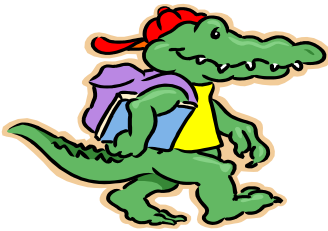


OCTOBER 2011

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



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Upcoming Events @ Greenwood

- ✚ **Wednesday, October 05**
Walk to School Day
- ✚ **Monday, October 10**
Bring your Parent to School Day
- ✚ **Wednesday, October 17**
7:00pm – Math Curriculum Night
- ✚ **Friday, October 21**
No School – MSTA Convention
- ✚ **Friday, October 28**
Halloween Party, End of 1st Marking Period
- ✚ **Monday, October 31**



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PTA News

Dear Greenwood Friends and Families,

It is hard to believe that it is already October, with plans seeming to turn on a dime from swim meets and camp to Halloween, the Variety Show, the canned food drive, and the many other activities that keep our children (and us) connected to Greenwood. As PTA President I get to see Greenwood “behind the scenes”– a unique perspective for sure. One thing that stands out is the sheer impact that our volunteers play in enhancing the curricular and co-curricular programs. While one parent helping in a classroom for an hour a day doesn’t sound like much, multiply it by 20+ classrooms, spread out lots more parents helping throughout the day every day of the week, and suddenly we are looking at a significant number of volunteer hours.

A meaningful difference, that’s what Greenwood parents make. I learned recently that Catherine Akers has now recruited room parent for every class! A big thank-you goes out to Catherine and all the parent volunteers.

Last year Greenwood volunteers provided more than 8,000 service hours. According to the Independent Sector, “The estimated dollar value of volunteer time for 2010 is \$21.36 per hour.” For Greenwood, that is more than \$168,000 worth of time! While the rates are not yet out for 2011, rest assured that your volunteer time is worth a significant amount to the teachers you help.

Membership in the PTA is higher now than it was last year. That is fantastic. By joining the PTA, you get to advocate for your children and be part of something much bigger. If you have not yet joined the PTA, please join. It is good for the school and it is good for your children.

Amidst the business of our days, I also ask that you please remember a few things:

- Please follow Greenwood’s “[right-turn-only](#)” drop-off and pick-up procedures to keep our kids safe
- Sign up to help at any of the upcoming events
- Plan on stopping by the open house on Columbus Day

Thanks for all that you do for Greenwood!

Best and thanks,
Judy Averbach
PTA President

Thank you for Volunteering at Greenwood

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Principal's News - October 2011



Greenwood Elementary ...A SMART School



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Quote: There are two lasting bequests we can give our children.
One is roots. The other is wings. ~ Hodding Carter, Jr.

Dear Greenwood Parents,

On behalf of the staff, I thank you for everything you are doing in support of teaching and learning at Greenwood and for all of the extra help we are receiving due to the many of you who have heeded the call to volunteer despite your own very hectic schedules.

Please note that visitors to the building need to use the main entrance door to enter and leave the building. A new security camera system has been installed at our front door by the school system. If the door is locked please buzz and the office staff will let you in during business hours. Visitors must sign in and out at the front office. Parents who are picking up students at Brooke Grove day care center should use the cafeteria doors for that purpose.

On Monday, November 21, Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a "Listen and Learn" event from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. at Sherwood High School, 300 Olney-Sandy Spring Road, Sandy Spring. This event is an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Dr. Starr and to offer their views and perspectives on what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. Dr. Starr has a keen interest in hearing directly from parents as he sets his priorities for the school system. This is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about his educational philosophy and leadership style. I encourage all of you to attend the upcoming "Listen and Learn" event at Sherwood High School. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided. If you are not able to attend the event on November 21, Dr. Starr is holding other "Listen and Learn" events during the months of October and November. Times and locations are available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

The importance of a strong home-school partnership cannot be overstated. At Greenwood, we are indeed fortunate to have a high rate of parent participation already and given the importance of home school partnerships, it is an area that we always should strive to make even stronger. Your participation in school events such as our recent open houses and parent orientation evenings is but one indicator of the premium you place on your child's education and sets the stage for increasing broader, more comprehensive and meaningful home school connections that best meet the needs of all. Your rate of participation is especially impressive and appreciated in light of the fact that lack of parent involvement is said to be the biggest problem that is currently facing our nation's public schools. We are clearly in that fortunate 14 percent of schools that have a high degree of parent involvement already. Let's work to build on that excellent base. Decades of research show that when parents are involved at all levels, students have:

- Higher grades, test scores, and graduation rates
- Better school attendance
- Increased motivation, better self-esteem
- Lower rates of suspension
- Decreased use of drugs and alcohol
- Fewer instances of misbehavior

In addition, education research indicates that family participation in education is twice as predictive of students' academic success as family socio-economic status. Types of involvement that prove to be most beneficial include home learning activities

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that provide opportunities for parents to teach, model, and guide their children in authentic, real world hands-on experiences. To that end, I encourage you to read with your children, have books available, take family trips, guide TV watching/internet use, and provide a range of stimulating experiences, as these contribute to student achievement. The events you recently attended at Greenwood should have provided you with information that includes curriculum standards, scope and sequence specific to your child's grade level, learning objectives, methods of assessment, school programs, rights and responsibilities of MCPS students, and ways that student progress will be assessed and communicated. Additional information will be shared on an ongoing basis throughout the school year via newsletters, web resources, parent-teacher conferences, open houses, Greenwood's website, e-mail, and voice mail. Your ongoing involvement in your child's education is of paramount importance to the attainment of our common goals. I hope that you have already signed up to volunteer this school year. We have a myriad of ways in which you can support learning of Greenwood children in many important ways. You may volunteer as tutors, classroom helpers, volunteer for field trips, help in the cafeteria, in the media center, in the computer lab, and on the playground at recess, in the health room, or in the front office. You can also help to organize school events and assemblies and attend student performances and other school related events such as the ones that are being held in October:

Upcoming October Events

Open house parent visitation day and Curriculum Presentations

Monday, October 10 from 8:45 to lunch (time varies based on your child's grade). There will be

presentations on Elementary Integrated Curriculum (EIC) and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) implementation: at 10: 00 and 10:45 AM respectively.

School Improvement Team Meeting

Wednesday, October 12. Media Center 3:30 to 4:30 PM. All Parents are welcome. Please contact Mrs. Hagler in the Main office for more information.

Understanding the Maryland School Assessment (MSA)

Wednesday, October 12, 7:00-8:30pm. The MSA is a test of reading, math, and science achievement required by the state of Maryland taken by all students in Grades 3-8. Learn how you can help your child prepare for this important test. Rosa M. Parks, 19200 Olney Mill Road, Olney 20832A is a test of reading, math, and science achievement required by the state of

Math Curriculum Night

Wednesday, October 19 is Math Curriculum night. Look shortly for a flyer inviting you to this fun-filled interactive and educational evening. This informative and fun-filled evening is being planned for both parents and children to attend. Students will be able to accumulate points and go "shopping" at the end of the evening. The PTA has generously agreed to underwrite the cost of the evening's shopping items.

Halloween Parade and Parties

Friday October 28. Parade is at 1:45 PM followed by parties in various locations throughout the building.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan,
Principal

A big thank you to Tammy Paidas for all the planning that went into this year's Movie on the Hill.





NOTES FROM THE ART ROOM

Dear families,

We are off to a really great year in the art room! Our current lessons see us making keen observations of the natural and constructed world around us.

We are looking, thinking, and discussing. We are drawing, shading and building.

The Art Room needs donations of clean newspapers. We use them daily to cover our tables, and my supply is not keeping up with our need. We would greatly appreciate it if you can send your child to school with a bag of used papers. Thanks very much!

Special thanks to Mrs. Borst who donates clean T-shirts for the kids to wear as art room smocks. We all really appreciate your ongoing generosity!

Kindergarteners are thinking about relative proportions in a lesson on drawing their family members. These drawings show who in the family is taller and who is shorter. The Elementary Integrated Curriculum calls for lessons on line quality. We used longer lines for the tall people, and shorter lines for the younger members of our families. To further work with line quality,

we will be making collages in which some lines and shapes are curved, and others are straight.

The Elementary Integrated Curriculum stipulates that first graders learn the difference between organic and geometric shapes. We did this in our architecture lesson. We looked at a statehouse building and discussed the many geometric shapes of the columns, doors, windows, gable, and sidewalk. We gathered our drawing equipment and went to the front of our school to make drawings of the many geometric shapes that are part of our school's facade. We will be learning about Spanish architect Antonio Gaudi's wonderfully decorative buildings, and we will construct towers. To implement this lesson will require donations of paper towel tubes. Please send in your cleaned paper towel tubes to the art room. Many thanks!

We also went outdoors to look at the organic shapes of nature. The Elementary Integrated Curriculum requires second grade students to learn about organic shapes. We took second graders outdoors to observe nature shapes and the linear qualities of trees. We drew them. The following week we began to form armatures for tree sculptures, which we then covered with a durable sculpting material called Pariscraft. We combined observation, memory, and imagination in the final stages of these sculptures.

Third graders learned about properties of crayons and watercolors when we made crayon-resist drawings that relied on our memories of summertime. It is important for students to understand the nature of the materials they use. In this lesson we learned that thick layers of colored wax (crayons) cannot be covered by watercolor paints.

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Wax and water do not mix. We observed the features of our faces making exaggerated expressions, for self-portraits. We learned about Leonardo da Vinci. After that lesson we learned about caricature, which will become the basis of our three-dimensional masks.

Fourth graders have been introduced to the mathematical concept of proportion as it applies to portraiture. We had many definitions of proportion, including measurements and parts of a whole. We observed that when the eyes are placed proportionally correct in relation to the head, there is ample room for all of the other facial features. We discussed the shapes of our facial features, and used mirrors to observe them. We thoughtfully layered colored pencils to match the colors of our skin, eyes, and hair. We learned about a great sculptor named Michelangelo.

Fifth graders learned how Rembrandt used chiaroscuro (shading) to render three-dimensional features and to dramatize the lighted areas of his portrait paintings.

We had a scientific discussion of how light falls on forms, and we observed the shadowed parts of our facial features. We used shading (chiaroscuro) to make our self-portraits look three-dimensional, and to add contrast in our backgrounds.

Sincerely,

Ms. Newman



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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NOTES FROM THE P.E. ROOM

Dear Parents and Guardians,

During October, Kindergartners will work on responding appropriately to a variety of auditory signals and following simple directions. These students will work on locomotor skills such as galloping, skipping, jumping, and hopping. The concept of "self space" will be introduced throughout the lessons.

First grade students will record their personal data in fitness logs. Each week they will jog and jump rope for sixty seconds. Physical activities will include the concepts of routines and procedures. Also the understanding of self and general space, along with personal responsibility, will be integrated in the lessons.

Second graders will record their personal data in fitness logs. The goal for the first quarter is seventy seconds of activity. The concept of "pacing" will be reinforced. Activities will integrate locomotor skills using a variety of pathways (straight, circular, zigzag) and learn/reinforce right and left directional skills. Students will learn basic soccer dribbling skills.

Third grade students will learn a variety

of soccer dribbling skills. Students will concentrate on ball control. Other skills will include passing and offensive strategies. These students will record their personal data for jogging and jumping rope for seventy seconds in their fitness logs.

Fourth grade students will learn/review a variety of soccer dribbling skills. They will continue to learn proper passing techniques along with goal shooting. Students will learn offensive and defensive strategies. The goal of this unit is to integrate soccer skills in a game-like situation. Each week these students will record their personal data in fitness logs. They will use a bar-and-line graph to demonstrate their individual progress. In addition, quarterly goals were set for outside the student school day.

Fifth grade students will learn the give-and-go drill. This activity integrates dribbling, passing, and goal shooting while in continuous motion. The goal for this unit is to demonstrate soccer skills in a game-like situation. Each week these students will record their personal data in a fitness log. In addition they will use a bar-and-line graph to symbolize their personal numerical recordings. Students set quarterly activity goals for outside of the school day.



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Notes from the Music Room

Both of my music classes (Ms. Lorie's 2nd grade and Ms. Notaro's 1st grade) have had a fantastic start! The students are so excited to be a part of music class. The following is just a peek into what we are doing in music class.

In Ms. Lorie's 2nd grade class, students have been singing many different songs and experiencing and learning about music concepts. We have been singing students' names as well as singing and dancing to "Check It Out," "Dance, Dance, Dance" and others. We have learned about contrasting and repeating sections in music. We are learning how to sing songs and tonal patterns in tune. Students have also created their own movements to many different kinds of music. All in all, we have been very busy in music class!

Please take a moment and ask your child to sing one of the many songs that we have been singing in class. I know you will be impressed as your child builds more confidence in his or her singing abilities!

In Ms. Notaro's 1st grade music class, students have been having a lot of fun while learning about music. We sang a song called "Willum." Students experienced music moving high and low in the song while moving their bodies as we sang the song. We created sounds of animals in the "Frog Song." Everyone seemed to love the story that corresponded to the song. We also emphasized steady beats while marching and singing to "The Ants Go Marching." We used instruments in the song, too.

Students have been learning how to play instruments correctly while learning about soft and loud concepts.

Please take a moment and ask your children to sing one of the many songs that we have sung in music class this past month. I know you will be thrilled to hear how sweet and adorable their voices sound.

Musically Yours,

Ms. Gesumaria

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Notes from the Music Room

Hello Greenwood Community!

Here is your October update from Mr. Enceneat:

Music Field Trips

The 5th graders will be attending a concert at Strathmore on Thursday October 13th, departing from Greenwood at 9:30 am. The 2nd graders will be attending a concert at Strathmore the following month on November 17th, also departing at 9:30 am. Both groups are scheduled to return by 12:30 pm. Letters will be sent out shortly for the October 13th concert, and at the end of October for the November 17th concert.

Winter Concerts

The music program at Greenwood has gotten off to a strong start. The 4th and 5th grade choruses are already preparing for their winter concerts. The concerts are scheduled to be held in December 14th and 19th, respectively. Both concerts will start at 7:00 pm and as of right now, they will be held here at Greenwood in the all-purpose room.

General Music

Your children are singing, dancing, clapping, marching, and just enjoying their time in music. It has been a pleasure getting to know all 500-plus students here. They are very talented, and very eager to learn. Kudos to you, parents!

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

A hearty thanks to Ms. Bunyan and Judy Averbach for all the planning and organizing of the Back-to-School picnic! We appreciate their efforts made to keep the picnic on inspite of the rain!

