

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



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Upcoming Events @ Greenwood

- Monday, September 05**
Holiday - Labor Day
- Wednesday, September 07**
7:00-8:30pm - PTA Meeting & Back to School Night - Grades 1 & 2
- Tuesday, September 13**
7:00-8:30pm - PTA Meeting & Back to School Night - Grades 3, 4 & 5
- Friday, September 23**
5:30pm - PTA Back-to-School Picnic and Movie night
- Friday, September 23**
9:00-6:00pm - Greenwood Bookfair, Family Night!
- Monday-Wednesday, September 26-28**
9:00-6:00pm - Greenwood Bookfair
- Friday, September 30, 9am-4pm**
9:00-4:00pm - Greenwood Bookfair



SEPTEMBER 2011

PTA News and Updates

Volunteers Make Our School Go 'Round

Happy 2011-12 school year! Whether you're brand-new to our school or a seasoned Greenwood Gator, we have one message for you: You are welcome here.

Greenwood is known for its fantastic community of parent volunteers. Our PTA is known for its creative, diverse programming. If you'd like to get involved in any of the activities we plan and sponsor throughout the year, we offer a couple of ways to plug in quickly.

First, please fill out the blue PTA volunteer form included in your Back-To-School packet. This form highlights all the great programs that occur throughout the year. Simply check those that appeal to you. Your name will then be sent to committee chairs who will contact you as they begin planning their many activities.

Second, please join our Yahoo group. Volunteer opportunities are posted many times throughout the year on this listserv. As

a member, you'll be among the first to hear of them. Simply go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwoodpta/>

Click on "Join This Group" (found in the upper right hand side). You can also send an email to andreabkelly@comcast.net and ask to join.

If throughout the year you have any questions about volunteering, please contact one of our PTA's volunteer coordinators:

Amy Andre, amyandre@verizon.net, is responsible for staffing ongoing PTA programs.

Renee McNevin, srmcnevin@gmail.com, staffs one-time volunteer opportunities.

Susan Donsky, donskymom@verizon.net, maintains the PTA volunteer database and keeps track of parent volunteer hours for the county.

Again, welcome to Greenwood and another new school year. We can't wait to meet you and help you get involved in our school.



SEPTEMBER 2011

Why do we ask you to track Volunteer Hours?

- Susan Donsky, Volunteer Committee

Every month, Greenwood's PTA asks parents to send in an estimate of how many hours they volunteered for the school, either onsite or at home. But you may not know why we do that!

Here's the reason:

Montgomery County Public Schools requires all schools in its system to keep track of parent volunteer hours. This is to help ensure that schools are welcoming to parents and are truly engaging them as partners in their children's education. At the end of each year, awards are given to the schools with the most parental involvement. For two of the past three years, Greenwood has ranked among the top three elementary schools in the amount of time our parents devote to our school!

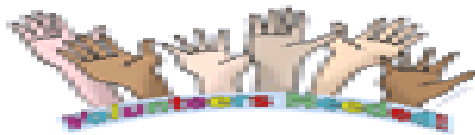
I tally volunteer hours each month and submit them to the county. Hours are submitted anonymously and as an aggregate. In other words, we report only the number of parent volunteers we had for a particular month and the total number of volunteer hours for that month.



Reporting your hours is easy. Simply log in your time in the white volunteer book, which sits on the small table beside the loveseat in the office. You can also email your hours to me (donskymom@verizon.net) at any time during the month.

Do you have to report your hours? Absolutely not! But it's one of the tools both MCPS and Greenwood use to assess how well our staff and our school are doing in engaging the parent community, and it helps illustrate what a welcoming school we have.

Remember, anything you do for Greenwood—volunteering in the classroom, helping with a PTA program, attending a PTA meeting, chaperoning a field trip, shopping for a Halloween or Valentine's party—counts as parent volunteer time. You work hard for our school! Thanks for everything you do to make Greenwood outstanding!



SEPTEMBER 2011

TEN GOOD REASONS TO BECOME A MEDIA CENTER VOLUNTEER

1. Your child will love it.
2. Your child will think you're the coolest.
3. Your library can meet its goal of open, accessible checkout.
4. Your media specialist and media assistant will love you for it.
5. You get to see all the cool new book titles when they arrive.
6. You get to check out books for yourself and your family.
7. You become a partner in your child's love for reading.

8. You see how technology is used to enhance learning.

9. You make new friends (younger and older).

10. You make a difference in many children's lives.

Your child will thank you for it ... if not we'll thank you!!

Interested?

Contact the GREENWOOD LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER

Elisa Wrenn - Media Specialist

Laurie Speiden - Media Assistant



MCPS Curriculum 2.0

The new curriculum is built around developing students' critical and creative thinking skills, as well as essential academic success skills, so that students are well prepared for a lifetime of learning. We are upgrading the existing MCPS curriculum for the elementary grades in a way that will engage students and teachers better, and dedicate more learning time to subjects such as the arts, information literacy, science, social studies, and physical education. By blending these subjects with the core content areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, students will receive robust, engaging instruction across all subjects in the early grades—in short, we are building a stronger foundation at the elementary level.

To learn more, go to www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0/

SEPTEMBER 2011

Principal's News - September 2011



Greenwood Elementary ... A SMART School

Learning is a treasure that will follow its owner everywhere.

~Chinese Proverb

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to let you know that the new school year is off to an excellent start! I am confident that this is in no small measure due to the teamwork and collaboration of parents, staff and students. We were again recognized by MCPS Family Partnerships in the 2010-2011 school year for having more than 8,000 parent volunteers hours and want to thank you for your selfless efforts that led to this honor.

This teamwork also reinforces a belief commonly held by many associated with our school that Greenwood Elementary is an excellent place for children to develop and learn. I encourage you to visit us as often as your schedule permits! At Greenwood, we take pride in the sense of cooperation and resolve to make every child a success at our school, and on behalf of everyone here I want to thank for entrusting your children's education and well being to us this year. We are looking forward to another exceptional year of teaching and learning!

It was a pleasure to see so many kindergarten and parents of new students in grades 1 to 5 at their back-to-school night last Thursday. We look forward to seeing many more of you at the upcoming back-to-school nights: grades one and two will be on September 7 and grades three, four and five will be on September 13. Both nights will run from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. Please also mark your calendars for the parent visitation Open House on October 10 and our parent/child math curriculum evening which will be held on October 19 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Our upcoming school improvement plan (SIP) meeting is on October 12 from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the school's Media Center. If you would like to learn more or participate as a member of our SIP team which meets five times this school year, please call or e-mail Ms. Hagler, my Administrative Secretary, for more information. Our 2011-2012 SIP has three overarching goals: Climate, Literacy, and Math. At each grade level, the staff has written action plans to support the achievement of our SIP.

See you at Back-to School Nights and at the PTA Back-to-School Picnic and Movie night on September 23!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan
Principal
Greenwood Elementary School

SEPTEMBER 2011



NOTES FROM THE ART ROOM

Dear families,

Welcome back to what promises to be a great year of Art lessons at Greenwood. This summer I visited one of the world's great museums, the Prado in Madrid, Spain. Looking at works by art-history's luminaries inspired a host of lessons and topics that will be of interest to our youngsters here at Greenwood. It's always amazing to find that human concerns have not changed greatly over time and great distances. I look forward to sharing my insights

with our students. Please remember to send your child to school with an old shirt to wear as a smock, to protect his or her clothing from the materials we use in our art lessons. And please write your child's name clearly on the front of the smock. Thank you.

If you have any extra beads, sequins, feathers, buttons, pipe cleaners, or similar materials that are looking for a new home and use, they are welcome here. We accept donations that can be used to enrich our art lessons.

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.

Principal Ms. Cheryl A. Bunyan 301.924.3145 Cheryl_A_Bunyan@Mcpsmd.org	PTA President Judy Averbach president@greenwood-pta.org	PTA Vice President Jamie Nazzaro vicepresident@greenwood-pta.org
Treasurer Jenni Diamond treasurer@greenwood-pta.org	Secretary Sarah Petusky secretary@greenwood-pta.org	CommuniGator Editor Jannavi Srinivasan Jannavi@gmail.com

NOTES FROM THE P.E. ROOM



Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to a new school year. I will be here every day except Friday. Ms. Roth will teach here on Friday mornings.

All students will need to wear sneakers and socks to class. PLEASE remind them because they only see us once a week. If they forget, they will miss out on that week's activity. Students are encouraged to wear clothing that is comfortable for physical activity. In inclement weather, when boots are necessary, students can bring their sneakers in their backpacks.

The first month of school, I will discuss the five learning skills and stress class safety and sportsmanship. In addition to my verbal presentation, there will be ample games and activities to reinforce these concepts.

In class (except for kindergarten) each student will have a fitness log and record his or her number of laps jogged and number of jumps with an individual jump rope in a given time period. Most weeks there will be an assessment and students are graded between one and four points. There will be a written rubric describing what skills they will need to demonstrate.

To earn the highest grade of four, students must demonstrate automaticity. At the assessment time the student demonstrates the highest level of a given skill without additional verbal cues or hints after the instructional and practice time. To earn a three, the student must show mastery after getting additional cues during the assessment session.

In grades 1 and 2, most of the games and activities will be oriented toward skill development of individual and team sports.

As the student's progress to grades 3 through 5, the instructional part is oriented more toward complex skill development. Depending on a given team sport, there may be a competitive part of the unit. In addition, they will be setting short- and long-term goals in their fitness logs.

Thanks in advance for your support.

Below is the schedule for this school year:

Monday: Notaro, Greenstein, Day, Bulcavage, Robinson

Tuesday: Hunt, Wisnieski, Abel, Percy, Brosious

Wednesday: Mankulish, Ricucci, McDonald, Kiser, Cox

Thursday: Fischer, Seeley, Mencia, McCaskill, Van Eyk

Friday: Caretti, Krantz, Lorei

Arlyn Borst
Physical Education Teacher

SEPTEMBER 2011

Notes from the Music Room



Dear Parents,

I am thrilled and excited to be a part of Greenwood Elementary School community.

I will be teaching two classes at Greenwood this year. I will be teaching music to Ms.

Lorei's 2nd grade class, and to Ms. Notaro's 1st grade class.

I am looking forward to meeting the students and teaching them music!

Musically Yours,

Ms. Barbara Gesumaria

Music Teacher



Dear Parents, Students, and Greenwood Community,

My name is Andre Enceneat, and I will be the new choral and general music teacher at Greenwood Elementary. I come to you directly from the middle school ranks, but I have seven years of experience at the elementary school level at schools like Fallsmead, Ronald McNair, and College Gardens. The students will have me for one period a week for general music, and they should expect a full period of fun and learning. The 5th and 4th graders will meet with me on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, respectively, for chorus. I have started preparing them for the Winter Concert, which I hope to schedule *before* the Winter Break. The concert will include holiday music, but my plan is to have the concert be as culturally diverse as possible.

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If you have any questions for me, please feel free to call the school, contact me via e-mail, or stop by to say hi. I am looking forward to working with the students at Greenwood this year.

Respectfully,

Andre V Enceneat, Choral Director and General Music Educator

Greenwood Elementary School and Weller Road Elementary School

Andre_V_Enceneat@mcpsmd.org

