

COMMUNICATOR



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

A Greenwood PTA Publication

Dear Greenwood Families, Teachers, and Staff,



We have already replaced the beach bags with back packs, running after the ice cream truck with chasing the school bus, and pool schedules with homework routines.

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!!

School is in full swing starting each day with the smiling faces of 4th graders hosting GGTV. Teachers are happily instructing, and children enjoying the new friends they have made. The PTA volunteer Committee is currently gathering the information you gave them on your "Blue Volunteer" form to staff upcoming volunteer opportunities such as Accelerated Reading and Gator Raiders. Helping at school confirms your commitment to your child's education. I am inviting every family member to commit to volunteering for **three hours** this school year. You will experience lasting rewards, meet new friends, and most of all; you will help a child stand a little taller.

I wanted to share a few important dates and remind you of the resources that are available. 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 7:00pm. 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. 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!

Tuesday, September 29th the school **Book Fair** begins. Plan to stop by and buy a good book to curl up with!



Our newest addition to Greenwood this year is <http://www.greenwood-pta.org>, a one-stop website for all PTA-related questions and updated information. This new Greenwood PTA website includes easy ways for you to join the Greenwood PTA

<<http://www.greenwood-pta.org/membership>>, enter your information for the student directory <<http://www.greenwood-pta.org/student-directory>>, join our Yahoo! group <<http://www.greenwood-pta.org/join-our-yahoo-group>> contact the PTA

<<http://www.greenwood-pta.org/contact-the-pta>> and much more. It's quick and easy, saves both you and the PTA time and money. **Remember to bookmark <http://www.greenwood-pta.org> today!**

Warm regards,

Tina Velazquez

Greenwood PTA President

trvelazquez@yahoo.com

Important Dates

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 17

Sally Foster Sales Begin

September 25

Movie on the Hill
6:00pm

September 28

NO SCHOOL
Yom Kipper

September 29

Book Fair Begins

October 1 & 2

Book fair open

October 2

Early Release

October 6

PTA Meeting 7:30pm
PTA Volunteer
Orientation 8:30pm

October 7

Walk to School Day
October

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

www.sallyfoster.com

Group/Account # 0499000



Greenwood ElementaryA SMART School
Our Keys, Our Journey Our Children's Future
September, 2009

Dear Parents,

It is with great enthusiasm and excitement that I write to tell you that the new school year is off to an excellent start! The first week of school has gone very smoothly thanks to the teamwork and collaboration of parents, staff and students. This simply reinforces a belief commonly held by many associated with our school that Greenwood Elementary is an exceptional place for children to develop and learn. I encourage you to visit us whenever your schedule permits in order to get to know your child's teacher as well as our other staff members. We take pride in our sense of cooperation and determination to make every child a success at our school, which we would like to share with you. On behalf of everyone at Greenwood Elementary School, I want to thank you for entrusting your children's education and well being to us this year. We plan and expect to make it our best year yet of teaching and learning.

Last Saturday, it was my honor along with our PTA President, Mrs. Tina Velasquez and one of our volunteer coordinators, Mrs. Susan Donsky to receive the Certificate of Appreciation presented by Dr. Weast, MCPS Superintendent, in recognition of the more than 7, 000 volunteer hours the families of Greenwood clocked helping our children during the 2008-2009 school year. I thank all of you who, through your unstinting efforts, made this award possible and challenge all of our families to join us for at least three hours of volunteer service to our school this school year.

We look forward to seeing you at the upcoming back-to-school nights. Grades one and two will be on September 10 and Grades three, four and five will be on September 15. Both nights will run from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. Please also mark your calendars for our parent/child Reading curriculum evening which will be held on October 14 beginning at 7:00 PM.

Our upcoming School Improvement Plan (SIP) meeting is on October 14 as well from 3:30 to 4:30 PM in the school's Media Center. Our 2009-2010 school improvement plan (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. If you would like to learn more or participate as a member of our School Improvement Plan team which meets five times this school year, please call or e-mail Ms. Hagler, my Administrative Secretary, for more information.

See you at Back-to School Night!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Cheryl A. Bunyan
Principal
Greenwood Elementary School



September 2009

NOTES FROM THE ART ROOM

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to inform you that the Art Room has a student intern for this school year.

Mr. Will Thomas will be interning here twice weekly through the fall. He begins his eight week student teacher tenure in January, after which he will do his high school student teaching. When that has ended, Mr. Thomas will return to Greenwood to complete the school year.

Mr. Thomas has a respect for and understanding of youngsters, gained from his kindergarten aged daughter. He is eager and ready to be here working with Greenwood's students. I am delighted that he is here.

Sincerely,

Ms. Newman

NOTES FROM P.E. ROOM

Dear Parents,

Just a reminder, please have students wear their sneakers on their scheduled P.E. Day:

Mondays: Greenstein, Cox, Fredrickson, Kranz, Notaro

Tuesdays: Hunt, Allen, Anello, DePristo, Giganti

Wednesdays: Robinson, Percy, Day, Heald, Ricucci

Thursdays: Mencia, McDonald, McCaskill, Mankulis

Fridays: Abel, Toscano, Kiser, Brosious

Sincerely,

Ms. Borst

Principal

Cheryl Bunyan
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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

WELCOME BACK TO THE OLNEY PUBLIC LIBRARY!

Now that school has started again, rediscover the many things available at the public library for parents and students!

- Get a free library card. With it you can borrow books, DVD's, music, magazines, and recorded books. If an item isn't at your local branch, it can be sent over from another branch in just a few days. And there's always a friendly librarian ready to answer your questions.
- The library has computers for Internet access and catalog use and for databases with information on everything from biographies and encyclopedias to newspapers and magazines. You can connect to most of this information from home if you have Internet access and a library card. The web address is www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library . Click on the link to Kidsite to locate information on homework helpers, early literacy, good reads and more.
- Downloadable books, audiobooks, music and videos are also available through the library website. They are also free. And if you want to learn a language, in addition to CD's, tape sets, and books at the library, training is available through Mango Languages, an online educational source accessed through the website.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS:

- Family Storytime: Stories, music and other activities for children ages 2-5 years and their caregivers. 10:15am, 1:30pm on Thursdays.
September 10, 17, 24. October 1, 8, 15. November 5, 12, 19.
- Puppet Theater Folktales - Galapagos George: The tale of a unique tortoise from the Galapagos Islands. Presented by Barefoot Puppets, funded by the Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, Inc.
Saturday, September 24, 2:30 pm.
- Olney Book Discussion for Adults: Book discussions are held the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 a.m and the second Tuesday of each month (September 8) at 7:00p.m. Join your neighbors for a conversation about books led by a librarian. The books are available for pick up at the Information desk of the library.
September 1, 10:30 am, September 8, 7:00 pm. October 6, 10:30 am, October 13, 7:30 pm. November 3, 10:30 am, November 10, 7:30 pm
- English Conversation Club: Practice your English language skills. No registration required. The club meets every Monday night at 7:00.
September 14, 21, 28. October 5, 12, 19, 26. November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30.
- Teen Advisory Group: TAG is a service oriented group for teens ages of 13 - 18 who plan and participate in library activities. Teens will earn SSL hours for their work and enjoy snacks at meetings. For more information, email stella.fowler@montgomerycountymd.gov or call Olney library. The next meeting will be *Saturday, September 12 at 3:00 pm.*

The Olney Library is open Monday – Wednesday from 10-9, Thursday and Friday 10-5, Saturday 9-5 and Sundays from 12-5 (September 7 – May 17). For more information about any of the services, programs, or online resources call 240-773-9545, TTY 301-570-1221 or use the library website at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/library

Take the time – READ TOGETHER

September 2009



Help Wanted

(You don't have to be a super hero, just have a super big heart!)

Ways & Means Co-chair: work with existing co-chair on Ways & Means activities. Contact Roni Septoff for more details: roni.septoff@bnaishalomofolney.org or rsep01@aol.com, or 301-570-5435.

Variety Show Co-chair: work with existing co-chair on Variety Show activities. Contact Roni Septoff for more info: roni.septoff@bnaishalomofolney.org or rsep01@aol.com or 301-570-5435.

Bingo Night: Organize the Family Fun Night activity of Bingo! For more information, contact Tammy King at tammy3360@comcast.net, 301-570-5464 or Tammy Paidas at tammypaidas@verizon.net, 301-924-0715.

Mad Science: Coordinate afterschool program with Mad Science. For more information, contact Tammy King at tammy3360@comcast.net, 301-570-5464 or Tammy Paidas at tammypaidas@verizon.net, 301-924-0715.

Special Needs: MCCPS Special needs representative. Attend Monthly meeting and report information from county representatives to the Greenwood community of upcoming training and seminars.

Room Parent Coordinator: Coordinate Room Parents who will be in charge of planning for Halloween & Valentines Parties, end of year gifts and other special projects.

Staff Appreciation: For one week in May, you'll coordinate the planning of ways to show our Greenwood staff members how much we appreciate them. You'll be given a list of volunteers who have offered to help.

Handwriting without Tears: This program provides handwriting support to students using the Handwriting without Tears method. You'll be in charge of scheduling the volunteers (you'll be given a list of volunteers who have offered to help), working with the students, and acting as a liaison between the teachers and students.

Lunch Bunch: This program provides math support to students in a fun and relaxed environment during their lunch period. You'll be in charge of scheduling the volunteers (you'll be given a list of people who have offered to help), working with the students and acting as a liaison between the Greenwood staff and students.

Hospitality Co-Chair: Help existing Co-chair coordinate food and drinks for various school events such as: Spring & Winter concerts, PTA meetings, special events, etc.

Shop Till you Drop: Recruit and coordinate vendors to participate in shopping on craft night.

Yearbook: Help existing Co-chairs with design & layout of the yearbook. Participate in Yearbook training with Walters Publishing so that you can learn how to design the Greenwood Yearbook for 2010-2011.

FLES: Coordinate Foreign Language program at Greenwood through the countywide FLES program. Greenwood has previously hosted both Spanish and French classes for grades K-5.

**For more information on these & all volunteer opportunities at Greenwood, please contact
Stephanie Sebeck at sebeck@comcast.net, 301-924-0313 or
Amy Andre at amyandre@verizon.net, 301-774-2857**

Our Greenwood CommuniGator... is going Green!



Starting October 1st, you will have to subscribe in order to receive a hard copy of the Greenwood CommuniGator *

There are two ways you can receive the CommuniGator online:

1. Go to: www.greenwood-pta.org (don't forget the dash)
Click on: Helpful Links
Click on: Greenwood Elementary School
Click on: "CommuniGator" in the lower left corner and follow the directions.
2. Go directly to:
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/greenwoodes/ecommunigator/ecommm_hm
Join the Greenwood PTA Yahoo Group and you will receive a monthly reminder. It's EASY! Go to:
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/greenwoodpta>
Click on the box that says "join" and follow the directions.

We hope that all Greenwood families will take advantage of this way of receiving the CommuniGator. It will save **paper** and **valuable time!**

* To receive a hard copy via you child's backpack, please fill out the subscription below and return it to the PTA box in the Main Office. If you have any questions, please contact Tina Velazquez at 301-774-8269 or trvelazquez@yahoo.com

GREENWOOD COMMUNIGATOR HARD COPY REQUEST FORM

Child's name _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____