

# GREENWOOD COMMUNIGATOR

Improving Communications Between School and Home

A Greenwood PTA Publication



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**Upcoming Events @ Greenwood**

- Monday-Friday - January 9-12, Greenwood Health Week
- Monday, January 16 – Holiday, Martin L. King, Jr. Day
- Tuesday, January 17 - 7:30pm, 4th Grade Choral Concert
- January 19, 2012 (Snow Date: January 24.) – 6:00 PM, Current Fifth Grade Special Education Parent Meeting (RPMS)
- January 19, 2012 (Snow Date: January 24.) – 7:00 PM, Current Fifth Grade Parent Meeting (RPMS)
- Friday, January 20 - 2nd marking period ends
- Monday, January 23 – No School, Professional day for teachers
- Friday, January 28 - 6pm-8pm Skate Night!

## CommuniGator Contacts

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

Principal Ms. Cheryl A. Bunyan 301.924.3145 <a href="mailto:Cheryl_A_Bunyan@Mcpsmd.org">Cheryl_A_Bunyan@Mcpsmd.org</a>	PTA President Judy Averbach <a href="mailto:president@greenwood-pta.org">president@greenwood-pta.org</a>	PTA Vice President Jamie Nazzaro, Jacqui Cannady <a href="mailto:vicepresident@greenwood-pta.org">vicepresident@greenwood-pta.org</a>
Treasurer Jenni Diamond <a href="mailto:treasurer@greenwood-pta.org">treasurer@greenwood-pta.org</a>	Secretary Sarah Petusky <a href="mailto:secretary@greenwood-pta.org">secretary@greenwood-pta.org</a>	CommuniGator Editor Jannavi Srinivasan <a href="mailto:communiGator@greenwood-pta.org">communiGator@greenwood-pta.org</a>

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*Request for Volunteers*



*We need several volunteers to help score Gator Raiders It is a weekly (or every other week) commitment on either Thursday afternoons OR Friday mornings and takes 30 to 45 minutes. We need several volunteers to help start the kindergarten classes and also need some to replace parents that can no longer score the weekly drills Please contact Karen Leventhal at [theleventhals@verizon.net](mailto:theleventhals@verizon.net) or 301-260-1406. Thanks for your help!*

.....  
*Looking for volunteers to help with the Greenwood Trout Group!*

*Students will be raising trout from eggs to fish in a tank in the cafeteria. The volunteers' responsibilities will be to oversee the students as they test the water daily for different chemicals. The total time is approximately 15 minutes a day. The time of day is flexible. If you could, please consider volunteering once a week, bi-weekly or monthly. Any time you give will be greatly appreciated.*

*If you are available and would like to help, please contact Amy Andre at 301-774-2857 or [amyandre@verizon.net](mailto:amyandre@verizon.net).*

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*Principal's News – January 2012*



**Greenwood Elementary...A SMART School**

*January 2012 Principal's News*

*Quote: Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right. ~Oprah Winfrey*

*Dear Greenwood Parents,*

On behalf of the staff at Greenwood, thanks once more 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, building candy houses and coming in regularly to volunteer in various ways. Thanks again!

Those of you who were here for the Special Presentation on Conflict Resolution for All Parents held during December 5 received lots of useful information on the topic and had the opportunity to consider whether what you may be hearing from your children is age appropriate conflict or in fact bullying behaviors. This is a critically important subject and one in which we should all remain engaged and seek continually to learn more and develop strategies in support of all of our youngsters. We continue to provide daily encouragement to our students to be the greatest Greenwood gators they can be and frequently share **think-about quotes** with them on GGTV for reflection. One such recent quote was: "Character is revealed by how you behave when you think no one is looking or when you think you won't get caught." You may also like to spark a conversation with your son or daughter by asking him or her what that quote means and how it can be used when faced with making tough behavior choices.

It was a pleasure to see so many of you in attendance at our December 19 fifth grade Choral and Instrumental Music concerts. The children did a great job and made us all proud!

As you may already be aware, this year, Greenwood is 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 is 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 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.

The TIC Club held its first meeting on Monday last with its 30 members in attendance. The club which comprises students in grade 4 and 5 is sponsored by Mrs. Toscano, Ms. Ricucci, Mrs. Guarino and Mrs.

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McDonald. If you haven't already done so, please visit <http://www.pptu.org/TIC.shtml> for more information on this exciting and educational program.

**Please note that our upcoming January Reading Curriculum Night has been rescheduled to February 29.** More information will be coming to you soon.

The winter weather has already set in and while we strongly believe that it is important for children to have outdoor play time everyday if possible, we will continue to make decisions about indoor versus outdoor recess on a day-to-day basis. When the children are able to go outdoors for recess, they should be prepared with their winter gear. To that end, please encourage them to dress appropriately and to bring all of their winter accessories to keep them protected from the elements when outdoors.

This is also the time of year when the number of calls to the office as well as the number of adults picking up children early, seems to increase dramatically. Please keep in mind that the office staff is able to successfully accommodate requests for sending messages to classrooms regarding departure arrangements as well as for calling students down to leave early when these requests are made **prior to 2:50 PM**. We are kindly requesting that you honor that time frame when contacting the school by telephone to change departure arrangements or requesting that students be called to the office for an early pick up. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

We look forward to seeing you at our fourth grade winter concert on Tuesday, January 17.

Best wishes for a happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan,  
Principal



Save the date...Bingo Night is in early February, 2012. Details to come in the next few weeks...



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PTA News - Judy Averbach, President, Greenwood PTA

January, 2012

Hello Greenwood Families,

With the new year upon us, I wanted to take a minute to thank you for your tireless commitment to Greenwood. I continue to be impressed with the many ways that you give of your time, talent and treasure. From getting folders together and supplies distributed during the early days of the school year, to grading Gator Raiders each week, to staffing the AR room, to laminating and copying, to planning and running craft nights, skate nights, bingo nights, and the Variety show, your efforts are tireless. It seems that in every aspect of school life, parent volunteers make an impact.

One of the places where this is most important is on the PTA Board. Comprised entirely of community members, the Board is the representative voice of Greenwood families. We fulfill an essential function for the school, working "behind the scenes" to connect students, parents, teachers and administrators. The Board has oversight of the PTA budget, which for the past two years has been approximately \$30,000. It is tremendously rewarding to be a part of the Board, and offers great insights into the school.

Several Board positions, including that of President will become vacant at the end of this school year. To that end, we are putting out the call now for Board members at all levels. There are even some positions open for this year. It is essential that these positions get filled this spring for next year - if they don't, we risk losing our PTA status and related programs and funding. While it seems a long way off, the reality is that we need to lay the groundwork now for the future.

We need you. Please let me, or any of the current members, know of your interest in joining the Board. We would love to welcome you to the team now to ensure a successful transition. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate. Thank you for your consideration and on behalf of the Board, we thank you so much for all that you do for Greenwood!

I look forward to seeing you at some of the many programs that we have planned during the upcoming months.

Best and thanks,

Judy Averbach

## News from the Art Room



Dear families,

At this point in the year each grade level's program branches out into a variety of art forms and media. We are drawing, painting, printing, composing, working with clay, and getting ready to build sculptures. Our learning is being enhanced by the use of our art room Elmo. We have an Elmo hooked up to a projector. This enables us to use small format images, found online and in books, and project them in a larger scale onto a screen. The kids benefit by getting closer looks at artwork. They are able to see more and understand better. Many thanks to Mrs. Bunyan for sending this technology our way, to Mrs. Speiden and Mr. Lukus for their help in setting it up for us!

Kindergarten students have been learning about printmaking. We have cut foam shapes and composed them on a cardboard format. We used our printing equipment to make multiple copies. To deepen our understanding of printmaking, we are having a second printing lesson. In this lesson we are imprinting a foam surface that we will make print copies of.

First Grade students are learning the art of cartography. They are making maps of islands for their 2.0 Culture Adventure project. We are making cartouches, sponge printing sea water complete with sea serpents and ocean vessels, directional signs, and an island. Their island will have what their Culture Adventure families will need.

Second Grade students have learned about stained glass windows, and are looking at a painting by Georges Roualt. Roualt originally

worked with stained glass. When he turned to painting, he endeavored to give his paintings the luminosity of stained glass. We are using translucent watercolors to make paintings that resemble stained glass windows.

Third Grade students are working on a watercolor painting. We discussed differences between watercolors and tempera paints as a way of enhancing our understanding of how to use this medium. Thematically, we discussed the history of horses in art. People dating back to the era of cave paintings have been fascinated with these animals, and have portrayed them in many ways. This lesson has two components; developing observational skills, and tapping into our creative capabilities.

Fourth Grade students are learning about a painting by Renoir called Luncheon of the Boating Party. This large painting is one of the most popular impressionist paintings in the D.C. Phillips Collection. We looked at how Renoir composed the groups of people in this painting. We are making a painting about ourselves with friends and family gathered at the table. We are composing figure groupings and we continue to work at our painting skills.

Fifth Grade students have concluded their first semester drawing unit, and are now working with clay. They are learning about ancient Japanese Jomon pottery. Jomon pots are purported to be the first known pottery, dating back to 14,000 B.C.E.! Considering the fact that the Jomon people were hunter-gatherers, it is amazing that their cookware was as highly decorated as they are. Students are revisiting their pinch pot and coil building skills for making Jomon pots.

Sincerely,

Ms. Newman



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# Physical Education News



For the month of January students will do a variety of gymnastics activities appropriate for each grade level.

Gymnastics provides a variety of individual experiences for students to master skills on the gymnastics mats, spring board, and climbing ropes.

Skills learned on the apparatus will contribute toward developing coordination, flexibility, neuromuscular control, muscular strength, agility and poise. Gymnastics skills help to enrich the student's concepts of time, space, force, self-confidence and concentration. In addition, during the gymnastics unit, the

The second and third graders will review the skills listed above and add shoulder rolls, turns, and the tripod. On the climbing ropes, students will learn the proper hand technique; perform skills using two ropes to promote muscular strength.

Fourth and fifth grade students will work on the skills above and complete cartwheels, round offs and frog stands. On the climbing ropes, the students will complete the "L" hang, skin the cat, and the inverted hang.

Please remind your child(ren) to wear or bring their sneakers on their regularly scheduled physical education day.

students will use and review many non-locomotor skills including bending, stretching, twisting, pushing, turning and pulling.

Students will learn the appropriate safety skills for each piece of equipment. In addition, students in grades 2- 5 will monitor their progress on skill acquisition in a gymnastics and safety log.

Some of the skills for kindergartners and first graders will be the egg roll, the bunny cartwheel, and forward rolls. On the climbing ropes students will learn the hand over hand and hand under hand techniques as they attempt to climb half way up the ropes.

Parent volunteers are welcome. No experience or prior notice is needed. Please come during your child's scheduled physical education time. If you are able to stay for a morning or afternoon, it would be truly appreciated. PLEASE e-mail me at

[Arlyn\\_M\\_Borst@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Arlyn_M_Borst@mcpsmd.org) if you can help.

Thanks ahead for your support



Mrs. Borst

**Reminder: Health Week is 1/9-1/13!**

The theme is "Health: It's All About Me." There will be a poster contest, lunchtime learning and a show from the Kaiser Permanente Educational Theater

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## **Notes from the Music Room**



Dear Greenwood Community,

This month will be a busy one! The fifth graders will start to prepare for their spring concert this month. We have much to do in order to improve on the Winter Concert performances that took place on December 19th.

The fourth graders will finally have their Winter Concert, scheduled for Tuesday, January 17th. The students and staff will watch the concert in the morning at 9:30, and the community will be able to view the concert at 7:30 pm that evening. The concert will last about 30 minutes and will only include music from the fourth grade chorus. Fourth graders will perform their instrumental music concert in the spring.

The third graders will start recorders at the end of the month. Letters will be going out to parents announcing the sale of recorders to students that do not have one, as well as the cost of the method book.

The second grade, first grade, and kindergarten students will continue learning and having fun in general music. The music teachers will work with the other specialists as well as the classroom teachers to help reinforce all of our respective curriculums through curriculum alignment called Curriculum 2.0. As part of the alignment, the students will learn about Martin Luther King, Jr. this month. They have all been taught a call and response song called Sing About Martin with we perform in class, and sometimes in the lunchroom.

I am in the process of starting a website just for Greenwood Music information. I hope to have the site up and running in a few weeks. As usual, I can be reached for questions via email or by phone. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the music program.

Thank you for your support!

Andre Enceneat  
Email: [andre\\_v\\_enceneat@mcpsmd.org](mailto:andre_v_enceneat@mcpsmd.org)  
Phone: (301) 924-3145

**News from the Health Room**  
**We will be doing Hearing and Vision screening in February**



This is what students have been learning and experiencing in Mrs' Lorei's and Mrs. Notaro's music class for the month of December:

Mrs. Lorei's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade:

Students have been singing songs related to the Winter Season. We have been learning more about form in music. .

Mrs. Notaro's 1<sup>st</sup> grade class:

We have also been learning about quarter notes and eighth notes (ta and ti ti notes). Students created their own rhythmic composition using the eighth and quarter notes. Students shared their compositions with the class.

Musically Yours,

Ms. Gesumaria



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Skate Night will be on 1/28/12. More information will come home via Backpack Express!

