

GREENWOOD
COMMUNICATOR
Improving Communications Between School and Home
A Greenwood PTA Publication



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- Upcoming Events @ Greenwood**
- ▶ **Tuesday, December 06**
7:30pm - PTA Meeting
 - ▶ **Friday, December 07**
7:00pm – Club Friday
 - ▶ **Wednesday, December 14**
4th grade Choral and Instrumental Concert
 - ▶ **Monday, December 19**
5th grade Choral and Instrumental Concert
 - ▶ **Monday, December 26-30**
Winter Break, No School



Happy Holidays!





Health Week is 1/9-1/13! If you would like to volunteer or help please contact Amanda Leonard at amleonar@comcast.net



CommuniGator Contacts

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

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Save the Date...Skate Night will be 1/28/12



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Principal's News – November 2011



Greenwood Elementary...A SMART School

December 2011

Quote: Every day is a gift, that's why they call it the present.

Dear Parents,

Thanks to... On behalf of the staff at Greenwood, thanks for everything you are doing in support of teaching and learning. Many of you have taken time out of your busy schedules to assist us by chaperoning field trips to the pumpkin patch, Strathmore and the elsewhere. You are also here on a weekly basis working in the Accelerated Reader program, Read to Me Talk to Me and our Gator Raiders Computation project. You make a tremendous difference and we never lose sight of the value your involvement brings for our children.

Safety First! Visitors to the building are reminded that they need to use the main entrance door to enter and leave the building which is now locked between the hours of 9:30 AM and 2:55 PM and to gain entry; visitors need to press the buzzer. Once in the building, visitors must sign in and out at the front office using a computerized log. Only exceptions are for the parents who are dropping off or picking up at the Brooke Grove day care center. They should use the cafeteria doors for that purpose. Please note also that the front door will be locked at 4:30 PM daily. Exceptions are permitted to users who rented

through ICB. They will be let in and out of the building as necessary by our building service staff.

DECEMBER 5 PTA MEETING:

There will be a special presentation on Conflict Resolution for All Parents. The evening's program runs from 7:30 to 8:30 PM with a meet and greet prior to the program and beginning at 7:00 PM.

Choral and Instrumental Concerts:

Participants are fourth and fifth grade students are planned for December 14 and 19. Stay tuned for more information from Ms. Brooks and Mr. Enceneat.

THE TROUT ARE COMING!

This year, Greenwood will be joining 7 other schools in Montgomery County Public Schools that have participated in the Trout in the classroom in previous years. Our participation is being funded through a grant provided to us by the Green Schools of Maryland Program due to our designation as a Maryland Green School in spring of 2011. The fish tank will be located in the All Purpose Room and all classes will have a chance to learn more about the fish and the environment as a result of this special project. Trout in the Classroom (TIC) is

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a science-based program that teaches children about the importance of cold water conservation through a hands-on approach to learning. Through the process of raising brook trout from eggs to fingerlings, the size they are at release time, students learn about the importance of clean, cold water, not only for the brook trout they are raising, but also for the other organisms, including people. Visit <http://www.pptu.org/TIC.shtml> for more information on this exciting and educational program.

January Upcoming Curriculum Night
Mark your calendars for the upcoming January 25, 2011 Reading Curriculum night and look shortly for a flyer inviting you to this fun-filled and educational evening. This informative and fun-filled evening is being planned for both parents and children to attend. The PTA is underwriting the cost of a Mathematical Magic Tour which promises to be the highlight of the evening.

Dressing for the Weather: You are kindly asked to encourage your children to dress warmly and comfortably during

the cold weather months and remind them to visit the lost and found frequently to search for any items that they may have left behind. Information about school operations is announced publicly as soon as possible on area radio and television stations, Cable Channel 60, County Cable Channel 6, or Cable Channel 34—MCPS TV, on the Internet at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org or at Schools-Out.Com, and on a taped telephone message service at 301-279-3673. Emergency e-mail announcements are available by signing up for MCPS QuickNotes on the School System's home page. If schools are closed or delayed, the announcement is made no later than 6:00 a.m. (or the night before if possible). If schools are closing early, the announcements are made by 11:00 a.m.

Best wishes for a restful and joyous holiday season followed by the brightest, most prosperous New Year ever!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan,
Principal



*We would like to thank Erin Ruane, Kathy McMahon and Allison Leary for an **AWESOME** craft night!*

News from the Art Room



Dear Parents,

Thank you to everyone who has brought in bags of newspapers for us to use in the art room. Some of you left your names; some didn't, so I'll take this opportunity to say that I really appreciate your help. We use them to keep our tables in good condition! Your contributions continue to be welcome, so remember to think of us when you have another bagful of newspapers!

I also would like to thank Mrs. Borst for her donation of t-shirts. When a child cannot find their smock, I give them one of the ones that Mrs. Borst brings in for us. They come in very handy, and the kids are glad to have something to protect their clothing!! Also, thanks to Mrs. Parker, who donated large sheets of drawing paper! These will provide an opportunity for kids to work on a large scale.

We have just been awarded an MCPS Educational Foundation grant for a 4th grade lesson that will be related to their springtime study of settlers. In the art room, we will learn about the ancient Roman mosaics discovered in Israel by settlers. Each fourth grader will make a 6" x 9" mosaic. The Educational Foundation provides funding for lessons that support classroom curriculum, ones that cost more than what our budget can provide for. I am very grateful to the foundation for encouraging and supporting lessons like this for our kids!

Kindergarten students have been learning about paints and color mixing. We have painted fish, orange things, green things, and brown teddies. We are learning to mix tints and shades. The kids are becoming quite proficient with tempera paints.

First graders have learned about the genre of art that is still life. We are painting a still life

for Thanksgiving. Kids love working with paints, and we improve our capabilities with each lesson.

Second graders learned about traditional Dutch still life painting. We observed how overlapping positions are indicators of spatial positions, we brought our attention to scale differences, and continue to learn how to mix new colors. We experimented with color mixing for our invented backgrounds.

Third graders learned about Judith Leyster, a woman painter, one of the few of her time, the 17th c. We looked at her signature monogram and created monograms for

Signing our paintings - Judith Leyster was known for her paintings of people in merry company. We reflected on our own experiences and made a painting of ourselves in merry company with our friends and family. We are taking a traditional approach to painting, working from large to small, with details coming last.

Fourth graders looked at a still life painting by Paul Cezanne. We learned that Cezanne was, initially, less adept than his peers with his drawing skills. Cezanne's determination and perseverance paid off. He is now recognized as the father of modern painting. Many of us were able to relate to his experience. We painted a still life, and learned about one how painters make linear relationships between still life objects and the space around them. We used complementary colors in our backgrounds.

Fifth graders a working on a still life painting that is the culmination of our first quarter unit on shading. We have a large still life in the art room, and students each selected the section to paint. We mixed color-values in paint. We invented backgrounds that repeat the round shape motif of the still life. We used repetition of shapes and colors to unify our paintings.

Sincerely,
Ms. Newman

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Physical Education News



For the Month of December:

Kindergarteners will continue to work on ball handling skills including throwing catching, and dribbling a basketball with control. These students are practicing pacing.

First and second graders will continue to work on developing ball handling skills: dribbling, throwing for accuracy and catching. There will be class discussions about healthy life-style. Students will goal set for the second quarter for fitness goals.

Third graders will work on developing ball handling skills: dribbling to maintain ball control and throwing accuracy. Students will develop team work by working cooperatively in game-like situations. These students will set fitness goals for number of laps jogged and rope jumping for a target time of 80 seconds.

Fourth and fifth graders will learn the “two-one-two” zone defense. In this basketball unit, instructional skills will include passing, rebounding, and the give and go drill. Students will demonstrate cooperation and learn team play in basketball game-like situations. These students will continue to set fitness goals and goals for pursuing a healthy life style outside of the school day.

Please remind your child to wear their sneakers on their regularly scheduled PE day. Each week, I am documenting the class’ “sneaker ready progress” on a pictograph. The class, in each grade, that has the most sneaker ready class is awarded a certificate at the end of each quarter. In addition, I am documenting each class’ demonstration of “all star behavior” on another pictograph symbolized by a star. The winner each quarter is recognized on GGTV.

Mrs. Borst
Physical Education Teacher



Notes from the Music Room

The 2nd grade students in Mrs. Lorei's class have been very active in music class. We sang harvest songs, Native American songs as Thanks giving songs during the month of November. We also experienced contrasting sections of music with movement and playing instruments.

We also reviewed orchestral instruments for the field trip that students took to Strathmore Hall .We also learned a song during music class that all of the 2nd graders at Strathmore Hall concert shared and sang with the orchestra. The field trip was a great experience as well as singing with hundreds of other 2nd graders in the concert hall accompanied by a full orchestra!

The 1st graders in Mrs. Notaro's class have been experiencing reading simple rhythms while keeping a steady beat. We also learned about how the use of instruments accompanying us during our songs can enhance the musical experience. In *every* music class, students have a variety of experiences

moving, singing, creating, listening and playing instruments.

During the month of November we sang songs related to Thanksgiving and as well as songs about fall. Please ask your child to sing for you one of the songs we learned such as "A Turkey Ran Away" or the "Thank You" song. I am sure you will be impressed how well you child sings!

Musically Yours,

Ms. Gesumaria, Music Teacher



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Hello Greenwood Community!

Winter Concerts - 5th grade: The 5th graders will be performing their winter concert on December 19th starting at 7:30 pm in the all-purpose room. There will be an abbreviated performance for students and staff at 2:00 pm on December 19th as well. The 5th grade instrumental music groups will be performing on the 19th, but will have their own program.

The 5th graders have been introduced to the song that they will be singing for the variety show - "Stand By Me". They will also be singing this song for their promotion ceremony in June. The variety show, which is being spear-headed by Mrs. Mavrikes, will be held sometime in February. Please contact her for more information.

Winter Concerts - 4th grade: The 5th graders will be performing their winter concert on December 14th starting at 7:30 pm in the all-purpose room. There will be an abbreviated performance for students and staff at 9:15 am on December 14th as well.

General Music: Your children are singing, dancing, clapping, marching, and just enjoying their time in music. Towards the end of the quarter, 3rd grade students will be preparing for their recorder unit. A letter will go out to parents regarding recorders and method book purchases.

Contact Info: If you have any questions for me, please feel free to call the school, contact me via email, or stop by to say hello. I prefer contact via email because I read and answer school emails during planning time, in the evenings, and on weekends. I look forward to seeing you all at the performances!
Sincerely,

Andre V. Enceneat
Choral Director and General Music
Educator

Andre_V_Enceneat@mcpsmd.org

