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COUGAR COURIER  
*Cold Spring Elementary School*  
*9201 Falls Chapel Way*  
*Potomac, MD 20854*  
*Phone (301) 279-8480*

[www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/coldspringes](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/coldspringes)

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***The Cold Spring Parent Teacher Association***  
[www.coldspringPTA.glynn.com](http://www.coldspringPTA.glynn.com)

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PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Pete Thomson  
[pete@pjthomson.com](mailto:pete@pjthomson.com)

President-Elect: Debra Bernal  
[debra.bernal@va.gov](mailto:debra.bernal@va.gov)

Vice President: Jonathan Lusk  
[jlusk1965@comcast.net](mailto:jlusk1965@comcast.net)

Treasurer: Sudha Sivaram  
[ssivaram@jhsph.edu](mailto:ssivaram@jhsph.edu)

Recording Secretary: Lynn Jordan  
[lynn.jordan@finnegan.com](mailto:lynn.jordan@finnegan.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Carolyn  
Messitte [cmessitte@gmail.com](mailto:cmessitte@gmail.com)

MCCPTA DELEGATES

Jeff Alexander:  
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April Kaplan:  
[aprillkaplan@hotmail.com](mailto:aprillkaplan@hotmail.com)

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

Cold Spring All Purpose Room, 7:15pm;  
Babysitting provided for ages 4 and up.

Tuesday, February 2, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, March 2, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, May 4, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, June 1, 7:00 pm (potluck)

President's Letter  
By Pete Thomson

Last month, I was writing this note the day after the kick-off meeting for the design of the new gymnasium. This month, I am writing this the day after the first public meeting to present the design concepts and gather feedback. There were about twenty people at the meeting and MCPS and the architect did a really nice job of presenting the alternatives that they have developed and gathering feedback.

One of the attendees asked at the beginning how much feedback the community was going to have, whether MCPS was there to listen to feedback for real or simply to tell the community what they are doing. Clearly, from his tone, the person was expecting the answer to be the latter. I think that even he was favorably impressed with the amount of flexibility that was displayed. The audience talked about issues ranging from appearance, to impact on the neighbors, to accessibility, to window placement, to safety and security. Based on feedback from the community, they are going to look at reorienting the gym to reduce the impact on the existing playground (it isn't much as presented) and adjusting the position on the site to minimize impact on the neighbors.

They will be returning to Cold Spring at 3:30pm on December 15th to gather a second round of community comments. They will be bringing revised layouts and proposed elevations. They really do want to hear our thoughts. They really will change the plans based on what they hear. This is our best opportunity to impact the process. We will have the ability to review in the future, but the farther the design proceeds, the less chance we will have to change things. This is our opportunity!

Please come join us on the 15th. It is particularly important for parents to be represented at the meeting to be their opinions and preferences reflected along with those of other community members. This is an exciting time to be involved in the PTA, with the opportunity to be involved in the first major construction project since the school was built about 30 years ago. Also, we have a large group of volunteers, which is growing rapidly. In future newsletters and via the listserv, we will be announcing a number of new opportunities for our students and some other exciting things. I am really looking forward to the next few months!

I hope that everyone has a great holiday season and a happy New Year!

Pete Thomson  
Cold Spring Elementary PTA President  
[pete@pjthomson.com](mailto:pete@pjthomson.com)

## PTA Committee & Community Announcements

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### Congratulations REFLECTIONS

Participants!

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's PTA Reflections Program. At the Reflections Breakfast, all artists received a certificate from the PTA and a Barnes & Nobel gift card for their efforts. Art work will be forwarded to the County level. Congratulations to all!

**Visual Arts, Grades K-2:** Michelle Zhao

**Visual Arts, Grades 3-5:** Claire Chen, Simin Li, Joey Wong, Bradford Wood, Kelsey Yang and Minie Zhang

**Photography, Grades K-2:** Arunim Agarwal and Benjamin Winig

**Photography, Grades 3-5:** Eric Rong

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### MINUTES COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MEETING OCTOBER 6, 2009

#### **CALL TO ORDER:**

Pete Thomson, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

#### **ATTENDANCE:**

Those in attendance were Pete Thomson, President-Elect Debra Bernal, Vice-President Jonathan Lusk, Recording Secretary Lynn Jordan, Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Messitte, and MCCPTA Representative Jeff Alexander. Principal Martin Barnett and teacher Cheryl Sellitti were representing Cold Spring Elementary. Also in attendance were Vivian Yao, Debbie Bryant, Amy Ullman, and Julie Oldach.

#### **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

Mr. Barnett reported that enrollment is at 381 students, slightly over projected enrollment of 370.

Mr. Barnett provided a budget report for the school. The operating budget for MCPS is frozen. No hires, raises, cost-of-living increases, or steps will be made, and only long-term subs can be put in place for extended absences. The class sizes will likely increase by 1-2 students to make up for the budgetary shortfall. The capital budget, on the other hand, is good with money from the stimulus package. It is likely that CSES will be moving up on the list for improvements and getting a gymnasium. Debra Bernal and Mr. Barnett will be attending a meeting to review possible designs.

Mr. Barnett introduced Mrs. Sellitti to talk about safety patrol. There are about 90 students in safety patrol, and they are in need of new rain coats at a cost of \$200. A motion to reimburse Mrs. Sellitti for the \$200 cost was made and unanimously passed.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

The draft minutes from the June and September meetings were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made and passed.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

Pete Thomson (for Sudha Sivram) submitted the budget report and the membership update (for Andrea Portes). There are currently about 190 paid members, which is a little ahead of last year. Reminders

will be going out in the next week. There has been \$12,140 in direct donations. The goal is \$16,000. There is \$2,075 in revenue from the directory. The money owed to CSES PTA by Potomac Pizza will be paid in gift cards.

**CLUSTER REPORT:**

Jeff Alexander reported that the transition of students to Tilden went very well. A volunteer to monitor the Math Curriculum Group was solicited, and Vivian Yao volunteered.

**BOOK FAIR:**

Lynn Jordan reported that the book fair is scheduled for the week of October 19-23, concluding at bingo night.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Jordan, Recording Secretary

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## It's Not Too Late to Participate!



### Target

Use your Target Visa or REDcard when you shop at Target and support Cold Spring: **Cold Spring ID 58117**. Just visit [www.target.com/tcoe](http://www.target.com/tcoe), or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school.



### Harris Teeter

If you purchase your groceries at Harris Teeter, they will contribute a portion of their earnings to Cold Spring. The **Cold Spring ID is 7901**.

Register at [http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together\\_in\\_education/link\\_to\\_your\\_school.aspx](http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/link_to_your_school.aspx).



### Campbell's Labels for Education

Campbell's *Labels for Education* is a program that helps schools obtain free educational merchandise in exchange for proofs of purchase collected from eligible Campbell brands. [See what products are eligible](#). You can help by saving and forwarding proofs of purchase to Cold Spring ES. Cold Spring can then redeem them for FREE merchandise such as computers, software, physical education equipment, musical instruments, library books or even a minivan.

### Subway



It's easy for Cold Spring ES supporters to participate. When supporters load cash onto a SUBWAY® Card linked to Cold Spring ES and use the card to pay when they dine at SUBWAY® restaurants, Cold Spring earns a contribution from each purchase. Cards can be picked up at a SUBWAY® restaurant, loaded and used to pay, and then linked to Cold Spring ES at [SubwaySchoolRewards.com](http://SubwaySchoolRewards.com).