

COMMUNICATOR

Improving Communications Between School and Home
www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/greenwoodes

A Greenwood PTA Publication



November 2009

Parents, Teachers, & Staff,

Now that Halloween is over, the mad Holiday rush is just around the corner. Before that begins, I hope everyone will take a few minutes to enjoy all that fall has to offer. Around Greenwood, there are opportunities for all. I would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come out for the PTA meeting on Nov. 3. It is a chance to see what the PTA is planning for the upcoming months. If you are wondering what you can do to help support the children of Greenwood, the PTA is a wonderful way to start.

November is a great time to pause and give thanks for all that we have. At Greenwood, we are fortunate to have incredible teachers and staff. Many of these individuals go above and beyond their job description. Please take a moment this month to say "Thanks" to those people who have done something special for you and your children.

I would like to give a heartfelt Thank You to all the wonderful volunteers we have at Greenwood. Many of the programs such as Accelerated Reader and Gator Raiders would not be possible without the parents who give so freely of their time. The Halloween parties we just enjoyed were also planned by parent volunteers. If you haven't already, please say Thanks to your child's room parent.

November is also a time to try to give back a little. There are individuals in our community who are not as fortunate as most of us at Greenwood. November 9th we start our Harvest for the Hungry food drive. In the past, Greenwood families have always been more than generous with their donations to this important program. I hope everyone will find a way to give what they are able. One can of food brought in by each child will go such a long way to help others this coming winter.

I'd like to close by wishing everyone a truly Happy Thanksgiving. At Greenwood we do have a lot for which we can give thanks.

Sincerely,

Jenni Diamond
 PTA Vice President

Important Dates

Nov 2nd - No School
 Professional Day for Teachers

Nov 3rd - General PTA Meeting 7:30pm

Nov 6th & 13th - Club Fridays

Nov 9th Harvest for the Hungry Can Drive

Nov 11th & 12th - Early Release
 Parent/Teacher Conferences

Nov 16th - Box Top Drive Begins

Nov 17th & 18th - Craft Nights It's our 5th Annual Shop Till You Drop during this year's craft night. Drop off your kids and get some of your holiday shopping done. 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Nov 19th - Sally Foster Pick up

Nov 16-20th Health Week

Nov 25th - Early Release

Nov 26th & 27th - No School Thanksgiving

November 2009



Greenwood Elementary...A SMART School November 2009 Principal's News

Quote: "When asked if my cup is half-full or half-empty my only response is that I am thankful I have a cup."

-Sam Lefkowitz

Dear Greenwood Parents,

It was a delight to have so many of you (215 based on our sign in sheets that day) visit us on our October **Parent Visitation Day!** It was also a pleasure to have over forty families attend see the family reading curriculum night. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. Our Reading Committee which is led by Mr. Jen Myers did an outstanding job of organizing the evening's activities and the author who attended, Mary Amato was a big hit with everyone. Thanks to the PTA who underwrote the cost of Mrs. Amato's presentation. We appreciate your taking the time to visit us. Your presence always reinforces the importance of education for your children. It also goes a long way in helping us to achieve the high expectations we all hold for student success.

Parent teacher conference days this year are on November 11 and 12. If you have not already done so, please contact your child's teacher to arrange for your conference. This is such an important opportunity for home-school collaboration that we hope to have one hundred percent of our parents taking advantage of this time to discuss the progress of the children with their teachers. Report cards will be distributed on November 11. As in the past years, there will be various activities that recognize student achievement, celebrate the efforts of our students and encourage all of them to perform at their personal best.

We have seen a spike in absences, some of which are related to flu-like symptoms. Please continue to take all of the necessary precautions and keep abreast of the news as it unfolds. The school system will continue to use a variety of communications methods to keep families informed. To be sure that families receive messages about possible changes in school operations, it is very important that you provide the school with your most up-to-date contact information, including telephone number(s) and email address, and let the school know right away if any of that information changes. MCPS will be guided by health officials in decisions related to H1N1 flu. I will distribute new information about the flu and school operations to families as it becomes available. Up-to-date information will also be posted to the MCPS web site: <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/index.aspx>.

The upcoming Thanksgiving holiday is an opportune time to thank our many **parent volunteers** on behalf of the Greenwood staff for all of your kind support. We are especially grateful to Mr. Gorogias, of Free State Landscape Management, parent of third grader Michael for his generous contribution of labor and materials help us with our tree and shrub acquisition and planting. Thanks to all of you who volunteer your time and resources on an ongoing basis to support the staff and students of Greenwood. Your collective efforts provide a wealth of extras to the Greenwood school family.

Have a joyous Thanksgiving holiday filled with everything and everyone you hold dear!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan,
Principal

November 2009

NOTES FROM THE ART ROOM

Dear Greenwood Families,

By now most of our kids have smock to wear for their art lessons. That's a good thing, because at this point in the year we are moving into lessons that involve clay, paints, and pastels. You might want to check that your child does, in fact, have their smock at school. Please write your child's name on the front of their smock, and you may wish to send along a large re-sealable baggie for easy storage in the classroom during the week. I want to thank Mrs. Borst and Mrs. Boss, each of whom has donated a mountain of T-shirt for those of our students who hadn't yet gotten their smocks to school. With those donations depleted, I would welcome any clean adult size t-shirts for the kids to wear as smocks. **Thanks.**

Kindergarteners are now quite familiar with basic procedures in the Art Room. We have met Mr. Good Glue, we know how to store our work in a drying rack, and how to take turns using the sink. We are having a set of lessons on collage, the cutting and gluing together of various papers to create artwork.

First graders have completed a set of architecture lessons. We learned that architects design buildings with geometric shapes. We went outdoors to draw our school façade, and discovered an abundance of rectangular shapes. In a house collage lesson we talked about the proportions of windows and doors to the scale of our houses, and that order in arrangement is requisite to understanding the height of buildings.

Second graders have been working with fabrics. They looked at Laotian story cloths. Fringing their cloth helped kids understand its woven manufacture. We learned how to stitch a frame, and we learned to make stencil prints for the geometric image within the frame.

Third graders learned about a Belgian artist named Pieter Brueghel, who made allegorical paintings of people at work and at play. Students gained an awareness of the way we move and bend when we are at play. We drew ourselves in action on the school playground. We employed crayon resist to color the drawings. Crayon resist teaches us that wax crayons and water don't mix, and so we learn about the science of our materials.

Fourth graders are becoming more visually attuned to values, the relative light and darkness of objects. It's how traditional newspaper photographs present themselves, as well as drawings and paintings. We are developing an understanding of color-value in a still life painting lesson. We are learning about the role of color-value in the work of French artist, Paul Cezanne.

Fifth graders also are having opportunities to heighten their visual awareness of value, i.e. light and shade, through a sequence of instruction on drawing that began with a scratchboard lesson. We are scaffolding color-value, with a lesson on pastel drawings of three dimensional forms (a cut cake). That lesson helps us see that a slice of cake is a three dimensional form. We learned how to draw that slice, a triangular prism, and we used pastels to explore how light and shadow enhance the representation of form in space

Sincerely, Ms. Newman

ART POSTER Contest

Hey Parents,

Get your kids to enter the Smithsonian's National Zoo's Poster Contest!

The winning design will be printed and distributed in the DC Metro area.

Entries must be received by November 12, 2009.

Get details at nationalzoo.ei.edu

From
Mr. Thomas
Art Room Intern

November 2009

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

WHY I TEACH MUSIC...

NOT because I expect you to major in music;

NOT because I expect you to play or sing all your life;

NOT so you can relax or have fun.

BUT so you will be human; so you will recognize beauty;

so you will be sensitive; so you will be closer to an Infinite beyond this world; so you will have something to cling to; so you will have more love; more compassion, more gentleness, more good... in short, more life.

(MD MUSIC EDUCATOR Sept. '90)

Kindergarteners will learn to play the beat of HICKORY DICKORY DOCK on the drums and learn the song SHAKE MY SILLIES OUT, in which each verse has different beat motions.

First Graders are playing xylophones. They are also singing echo songs with solos; such as CHARLIE OVER THE OCEAN and COLUMBUS SAILED WITH THREE SHIPS.

Second Graders are singing solos with correct singing posture and pitch. They will be learning THE BERRY PICKERS SONG to sing with the orchestra when they go to Strathmore. They are identifying instrument families by listening. (Brass, percussion, strings and woodwinds.) They are learning hand signs that show pitch in songs. For LUCY LOCKET they are using the signs so, mi and la.

Third Graders are singing the round ON THANKSGIVING (which is also ARE YOU SLEEPING.) It is challenging to sing your part with a steady beat while someone else sings at a different time creating the round. They are also notating the rhythm to the song ROCKY MOUNTAIN, which has many patterns in it.

Fourth Graders will play a repeated pattern on the drum to accompany the CANOE SONG. Try this with any song you are singing. Use your lap as a drum if you don't have a drum. They are singing the round GHOST OF TOM. Keeping a steady beat and singing on pitch is what makes a successful round.

Fifth Graders are learning the train song THE WABASH CANNONBALL. They are accompanying with percussion instruments MARCH OF THE TOREADORS while following the listening map. This is in Rondo form. Can they tell you the order of the sections for this form? (ABACA) They are singing the round FOR THY GRACIOUS BLESSINGS.

Patty Bush, NBCT
General Music Teacher
Greenwood ES

SEVEN WAYS to Communicate with your PTA

1. Backpack Express
All flyers and monthly newsletters are sent home via your child's backpack. Also, you can go to

www.greenwood-pta.org

2. PTA Listserv

Go to:

groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwoodpta

3. Greenwood's

Website Go to:

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/greenwoodes

4. Mailbox & Drop

Box Located in the main office.

5. Bulletin Board and Flyer Rack.

Located in the main entrance hallway.

6. Monthly Meetings

The PTA meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the media center.

7. Ask any of your PTA Representatives

Contact information is listed in the student directory, the Greenwood ES website, and the last page of the newsletter.

November 2009

NOTES FROM THE P.E. ROOM

For the month of **November**:

Kindergartners will continue to learn “pacing.” They will experience changes in their heart and breathing rates in relation to various locomotor skills. In addition these students are learning to individually jump rope.

First graders will participate in activities to enhance related fitness components such as aerobic and respiratory endurance. They will participate in various activities that relate to the concepts of curved, straight, forward, backwards, and zigzag. Students will respond with a “thumbs up” or “thumbs down” discussion of nutritious foods.

Second graders will participate in cardio and respiratory endurance activities. They will continue to monitor their personal progress in their fitness logs. These students will continue to play games to reinforce soccer skills such as dribbling, passing and goal shooting.

Third graders will continue to set short and long term goals in their fitness log. They will be introduced to the “FITT” (frequency, intensity type, time) principle. These students will participate in skills and games to reinforce soccer skills including dribbling, passing, defense and goal shooting.

Fourth and Fifth graders will be also be introduced to the “FITT” Principle.

These students will learn the proper way to throw a football. In addition, they will learn short, medium and long pass patterns.

Mrs. Borst
Physical Education Teacher



The Power is in your hands!!

We can raise money by clipping Box Tops coupons from hundreds of participating products and sending them to school. Please use the Treasure Hunt Collection sheet that was sent home with your child to turn in your Box Tops or send them in a baggie. There are green collection bags in ever classroom for Box Tops

CommuniGator Contacts

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The CommuniGator is published monthly by the Greenwood Elementary School PTA. The deadline for submissions is the third Monday of each month. The next deadline is 12/21/09.

November 2009



Cultural Arts Assembly

Please join us on Tuesday, November 24th for an exciting Assembly sponsored by **Greenwood PTA**. 9:00 am K-2 and 10:00 am 3-5th

The award winning **Step Afrika** will perform kicks, stomps and rhythms mixed with spoken word pound the floor and fill the air. They will celebrate *stepping*, a uniquely American dance style created by African-American college students. Highlighting stepping's deep ties to academic achievement; the energetic five-member ensemble of college graduates mixes the power of stepping with universal lessons of teamwork, discipline and commitment. Combining chants, footsteps and claps, they also incorporate African traditions, demonstrated through a lively South African gumboot dance. Students enjoy learning basic step choreography and discover how dance unites people and cultures. **Please join us for an entertaining morning!**

Montgomery County's Health and Human Services currently has **NO H1N1 vaccine**
(No nasal spray and no injectable)

The **clinics** originally scheduled for November 4, 11 and 18 at Northwood, Rockville and Northwest High Schools are **CANCELLED.**

For information about H1N1 (swine) flu vaccine availability, [check the county's website](#) or call the county flu hotline at 240-777-4200.(updated 10/29/09)

Notes from the Nurse



When to Keep Your Child Home from School

When your child is sick, please keep him/her home from school. This not only benefits your child but other children and staff in the classroom at school.

What are import signs of illness:

1. A temperature of more than 100 orally
2. Nausea or vomiting
3. Stomachache
4. Diarrhea
5. Pale or flushed face
6. Headache
7. Persistent cough
8. Earache
9. Thick yellowish discharge from nose
10. Sore throat
11. Rash or infection of the skin
1. Red or pink eyes
13. Loss of energy or decreased in activity

Sandy Copp & Mary Rafferty Health Room

