Cedar Grove students and their families, 300 Gibbs students and their families, as well as community residents and others came out for the 1st Annual 5k Fun Run/Walk fundraiser. The weather was sunny and warm for the 3.1-mile course. Everyone started off with a fun but tough exercise warm-up hosted by Healthtrax. At precisely 8:30 am, all runners and walkers started their pace following the Weatherbug truck. "Red Robin" and his crew cheered and greeted each participant with a "hi-5" at the Red Robin water stations. The first runner finished the course in 18 minutes followed by all the other runners. Walkers, well they took a little longer, but everyone crossed the finish line having a fun and wonderful time.

Each participant received goodie bags filled with items donated by our sponsors listed on the following page. They also had snacks donated by Utz and Roberts American Gourmet and water donated by Pepsi, Home Depot and Safeway, as well as smoothies donated by Smoothie King. A special thank you goes to Red Robin and their volunteers for donating water stations and all their time and extra goodie giveaways. Don't forget to stop by Red Robin and use your free coupons. We thank all of our sponsors for supporting Cedar Grove Elementary PTA. We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Congratulations to Cedar Grove winners - John Benjamin (1st place men's), Mari Hornyak (1st place women's), Scott Obendorfer and Madelyn Leslie (1st place students'). Each will receive a gift card from one of our sponsors.

The fundraising event made \$1,200 for the Cedar Grove PTA. We thank all of our participants and sponsors for supporting our PTA.

Thank you Gibbs Elementary PTA for joining forces with the Cedar Grove PTA and making this event a huge success!!!

A big thank you to Brownie Troop 4268 for hosting a water station for the 1K participants on the field and cleaning the field after the event. A big thank you to Brownie Troop 1592 for making all the sponsor signs.

We would like to thank all the parent volunteers who stood on the street corners to guide the participants and cheer them on -- Ramesh Raghavan, Lessie Lampkins, Kobie Buttrey, Cathy Ghosh, Anita Burgdorf, Dave Steinbeck, Jeanne Shawahin, Suzie Leslie, Amy Kalomiris, Sandi Hines, and Jessica Nuffer.

Thank you to all the middle and high school students who volunteered their time to help with this event. Thank you to Cord Sengbusch for designing the Fun Run Web sites for both schools!!

A final thank you goes to the Fun Run Committee for all their dedicated hard work to make this fundraiser a huge success!!!!

FREE WAYS TO EARN MONEY FOR CEDAR GROVE

Collections Chairperson



Welcome back to the start of a new school year and a new year of earning **FREE** money for Cedar Grove. There are four programs we participate in that allow us to earn cash for our school at no cost. Thank you for your support of these programs and our school. All of the sites below are also linked from our school homepage, <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cedargrovees/> for easy access.

- Giant A+ BonusBucks: Sign up your Giant Bonus card for Cedar Grove to earn cash for the school. Cedar Grove's ID number is 00793. Enroll at www.giantfood.com/aplus or fill out a registration card at Giant. **Your MUST enroll your card each year!**
- Safeway/eScrip: Safeway and eScrip merchants have a system to contribute a % of purchases you make to our school. Sign up at www.escrip.com. Cedar Grove's ID number is 6593215. **You MUST enroll your card each year!**
- Target VISA or Target Redcard: Target donates 1% of your Target purchase to our school. You can sign up at www.target.com or 1-800-316-6142. The program runs year round. Cedar Grove's ID number is 58112.
- Box Tops for Education: Box Tops can be found on hundreds of General Mills products. Clip the box tops and have your child put them in the Cedar Grove School Bus, in the main lobby of Cedar Grove. Each box top is worth 10 cents to our school.

Join the PTA TODAY!

Dear Cedar Grove Families,

Welcome to another year at Cedar Grove Elementary! As the new school year begins, the PTA continues to work hard planning all of the fun and educational activities that our children will enjoy throughout the year. Your membership in the PTA helps fund these events for your children.

There are a number of great programs that your PTA sponsors throughout the year. Some of these programs include: Book Fairs, Cultural Arts assemblies, Dads and Doughnuts, Moms and Muffins, FLES, Family Fun Nights (Bingo, School Dance, Ice Cream Social), and sponsorship towards Cedar Grove field trips.

Don't forget, as a member, you will also receive the Cedar Grove School directory... a must for every household! Organizing birthday parties and calling classmates is a breeze with this handy book!

Membership is \$15.00 per member. If you and your spouse would both like to be members of the PTA the cost is \$25.00. By both you and your spouse signing up, more money will be available for the programs that benefit our children. Your contribution will make a positive difference in your child's future and help strengthen the family-school-community partnership.

Please join today by filling out the form on the next page, along with your dues, and send it back to school with your child as soon as possible. Thanks again for your support!

Sincerely, ~ The Cedar Grove PTA Membership Committee

PTA Meeting Minutes October 6, 2009

In attendance: Ching Ingalla; Kristie Scott; Janet Kukla; Ramsey Hawasly; Amie Bryson; Nancy Sanders; Lee Derby; Karina Hirschhorn; Dawn Downey; Michele Levine; Andrea Vedak; Michele Tregoning; Paul McMaster; Susette Audet; Kim Constantino; Laurie Whitney; Dawn Frazier; Kim Constantino; Kobie Buttrey; Walt Arze; Judith Hernandez.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

Minutes Approved: The minutes from the July budget meeting were approved as published on the listserv.

Bear Facts – The new editor is Dawn Downey. PTA minutes are published in the *Bear Facts* each month.

President's Report – Ching Ingalla

Mrs. Ingalla opened the meeting by introducing the new PTA board and reviewing that each monthly meeting will be held the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Media Center. No meeting will be held in January. In April, the meeting will be April 15 due to Spring break.

Secretary's Report – Amie Bryson

No report.

Treasurer's Report – Kristie Scott

The budget carryover was slightly higher than we thought originally, so we are better than projected for the year.

The Chess club sent checks in directly to Chess Club so the budget will be zeroed for that line item. We need to check on ICB since Mrs. Ingalla already paid in advance for the rooms for Chess Club. Mrs. Ingalla will send an email to Jim Whitney to get a reimbursement check for approximately \$297.

ICB (Inter-Agency Coordinating Board) is in charge of renting and reserving all rooms. The average cost of each room per usage is \$33 for a few hours which covers utilities and cleaning.

Staff Liaison – Nancy Sanders

Mrs. Sanders offered many thanks for the wonderful Staff Appreciation luncheon and to Michele Tregoning and all the other helpers who helped to organize and bring in food.

Mrs. Kukla helped to coordinate kindergarten helpers for the first three weeks of school. They had many high school and middle school parents who came to help. Many thanks to all parents for devoting their time to help out; it was greatly appreciated.

The Welcome Picnic was a nice new activity to meet and mingle with the parents.

MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of PTAs) – position open

We are in need a new MCCPTA representative who is willing to attend meetings. These meetings are not held monthly. MCCPTA is made up of local PTAs from elementary to high school and gives our PTA voting rights within this board and learn what other schools are doing in our area. If you are interested in this position, please contact Ching Ingalla at cingalla@verizon.net for more information.

NAACP – Natasha Hammond

Mrs. Hammond did not attend the meeting. She will be attending the upcoming Council meeting.

Principal's Report – Lee Derby

- He recognized all kindergarten parents at the meeting.
- There was no record of any incorrect phone numbers on the yellow contact sheets that everyone filled out at the beginning of school.
- We are half way through the quarter now and the first round of reading tests, fire drills, etc. have been completed.
- Mrs. Kemp, the previous school nurse, is now at Rocky Hill Middle School and Gibbs.
- Mrs. Norris who was active in the PTA and in charge of Adventure Center has moved out of town. Her replacement is Mr. K.
- Kara Philips and her husband donated landscaping for the school beautification project. She needs people to help her with upkeep of the courtyard and grounds. If you are interested in helping, please contact Ching Ingalla.
- The flu Mist Clinic went well. Montgomery County is not continuing the flu mist due to lack of supply. The H1N1 vaccine will be started soon but will not be administered through the school.

- Thanks to all media center volunteers; the media center will be open all day.

Committee Reports

Karen Ward is the Committee Chairperson. She was not able to attend this meeting.

Welcome Picnic

Janet Kukla thanked everyone for their work on the Welcome Picnic. There were approximately 380 people in attendance with 75 staff and families represented.

Book Fair

We sold \$5700 in books at about 25% profit. Last year, we had 40% more students and sold about \$7000, so the amount sold was impressive considering the decrease in school population. We will have one more book fair in the spring.

5K Fun Run/Walk

Ching Ingalla reported for Karen Ward on the recent **5K Fun Run** which was held on October 3, 2009 at the new Gibbs Elementary. There were about 100 Cedar Grove students and family members and 300 Gibbs student and family members. Thanks to all companies that contributed to prizes and donations. We had many volunteers to man the streets to direct the race and to help at the tables. Cedar Grove made \$1200. The Red Robin mascot was there and Healthtrax helped with warm-up. All the winners of the races were Cedar Grove families! Men's First Place was John Benjamin and Women's First Place was Mrs. Hornyak!. The First Place Boy was Scott Obendorfer, and First Place Girl was Madelyn Leslie. Congratulations to these people for a great run and a special thanks to all that came out that day to support Cedar Grove!

We ordered plastic Cedar Grove bracelets to sell at the Fun Run but they did not arrive in time. We will sell them at another function. The t-shirts for the children that entered the race came in late and will be distributed to their teachers.

Flu Mist Clinic

150 students participated in the **Flu Mist Clinic**. Thanks to Mrs. Burke and other helpers; Mrs. Ward, Mrs. Batis and other parent volunteers.

Fundraiser Committee

KidStuff Coupon Books –We sold about 20-25 books so far @ 50% profit. We will continue selling them over the next few weeks.

Joe Corbi Fundraiser – The kick-off will be this Friday. The products are a mixture of food, wrapping paper, and gift items, and we will have two weeks to sell. There was some concern about an overlap with the 3-5th grade Bulb fundraiser to supplement field trips which will conclude on Oct. 12; however, the bulb fundraiser directly offsets each child's field trip cost. We will work on coordinating better next year so that there is not a conflict.

Beautification Committee - Kara Philips

This committee is in charge of upkeep (weeding, edging etc) of the courtyard. If anyone is interested in helping, please contact Ching Ingalla.

Fall Harvest Party - Thursday, October 29th from 7:00p-8:30p.

Hope Joyce and Kim Singleton are in charge of the committee which is organizing this event. They will need help to man the stations. There will be mummy wrapping, crafts, freeze dance, etc.. Please send in your rsvp's if you plan to attend. This is a family event and a costume is optional. Mrs. Ingalla will check on the Adventure Center for the room. Mrs. Sanders made a recommendation that the room parents for each grade level would be great at coordinating volunteers for this function.

Spirit Night - Wednesday, October 14th from 4-8 pm. Chick-fil-A is sponsoring a fundraiser for us. Our school gets 20% of the profits. We do not get credit for any drive-through orders so you must go inside the restaurant to order.

Bingo Night & Spring Dance - There are two Bingo nights and a Spring Dance coming up. Volunteers are needed to coordinate or to help the night of the event. If you have middle school or high school students who can also help, they may earn service hours.

Membership Committee - Lori Marshall

Mrs. Fair has the final count of how many families have joined the PTA so far. Our numbers are low at approximately 30%, but we exceeded what we budgeted because people have donated beyond the simple membership requirement. We may need to send another reminder to get more participation. Mrs. Ingalla will ask Mrs. Marshall to send out the membership forms again. Last year there was about 50% family and staff participation.

Hands On Science - Amie Bryson

Classes are beginning October 12, 2009. We had enough kindergartener-1st graders sign up to create two classes on Mondays after school. We also have 2-3rd grade class on Tuesdays after school. There were not enough signed up to create a 4-5th grade class.

FLES - Reem Hawasly

There were only about 9 or 10 students signed up for Spanish classes. A suggestion was made that we offer Chinese classes next year if there is enough interest. If you are interested, please contact Reem Hawasly @ reemh76@yahoo.com.

Box Tops Committee - Kristie Scott

Last year we made approximately \$800 from this project. Please save your box top coupons and place them in a plastic Ziploc bag with your child's name labeled on the bag. They may be placed in the cardboard school bus located in the front entry across from the office; kindergarten classes have a box in each classroom.

Bonus Bucks for Schools

Participating stores who offer money back for schools are Giant, Target, and Safeway. The program starts on October 9th this year; please go online to register. There will also be links listed on the Cedar Grove Homepage. Cedar Grove is listed under Germantown and the funds go directly to the school. Mr. Derby sends out a report later in the year.

School Logo Competition

We are having a school logo competition. Mrs. Kukla is working with a design company and Mrs. M&M, the art teacher, is helping to create designs. We will pick the four best designs and submit them for families to vote. Each family and staff member will have one vote. The new logo will be used on spirit wear, letterhead, etc. and will be the official Cedar Grove logo. Look for a flyer coming home for the contest and send in your family's vote.

Math Work Group

The school board is sending out a summary for feedback regarding the current math curriculum. Has the program accelerated too much? Please send in your comments by October 23rd and mark the envelope *Attention: PTA president* or email your comments to Ching Ingalla.

PTA Directory - Lori Marshall

A PTA directory of all members will be supplied soon. To offset costs of printing, we will have advertisements on the front and back covers. Any business that is interested in advertising in the PTA directory should contact Lori Marshall at lori@charltonconsulting.com.

Mrs. Sanders also brought up a good point about not endorsing any particular company and the need for a statement in the directory addressing this.

Volunteer Hours - Volunteer coordinator Karen Ward

Cedar Grove is recognized for the number of volunteer hours that it receives. If you are volunteering for the PTA, in class, or for a field trip, please sign in on the laptop located in the office mailroom. Ching Ingalla will send out a reminder each month to Karen to document and send Mrs. Yingling all the volunteer hours. If you have not signed in, you can write down your hours and email them to Karen Ward.

College 529 Plans

Mrs. Ingalla asked if anyone would find it beneficial to have an informative meeting regarding 529 plans at the December or February meeting. It was agreed that we should have the additional meeting with the understanding that it would be strictly informative with no sales pressure.

Clarksburg Town Center Pumpkin Festival

The annual festival is Saturday, October 10th, from 1-8pm in Town Center. They have allowed the local PTAs to sell items. If anyone is interested in helping to sell the *KidStuff* Coupon books, please contact Ching Ingalla.

Staff Appreciation - Michele Tregoning

Staff appreciation committee will be collecting money for those wishing to contribute toward food and supplies for staff luncheons.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35pm