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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

The Cold Spring Parent Teacher Association
www.coldspringPTA.glynn.com

PTA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President: Pete Thomson
pete@pjthomson.com

President-Elect: Debra Bernal
debra.bernal@va.gov

Vice President: Jonathan Lusk
jlusk1965@comcast.net

Treasurer: Sudha Sivaram
ssivaram@jhsph.edu

Recording Secretary: Lynn Jordan
lynn.jordan@finnegan.com

Corresponding Secretary: Carolyn
Messitte cmessitte@gmail.com

MCCPTA DELEGATES

Jeff Alexander:
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April Kaplan:
aprillkaplan@hotmail.com

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, December 1, 6:30 pm*
(new time)

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

I have some great news for you! This morning, I attended a kick-off meeting for the design of the new Cold Spring Gymnasium project! This project has been “coming” for as long as I have been in the community, but MCPS has made a significant step forward by hiring an architect and moving forward with the process.

The current schedule for the project involves design and permitting for the next 18 months, bidding in the spring of 2011 and construction for 12 to 18 months. The new gym should be usable in the 2012/13 school year. Yes, this is a long way off, but it is quicker than we had heard previously and with positive steps being taken by MCPS, it appears to be rolling.

The gymnasium will be a standard gymnasium, measuring about 3,400 square feet, located in the area of the current kiddie-playground, next to the 2nd/3rd/4th grade door. It will remove only a small part of the blacktop. The gym will have hardwood floors and be set up so that it can be used without opening the rest of the school, with dedicated restrooms. It will also have a green roof to reduce storm water runoff. We are working with MCPS to try to get some other improvements into the project—more on that later.

Cold Spring is also scheduled to get restroom renovations in the future. We have asked if this can be accelerated and done as part of the gymnasium project, since doing the two projects together can save money. We will let you know if we are successful.

MCPS has indicated that they are going to involve the PTA and the community in this project and they are holding true to that promise. Debra Bernal, PTA President-Elect, was part of the committee that selected the architect. I was at the kick-off meeting, along with Debra Bernal and both MCPS and the architect were very interested in our thoughts. During the design process, we will get to review the plans and make comments.

However, the best opportunity for PTA involvement, though, is coming up in December. MCPS and the architect are going to hold two meetings, one as part of our regular PTA meeting on the 1st and one after school on the 15th. At this meeting, they will be presenting their thoughts for the design and asking for input and opinions from the community. At this stage in the project, it is relatively easy to make changes (no, they won't give us an Olympic-sized pool), so please come out and provide your input! I look forward to seeing you there.

I will keep you updated as the design moves forward.

Pete Thomson
Cold Spring Elementary PTA President
pete@pjthomson.com

PTA Committee & Community Announcements

December PTA Meeting Time Change
To accommodate the Public Design Advisory Committee Meeting, we are changing the time of the PTA meeting on December 1st. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. rather than 7:15 p.m.

Restaurant Night FUNraiser
Please join us at the next Restaurant Night Community FUNraiser, which will take place on Monday evening, November 23rd, from 5:00-9:00pm at Cheeburger, Cheeburger in Falls Grove Plaza. The PTA will earn 20% of proceeds from sales from those who are there to support Cold Spring. You MUST bring along the information flyer for the PTA to get credit, which will be sent home in students' backpacks the week before. We look forward to seeing you there!

Gymnasium Public Design Advisory Committee Meeting
MCPS and the architects hired to design the Cold Spring Gymnasium want your opinion! They will be holding two public meetings to discuss the gymnasium design. Please attend and express your thoughts! The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 1st at 7:00 p.m. in the Cold Spring All Purpose Room (right after rescheduled PTA Meeting). A second meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15th at 3:30 p.m. in the Cold Spring Promethean Board Room.

Destination Imagination is Here!
Destination Imagination is a problem-solving program that prepares young minds for the future by allowing them to apply what they're learning in school to their lives. Students learn to "Think Outside the

Box" as they problem-solve various challenges as a team. We are forming teams of students to represent Cold Spring Elementary School at the County Competition in April. We need interested students (grades K-5) and dedicated team managers (parents) to begin this process. A packet of information was sent home in mid-October. For more information, you can go online to www.IDODI.org. Please feel free to contact Ms. Hanley or the PTA DI Coordination, Christina Kyong at christinakyong@gmail.com or at (301) 770-4026.

Variety Show 2010

Look for registration forms in backpacks the week of November 23-25th (right before Thanksgiving). All 2nd—5th graders attending Cold Spring are eligible to audition. The theme of the show this year is Celebrate Earth and will take place March 4th and 5th, 2010.

Auditions will be held on Wednesday, Jan 6th in the APR after school. We will be looking for an ensemble "cast" of 4th and 5th graders this year also. Please contact rebeccacornelius@comcast.net for more information or for a list of song/music ideas that fit the theme, (this will also be attached to the audition form).

If you are already working on a song, dance, instrumental piece that you would like to audition, please contact Rebecca for approval, (the act needs to be school age appropriate, relevant to the theme, and not a duplicate of an existing act). Hope you are looking forward to an exciting show in 2010!

Helping Hands Holiday Children
The Cold Spring community, in conjunction with the Salvation Army, will once again participate in the Helping Hands Holiday Children program. This program provides assistance to children in need living in Montgomery County. Each class will be assigned a child in need with a wish list, which has been sent home, with your child(ren). Please place a new, unwrapped item from the list in the large collection bag in your child(ren)'s class. The collection bags will be placed in each classroom mid November and collected mid December (we will let you know the exact dates closer to the time) to be delivered to the Salvation Army for distribution. If at all possible, please include your child(ren) in this gift giving experience. If you have any

questions please contact Terri de Raet at 301 762-4762 or tderaet@comcast.net or Kasia Coulter at 301 610-6390 or mandkcoulter@comcast.net

PTA Bingo Night Bake Sale A Success!
Many thanks to our Cold Spring families who contributed to our Bingo Night Bake Sale! All of the wonderful brownies, delicious cookies, creative cupcakes, spooky doughnuts, pumpkin loaves, mini-muffins and more were enjoyed by the all who attended the annual Book Fair and Bingo Night on October 23rd. The donations and support of all who contributed to make this such a successful fundraiser for the PTA are much appreciated!

Because there was no PTA meeting scheduled for the month of November, there are no approved PTA Minutes for this edition. The minutes from October's meeting will be approved at the December 1st PTA meeting.

New Fund Raising Opportunities Just Announced!

America's Favorite Schools Contest

As students settle into their new classrooms, Care2 is partnering with GreatSchools to announce a new way for parents, educators, and communities to rally around their school. **From September 14th through November 8th, anyone can vote in the America's Favorite School contest at <http://www.care2.com/schoolcontest/2400880> to help Cold Spring win \$20,000 and chances in the \$500 a week drawing.**



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, 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.



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.