



October 2009

Dear Greenwood Families, Teachers, and Staff,



My head is still spinning from all the action that has been going on at Greenwood! The Back to School nights were a hit, and the all purpose room was packed with families all three nights. This is just one example how Greenwood Families make their children's future their number one priority. It was a treat to work with our PTA Board in preparing for the event, and especially Tammy King in preparing the surprise birthday gifts to GGTV and Mrs. Bush for filming and recording equipment. Thank you Tammy! This equipment will be an asset for our children's education.

Another big WOW was the BTSN Picnic/Movie on the Hill/Opening Book Fair Night!! There was something for everyone...whether you were visiting with friends, dancing in front of the movie screen, or stocking up on some great books...the whole evening was a great success! Thank you Tammy King and Tammy Paidas for organizing such a fun family evening. Thank you Dan and Sandy Prudenti for putting together such an amazing Book Fair. You've got to check it out!

October 6th at 7:30 pm will be our General PTA Meeting in the Media Center, followed by our Volunteer Training meeting. Our Volunteer committee works hard in polishing the best practices in working with the teachers at Greenwood. Please plan to join us for an informative evening. Child care will be provided.

The first of a three-part series of Special Curriculum Events will be Wednesday, October 14th at 7:00 pm featuring, the Reading Curriculum. This evening is for the whole family to enjoy. Bring your favorite Teddy Bears so you can snuggle and read to them.



Towards the end of the month when everyone is ready for their Halloween traditions...the PTA would like to remind children about good safety practices. The PTA is sponsoring an assembly on

October 29th at 9:15 am for k-1st, and 10:00am for 2nd and 3rd. Featuring, "Otto the Auto" in collaboration with AAA and Montgomery Police Department. This Safety assembly will focus on riding in a car, crossing the street, riding a bicycle and other safety skills.

The Halloween Parade will be October 30th starting at 1:35 pm, followed by class parties. Please work with your child's teacher and room parent to make this an enjoyable afternoon for all. Please contact your child's room parent for more information.

As always, it is a pleasure to serve you.

Warm regards,
 Tina Velazquez
 Greenwood PTA President, trvelazquez@yahoo.com



Boo!

Important Dates

Oct 1st 5th Grade Entertainment Books

Oct 1st & 2nd Book Fair

Oct 2nd - Early Release K-12

Oct 2nd - Sally Foster Orders Due

Oct 2nd & 9th Club Fridays Grades 3, 4 & 5

Oct 5th - Flu Mist Administered

Oct 6th -7:30 PTA Meeting

Oct 16th - No School, MSTA Convention

Oct 29th - 5th Grade Parent Meeting

Oct 29th - "Otto the Auto" Assembly

Oct 30th - Halloween Parade & Classroom Parties



Greenwood ElementaryA SMART School

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan, Principal

October, 2009

Dear Parents,

Our recent back-to-school nights were very well attended and it was a pleasure to visit with so many of you at that time. The highlight of the third, fourth, and fifth grade back-to-school night was the gifts presented to mark the first birthday of our very own GGTV Channel 37. We received an impressive array of gifts from our wish list for the studio and are now working to make our student-run morning show the best in MCPS! Thanks to the PTA and especially to Mrs. Tammy King and Mrs. Tina Velazquez for all that they did behind the scenes to pull off such a wonderful surprise!

Coming up in October will be a special Reading Curriculum Evening for parents and students. Please look for a flyer being sent home with all of the details on October 2. We encourage all families to attend as this is going to be a fun-filled educational evening for you and your children. We ask everyone to RSVP when you receive the flyer so that we can have an accurate head count and prepare effectively for the evening.

The George B. Thomas Saturday School will soon be in session! Parents must register in person at the Learning Academy Center which is housed at Sherwood High School. At the time of registration, parents must provide: \$30 registration fee per student and their child's most recent report card. All students and their parents are required to attend the Orientation Session on October 3.

Please also mark your calendars for our next School Improvement Plan meeting which will be on October 14th from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the Media Center. We will be reviewing an updated copy of our school improvement plan (SIP) which 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. If you would like to learn more or participate as a member of our School Improvement Plan team, which meets four additional times this school year, please call or e-mail Ms. Hagler, my Administrative Secretary, for more information.

As you are no doubt aware, Public health officials are concerned that in the fall the H1N1 flu virus might cause more serious illness than it did this spring. All schools are developing plans in case they have to close for some period of time and, if they do, for ways to continue teaching and learning. The school system will use a variety of communications methods to keep families informed. To be sure that families receive messages about possible changes in school operations, it is very important that you provide the school with your most up-to-date contact information, including telephone number(s) and email address, and let the school know right away if any of that information changes. MCPS will be guided by health officials in decisions related to H1N1 flu. I will distribute new information about the flu and school operations to families as it becomes available. Up-to-date information will also be posted to the MCPS web site:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/index.aspx>.

There is a ***Speak Up*** at Community Forum, Fall 2009. Parents, staff, students and community members are encouraged to testify at community forums sponsored by the Board of Education. Each person will have 3 minutes to speak on the following question: "During difficult economic times, what priorities in the [Montgomery County Public Schools strategic plan](#) should we focus on for the 2010-2011 school year to improve achievement for all students?" Where and When: **John F Kennedy High School** Thursday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m.

Information concerning the Elementary and Middle School Magnet programs is now available online. If you have any questions, please contact Reginald Lewis, Greenwood's Guidance Counselor.

Thank you for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan

October 2009

NOTES FROM THE ART ROOM

Dear Greenwood Families,

On the door to the art room is posted a sign that says "ART, It is important to pause, to reflect, and to create." It is one of my convictions that we need to allow our youth time to slow down, in order to process everything going on around them. In the art room we do that in visual form. This is the place where we learn how to organize our thoughts and experiences pictorially, through the joyfulness of the creative experience and the delight of our varied art forms and materials. It is my pleasure to be here, providing a fundamental educational venue to our young people.

Kindergarteners are engaged in a series of drawing lessons about themselves, their families (size relationships), and their homes. During this time the kids have been getting acquainted with how the art room operates, so they become comfortable with our weekly routine.

First Graders have met Mr. Good Glue, our helpful friend. We have used Mr. Good Glue to make frames for our self portraits and to assemble our creatively expressive masks. Mask making is a core first quarter lesson in the MCPS Art Curriculum. We learn about how masks are used in various cultures, and about how to exaggerate facial features to expressive effect.

Second Graders have begun stitchery lessons. We learned about the Hmong people of Laos, who, when refugees from their civil war, used needle and thread to make story cloths and geometric designs. Originally these were made for personal and cultural reasons, i.e., to remember their homeland. Nowadays, they are made for commercial consumption. Students are stitching frames on burlap, and will be printing geometric designs on them.

Third Graders have learned about Leonardo Da Vinci's varied creative outlets. We examined Mona Lisa, a painting by Leonardo, with a focus on the way he made connections between the figure and the background. Students then made their own versions of figure/ground relationships. You may find yourself impressed with the clever ways your children made their connections.

Fourth Graders have learned about Michelangelo, a titan in art history. We learned that proportions play a significant role in the depiction of portraiture, and that color brings life to a drawn image. An extension to this lesson is that frames make artwork look special. We are taking these quite special self portraits and enhancing them with frames.

Fifth Graders have begun a quarter long sequence of instruction on drawing and painting. We learned about Rembrandt, the 17th Century Dutch master. We drew our self portraits, with a review of the role of measured proportions of facial features, and instruction on how shading depicts three-dimensional form. Presently we are continuing our focus on value with a scratchboard drawing lesson.

Sincerely,
Ms. Newman

Announcements

Magnet Programs Middle Schools

Parents can learn about the application process for Magnet Programs for Middle School and Center Programs for the Highly Gifted (4th and 5th grade) by going to the MCPS website which lists the schedule for Information Meetings. Most of these meetings take place in October. Applications can be obtained through Mr. Lewis, Greenwood ES Counselor.

Volunteers Needed/Save the Date for Sally Foster Delivery Day

Delivery will be in the APR on Thurs.
Nov. 16th
Volunteers needed for a two-hour shift:
1-3, 3-5 or 5-7
Pick up Sally Foster orders from 3:30-7
Contact: _____

NOTES FROM THE MUSIC ROOM

This month we will learn three breathing exercises. Good posture and good breathing are the two most important factors for good singing.

Kindergarteners are learning to play PETER PUMPKIN EATER on the maracas and learning the song 5 LITTLE PUMPKINS, which has 5 solos.

First Graders are singing solos with the song COLUMBUS SAILED WITH 3 SHIPS. They are reading and writing music notation for one and two syllables (ta and ti-ti). Ask them to show you how to write your name in music language.

Second Graders are learning the dance for BOW WOW WOW and singing solos for the song CLICKETY CLACK. Can they show you the dance?

Third Graders are learning to play the autoharp with SKIN AND BONES. Ask them what they did differently on the autoharp for that song!

Fourth Graders are jumping rope to the song HEY CONCENTRATION. They are learning the MARJORIE ROUND and accompanying it on xylophones. Ask them to explain the form of HEY CONCENTRATION.

Fifth Graders are learning a railroad song DRILL YE TARRIERS. They are performing SIMPLE GIFTS on the autoharps. They are analyzing what they see in the music: form, verses, conducting pattern, autoharp chords.

Students in Chorus are working on 8 songs for the Winter Concert which includes students playing autoharps, xylophones and hand bells.

If your child enjoys singing and wants to sing in a top quality group, here are some groups to check out:

Children's Chorus of Maryland: www.ccmsings.org

Children's Chorus of Washington: www.cchorus.homestead.com

Maryland Boy Choir: <http://users.rcn.com/chyland/mbc/>

Peabody Children's Chorus: <http://www.peabody.jhu.edu/chorus>

(CCM-Laurel age range is 7-13; CCM-Baltimore is 5 1/2 – 16.)

Mrs. Bush

SEVEN WAYS to Communicate with your PTA

- 1. Go to www.Greenwood-PTA.org** to get up to date information and email PTA Representatives.
- 2. Backpack Express**
All flyers are sent home via your child's backpack.
- 3. PTA Listserv**
Go to: groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwoodpta
- 4. Greenwood's Website** Go to: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/greenwoodes
- 5. Mailbox & Drop Box** Located in the main office.
- 6. Bulletin Board and Flyer Rack.** Located in the main entrance hallway.
- 7. Monthly Meetings**
The PTA meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in the media center.
- 8. Ask any of your PTA Representatives**
Contact information is listed in the student directory, the Greenwood ES website, and the last page of the newsletter.

October 2009

NOTES FROM THE P.E. ROOM

Listed below is the day of the week your child is scheduled for their regularly scheduled class. **PLEASE** remind your child to wear their sneakers so s/he can fully and safely participate in all Physical Education activities. On days of inclement weather when your child wears boots to school, they can carry their sneakers in their backpacks.

THIRD, FOURTH AND FIFTH GRADERS are strongly encouraged to keep in school an extra pair of socks in their classroom. In the fall and spring the students will frequently go outside and the field is frequently damp.

Monday: Greenstein, Cox, Fredrickson, Krantz, Notaro

Tuesday: Hunt, Allen, Anello, DePristo, Giganti

Wednesday: Robinson, Percy, Day, Heald, Ricucci

Thursday: Mencia, McDonald, McCaskill, Mankulish

Friday: Abel, Toscano Kiser, Brosious

Fourth and fifth grade students are continuing to integrate soccer skills in a game situation. They will demonstrate dribbling, passing, trapping, goal tending, offensive and defensive strategies. Students will be recording personal data in their Physical Education Logs on a weekly basis. During the first quarter, students are setting goals for how many laps they can jog in a one minute period.

Second and third grade students will continue to learn soccer skills such as dribbling with control, passing to a partner, shooting, and defensive goalie strategies. The students will be recording every week in their PE logs the number of laps jogged for one minute and their count for jumping rope. They will also set a personal goal every 6 weeks for a one minute time frame for jogging and jumping rope.

First grade students will review the concept of "pacing." Their goal will be to continuously jog for their target time of 1 minute. After jogging for 60 seconds, they will jump rope for one minute. Students will be asked to record the target and actual data in their Gator Fitness Log. They will also work on eye-foot coordination activities. Using foam and elementary-sized soccer balls, students will work on dribbling with the proper form. They will also be kicking the ball into a target.

Kindergartners will continue to understand "pacing" as they alternate jogging and walking. Students will continue to work on following simple verbal directions and responding appropriately to verbal and auditory signals.

I would appreciate all donations of old tennis balls. You can drop them off at the main or gym office.

Arlyn Borst
Physical Education
Teacher

CommuniGator Contacts

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The CommuniGator is published monthly by the Greenwood Elementary School PTA. The deadline for submissions is the third Monday of each month. The next deadline is 11/16/09.

Talking to Children About Swine Flu (H1N1): A Parent Resource <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/h1n1/>

Take Time to Talk

You know your children best. Let their questions be your guide as to how much information to provide. However, don't avoid giving them the information that health experts identify as critical to ensuring your children's health.

Be patient; children and youth do not always talk about their concerns readily. Watch for clues that they may want to talk, such as hovering around while you do the dishes or yard work. It is very typical for younger children to ask a few questions, return to playing, then come back to ask more questions.

Keep Explanations Age Appropriate

need brief, simple information that should balance Swine Flu facts with appropriate reassurances that their schools and homes are safe and that adults are there to help keep them healthy and to take care of them if they do get sick. Give simple examples of the steps people take every day to stop germs, such as washing hands.

will be more vocal in asking questions about whether they truly are safe and what will happen if the Swine Flu comes to their school or community. They may need assistance separating reality from fantasy. Discuss efforts of school and community leaders to prevent germs from spreading.

are able to discuss the issue in a more in-depth (adultlike) fashion and can be referred directly to appropriate sources of Swine Flu facts (e.g., the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Provide honest, accurate, and factual information about the current status of the Swine Flu. Having such knowledge can help them feel a sense of control.

Suggested Points to Emphasize When Talking to Children

and health officials are being especially careful to make sure as few people as possible get sick.

our hands, covering our mouths with a tissue when we sneeze or cough, and staying home when we don't feel well.

please talk to an adult you trust.

about who may or may not have the flu.

For Further Information Visit:

Federal Resources:

October 2009

- Greenwood Elementary School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sept 27	Sept 28 NO School	Sept. 29	Sept. 30	1 Book Fair	2 Early Release Book Fair Club Friday	
4	5 Flu Mist Administered	6 PTA Meeting 7:30 - 8:30pm	7	8	9 	10
11	12 Open House/Parent Visitation Day 9:00am	13	14 	15	16 NO SCHOOL MSTA Convention	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 	27	28	29 "Otto the Auto" Assembly	30 Halloween Parade & Classroom Parties End of Marking Period	31