

COMMUNICATOR

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

A Greenwood PTA Publication



Dear Greenwood Families, Teachers, and Staff,

Summer is coming to an end and we are all trying to squeeze in the last family outing and pool party. I hope this summer you had the opportunity to make some lasting family memories. As we are preparing for back to school, I wanted to share a few important dates and remind you of the resources that are available.

If you have a Kindergartener or are a new parent to Greenwood this year, please mark your calendar for **Thursday, August 27th**. That evening is our KINDERGARTEN and NEW PARENT ORIENTATION. Make plans to have someone watch your children. This event is for parents and guardians only.

Friday, August 28th is the GREENWOOD OPEN HOUSE from 9:00 am-10:00 am. This is a chance for your children to find their classroom and meet their new teachers. **Monday, August 31st** is the FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL. Be prepared for lots of paperwork arriving home that week! The following Monday is **Labor Day** with no school. On **Friday, September 25th** starting at 6:00pm, we will hold our BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC on the Greenwood Playground. This year we will be featuring a movie and BBQ! Plan to come and have a fun evening catching up with old friends and make some new!

BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT for the parents and guardians of children in 1st and 2nd grade will be held on **Thursday, September 10th**; for children entering 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade will be on **Tuesday, September 15th**. Both nights begin at 7:00 pm. Again, these evening are for parents only so they can learn about what their child's teacher has planned. On those nights we will also hold our first PTA meetings of the year with lots of important information on county-wide issues, upcoming events, and volunteer opportunities.

If you would like more information about our school or PTA, please check out our website at www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/greenwoodes. It is a pleasure to serve you. Please join me as we begin a new adventure with our children in this 2009 - 2010 School Year! Feel free to contact me if you have question or concerns.

Tina Velazquez
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Important Dates

August 27

7:00-8:00 pm
Kindergarten and New Parent Orientations

August 28

9:00-10:00 am
Student Open House

August 31

First Day of School

September 7

NO SCHOOL
Labor Day

September 10

Back To School Night
1st and 2nd Grade
7:00pm

September 15

Back To School Night
3rd, 4th, and 5th Grade
7:00pm

September 25

Back To School Night
Picnic, Movie, and BBQ
6:00pm

September 28

NO SCHOOL
Yom Kipper

September 29

Book Fair Begins

Remember to order Sally Foster wrapping paper and gifts. Go to:

www.sallyfoster.com

Group/Account # 0499000

Misplaced you supply lists and did not pre-order? Go to:

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

Calling All Parents!

By Susan Donsky, Volunteer Committee

When my oldest son began a pre-kindergarten program several years ago in Tampa, Fla., I attended the first PTA meeting and never went back.

No one was “mean” to me or told me to go home. It was just a feeling I got from the overall vibe of the place: “This is a club, and our membership is closed.”

What a contrast when we moved to Maryland, and our children began attending Greenwood. Here, the door is always open. Not only does PTA want you ... PTA *is* you.

PTA throughout the year sponsors an amazing number of family programs and activities. It raises money for school enhancements. It supports our teachers and most importantly, our children.

But PTA isn't one or two officers; it isn't an executive board. If we're going to succeed, we need volunteers. **We need you!**

On Aug. 28, your child will bring home a back-to-school folder with a Blue Volunteer Form inside. This form lists many of Greenwood's volunteer opportunities throughout the year. Look it over, and sign up for anything and everything that sparks an interest. You aren't committing yourself; rather, your name will simply be passed on to the appropriate committee heads. They'll contact you when planning their activities to see if you're still interested and/or available to help. We'll also have Volunteer Forms available on Kindergarten and New Parent Orientation Night Aug. 27 and people available to answer any of your volunteer questions.

Volunteers are crucial – to both Greenwood and the Montgomery County School System. In fact, they're so crucial that the county asks us to tell it monthly how many volunteers Greenwood had and how many hours they worked. Please keep track of any time you put into Greenwood, be it for a PTA program, for your classroom teacher, or for Greenwood's staff. The county uses this information to assess how well Greenwood is meeting the system-wide mandate of making parents partners in their children's education.

Susan Donsky is responsible for inputting data from your Blue Volunteer Form as well as tracking and sending your logged hours to the county each month. If there's a committee you want to work on, be sure to complete your form and get it to her as early as possible.

Amy Andre is responsible for staffing all miscellaneous jobs for the year. Teachers often request volunteers for special projects that require a one-time commitment. Please check the one-time opportunities box on your form.

Stephanie Sebeck oversees the various committees that fall under the Volunteer Coordinator umbrella. She also works with the school on implementing new programs.

Last year, Greenwood parents logged almost 10,000 volunteer hours, making our school – and our PTA – one of the top in the county for parental involvement. With your help, we can have another banner year!

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SUBSCRIBE NOW!

[groups.yahoo.com/
groups/greenwoodpta](http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/greenwoodpta)

PTA yahoo group contains only PTA materials. It allows you to access and download the calendar, flyers, and the monthly newsletter. *Volunteer opportunities are regularly advertised as well as SSLH for older children.* Automatic emails updates and access to other yahoo members is also included.

Volunteers are the only human beings on the face of the earth who reflect this nation's compassion, unselfish, caring, patience, and just plain love for one another.

-Erma Bombeck

Greenwood



Kindergarten and New Parent Orientation

Greenwood Elementary School

Thursday, August 27, 2008

7:00 – 8:00 pm * All Purpose Room

Welcome to a very special night designed just for Parents - *children will have an opportunity to meet their teachers at the Open House on Friday, August 28th from 9:00 - 10:00 am*



Parents who are new to Greenwood will:

- *Meet our staff
- *Learn about the PTA and various school programs
- *Meet other parents
- *Take a tour of the school

In addition, Kindergarten parents will:

- *Meet with Kindergarten teachers
- *See the classrooms
- *Receive information and material vital to their child's first few days of school

All Kindergarten and New Greenwood Parents are urged to attend!

We hope you can join us! It is also a great opportunity to join the PTA!

Any questions or for more information please contact Terri O'Connell at toconnell2525@yahoo.com or 301.260.0110 for more information.