



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:
jeffalex@stanfordalumni.org

April Kaplan:
aprillkaplan@hotmail.com

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, October 6, 7:15 pm

Tuesday, December 1, 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

It's hard to believe that the summer is over already and we are starting another year at Cold Spring! We are lucky to have an amazing group of teachers, administrators and staff who are focused on the success of the students and making Cold Spring a wonderful place to learn. If you agree with me, please take a moment and thank the staff for everything they do for our kids.

As I said at Sneak Peek and Back to School Night, I am really excited to be leading the PTA this year. My job is made easy because of the large group of volunteers who spend huge amounts of time supporting the school, teachers and students. I encourage each of you to volunteer time at the school or with the PTA. There are a wide variety of opportunities that can fit any schedule and skill-set. The return that you get from your investment is immeasurable, as you get to know the school, staff, and students as well as make new friends in the community. Please, if you are interested in volunteering, let me know, come to a meeting, or talk to any PTA volunteer—we'd love to have you.

In addition to volunteers, the PTA provides funds for a wide range of activities, programs, and events at Cold Spring, including Artist in Residence, Cultural Arts Assemblies, Destination Imagination, Field Day, Science Expo, Visiting Author and others, with a budget of just over \$13,000. We also support the teachers and staff with a number of programs with a budget of about \$14,500. Most of our funding comes from you, the parents.

You should have received a membership application in the mail (if you haven't, please email our Membership Chair, Andrea Portes at aggportes@verizon.net). Enclosed in the envelope is a description of our Direct Donation program, which is now in its third year. In this program, we ask the parents to donate \$65 per child (we appreciate donations in any amount, as you are able) to the PTA. In exchange, we will not send home merchandise sales and other fundraisers that are so prevalent at other schools. For this program to work, we must get the support we have budgeted for -- \$16,000 this year. If we don't get that much, we will have to either reduce our programs or go back to separate fund raisers, so please donate.

In future letters, I'll be focusing on upcoming programs and events at the school. We are always looking for new ideas about ways to make things better. If you have any please drop me a line or we can chat at an event. I look forward to hearing from you.

Looking forward to a great year!

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

PTA Committee & Community Announcements

Committee Chairs Needed

The PTA is looking for a few more Committee Chairs. We still have vacancies for the following committees:

- Differences Awareness
- NAACP
- Safety

If we don't get volunteers to chair these committees, we will not be able to provide the services and functions of the committees. If you are interested or have any questions, please contact pete@pjthomson.com.

Community Night Restaurant Event!

On Wednesday, September 16, the PTA will host its first Restaurant Night of the year at Zio's Italian Restaurant. A Restaurant Night is a great opportunity to socialize with other Cold Spring families, have a great dinner out, and raise some money for the PTA. Zio's will generously donate **20% of the proceeds from the evening** to the PTA between the hours of 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm. Zio's is a full-service restaurant offering pasta, sandwiches, burgers, pizza, and more, and is located at 9083 Gaither Road. Take Shady Grove Road just past the Home Depot, then turn left on Gaither. Zio's is owned by the Pappano family, as in Cold Spring's own Mrs. Pappano! See you there.

Variety Show Committee

The initial planning meeting of the Variety Show Committee will be held on Friday, October 9th at 1:30pm, (location TBD). If you are interested in being part of this committee and attending the meeting, please contact Rebecca Cornelius at rebeccacornelius@comcast.net.

Cold Spring Dance Club 2009-2010

Registration will begin Monday, November 2nd. Flyers will be available in the main office kiosk and attached to a Cold Spring Yahoo Groups listserve announcement (please make sure you are on this listserve, so you will get notice).

The classes will be held Wednesday and Friday afternoons in the APR from December 2nd to March 5th and taught by Rebecca Cornelius. Students in grades 2–5 will be performing in the March 4 & 5, 2010 Variety Show. Class sizes will be limited and filled on a first come first served basis. Contact Rebecca if you have any questions rebeccacornelius@comcast.net.

The rehearsal schedule is as follows:

Wednesday 3:15-4:00	2 nd grade
Wednesday 4:00-4:45	3 rd Grade
Wednesday 4:45–6:00	4 th /5 th Grade
Friday 3:15–4:00	Kindergarten
Friday 4:00–4:45	1 st Grade

Second Grade Girls: Interested in Brownies?

Girl Scout Troop 2314 (second graders–Brownies) has openings for Girl Scouts. The troop meets at Potomac Community Center on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7:00-8:00 pm. The first meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2009.

Interested parents can visit the troop's website at www.troop2314.com for details or contact Jen Dolan at thedolans@hotmail.com.

Cold Spring PTA Announces **REFLECTIONS 2009** Theme
“Beauty is...”

REFLECTIONS is a national PTA program that encourages individual students to create original works of art inspired by this year’s theme “Beauty is...”. The program is designed to enhance arts education by providing an opportunity for students to express their artistic talents and receive recognition for their efforts. Students may enter one or more works of art in any of six arts areas: visual arts, literature, photography, musical composition, dance choreography, and film/video production.

All submissions will be displayed and students acknowledged for their work. Submissions are judged in two grade divisions, K-2nd and 3rd-5th. The top four submissions in each arts area, within each division, will be forwarded on for further judging at the county, state and national levels. Judging is based on creativity, artistic merit, and interpretation of the theme.

Students can obtain an entry packet or additional information by contacting the Reflections Chair, Jennifer Capparella at capparella-winig@comcast.net or (301) 424-4211. All entries must be submitted by Friday, November 6th.

DRAFT
Minutes of the Cold Spring Elementary School PTA Meeting
Date: May 5, 2009

CALL TO ORDER:

PTA President, Julie Oldach, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

ATTENDANCE:

Presided over by Julie Oldach, PTA President.

Those officers in attendance were Pete Thomson, President-Elect, Susan Lusk, Vice President, Denise Schleckser, Corresponding Secretary, and Laurie Gira, Recording Secretary, Jeff Alexander and Christina Kyong, MCCPTA Representatives. Also in attendance were Principal, Mr. Barnett, Jennifer O’Neil, Second grade teacher, Susan Peterson, Fifth Grade teacher, Ken Cho, Laurie Halverson, and Monica Pyo.

PRINCIPAL’S REPORT:

Mr. Barnett thanked Mrs. O’Neil and Mrs. Peterson for representing the staff at this PTA meeting. He reported that the April 23 Board of Education (BOE) meeting with the Wootton Cluster schools, held here at Cold Spring Elementary (CSES) went well. Cold Spring was well prepared and provided a nice evening for the approximately fifty people attending. BOE member, Ric Edelman commented that the school representatives were well prepared, well spoken, showed real engagement with the issues, and

gave good presentations. Issues discussed included the current testing regime and the resultant stress on students, facilities concerns, and capital funding issues.

CSES will lose only one portable for the upcoming school year. We had thought we might lose two based on our declining numbers.

Parents will see a pamphlet about The Seven Keys to College Readiness come home with all students. Each school's principals are being asked to educate parents on this initiative. Mr. Barnett will be showing a video on the topic at Back to School Night in the fall. He invites questions from parents.

Technology update: CSES has ordered two Promethium boards and the Poster Maker machine. Mr. Barnett anticipates the boards to be installed this summer, fall at the latest. With their remaining technology money, Mr. Barnett plans to order as many ELMOs as possible, which are used in the place of the older overheads. We have one, and hope to order two or three. ELMOs save paper because teachers do not need to make as many paper handouts if they are able to project the same information on a screen for all to see. This is especially important because the school will be charged per copy next year.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The minutes from the March 31 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

PTA President, Julie Oldach, reported for Treasurer Andrea Portes, who was unable to attend. Sales Tax forms, Form 990s, and Property taxes have been filed, thanks to CSES parent Andy Mitchell. The PTA will be giving him a gift card as a thank you for all the indispensable help he has provided. The PTA has received \$171 from BoxTops. The PTA requests that all checks, deposits, and receipts for reimbursement for the year be turned in by June 12, 2009 in order to close the books for the year in a timely manner. Andrea will send reminders to teachers who still have money available to use per the \$150 allotted to each teacher under the PTA budget.

MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT:

Jeff Alexander, MCCPTA delegate, reported on the most recent MCCPTA meeting. MCCPTA Elections were held. Administrative changes to the MCCPTA bylaws were passed. CSES parent Laurie Halverson's Resolution regarding Indoor Air Quality passed without amendment. MCCPTA will provide PTA officer training on June 1. There was a discussion of MCPS budgets and anticipated shortfalls next year. The Capital Budget will benefit from aid to the states from the federal government, resulting in less actual shortfall than expected.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HANDS ON SCIENCE:

Hands On Science chair, Monica Pyo, reported on CSES' first year working with Hands On Science (HOS), rather than Mad Science. Monica has received numerous complaints from parents regarding the teachers' experience level and ability to manage the students. While there are pros and cons with

dealing with each company, Monica prefer working with Mad Science because HOS does not hire the instructors until after registration, resulting in poor training and sometimes cancelled classes. Those present discussed the value of each programs versus the administrative inconvenience, as well as the inconvenience to staff in the building during the classes. Some suggested taking a break from the program during the fall and measure the response from parents, especially in light of the fact that parents can find these programs outside of school. Some feel parents use these programs as after school childcare and some students are not that interested in science. It was decided that Monica should send out an inquiry via the listserv to measure the overall feeling toward these programs being offered and parents' experiences with them in the past. The PTA could then be sure that our understanding of the community position is correct.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE:

Julie Oldach reported on behalf of Author In Residence Chair, **Mary Meyer**, that the "Tree of Learning" is complete and expected to be installed next week in the Media Center. Thank you to Mary Meyer; the third grade teachers for being so accommodating with their schedules to allow the students to work on the project; to CSES parents Mr. Burns, Mr. Henoch, and Mr. Parker for help with cutting the needed wood pieces; and to Mrs. Crandall for also being so accommodating allowing the use of her room despite inconvenience to herself.

LANDSCAPING:

Many thanks to **Eleni Clark** for organizing this year's Spring Spruce Up, and CSES Mr. Clair who donated services to dig out the stump by the Kindergarten door. The landscape committee bought a mature flowering dogwood tree to be placed in that spot, which put them \$110 over their allotted budget. A motion was made to allow this expenditure from overages in other income areas (e.g., community nights which have already brought in substantially more than their budgeted amounts). Thanks go out also to the first grade Daisy troop that planted flowers and provided a bird house for that landscaped area, and to all CSES parents and students who helped that day.

STAFF APPRECIATION:

The Staff Appreciation Committee provided two lunches and two breakfasts during Staff Appreciation Week. Chairs, Vicki Klein and Meghan Westwood did a great job and worked hard all year.

COMMUNITY NIGHTS:

May's Community night will be held at **Ledo's Pizza**, Travilah Road, on Monday, May 11. Ledo's will be giving CSES 20% of ALL proceeds from the restaurant for the entire day. Mr. Barnett will be buying lunch for staff on this day, and Lynn Jordan has graciously offered to order and pick it up. Thanks to **Lynn Jordan** for organizing this terrific fundraising opportunity

FIFTHGRADE GRADUATION EVENTS:

Fifth Grade Graduation Events Chair, Denise Schleckser, reported that the car wash was a success, raising \$623 for the Stepping Stones Shelter. All other projects are proceeding as planned, including graduation exercises at Richard Montgomery High School, a DVD, Memory Book, Tshirts, and pool party. Mr. Barnett reported that this year's fifth grade gift to the school is likely to be a much needed bike rack.

CSES PTA BYLAWS:

The ByLaws Committee of the MCCPTA has approved CSES' submitted revised bylaws with three changes. Two of these changes involve language in the MCCPTA template that we are required to use for our bylaws, and the third change simply changed the numbering of paragraphs. A motion was made to accept the bylaws as revised. The motion was seconded and carried.

JUNE PTA MEETING:

The Tuesday, June 2 PTA meeting will be a potluck. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share. Elections for next year's officers will take place at this meeting.

RECESS VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR:

Due to insurance and liability issues, the role of Recess Volunteer Coordinator will no longer be a separate position, but will be subsumed into the more general Volunteer Coordinator position. It is very difficult to get enough parent volunteers on the playground and in the cafeteria. Anyone with ideas to encourage parent participation should contact the PTA. The good news is that we will not lose any para-educator time next year, so we will at least have the same coverage as this year.

SCHOOL TOOLBOX:

Jeff Alexander reported on behalf of his wife **School Toolbox chair, Robyn Alexander**, that the deadline for ordering School Toolboxes is May 29. She has distributed fliers to all students, as well as new students through the Kindergarten orientation and the GT Open house.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Gira, Recording Secretary.

Here's a fund-raiser that will cost you ABSOLUTELY NOTHING!!!

In the 2008-09 school year Cold Spring parents raised over \$3,300 for our school!

Even if you participated in these programs last year,
you must re-register your cards this year.



I. Sign up for BonusBucks at Giant

Log on to <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> to designate online or complete the registration sheet attached to designate Cold Spring as one of up to three schools eligible to receive Bonus Bucks. CSES earned over \$1,900 in 2008-09!

If you have misplaced your BonusCard, please call 1-877-366-2668 to obtain your number. You must have this number to participate in the BonusBucks program.

II. Sign up for "escrip" Program at Safeway



Safeway's "escrip" program works in the same way as Giant's BonusBucks. Register online at www.escrip.com or use the registration sheet attached.

Call Safeway at 1-877-723-3929 to obtain your card # if it has been lost or misplaced.



III. Collect General Mills Box Tops

Box Tops for Education is a school fundraising program supported by General Mills that has helped America's schools raise over \$200 million. The Box Tops for Education program offers schools an easy way to earn cash through everyday activities like buying groceries or shopping online. Schools can raise a total of up to \$60,000 each year. Last year Cold Spring raised over \$550...we can do even better this year, without spending one extra penny.

All you need to do is clip Box Tops from participating Box Tops products and drop them in your class box at Cold Spring so they can be collected and redeemed. **Each Box Top is worth 10 cents to Cold Spring. If every Cold Spring student submitted just two Box Tops a month, we could raise \$675 this year!**

For a complete list of the hundreds of participating products, visit www.boxtops4education.com.

If you have any questions, please contact **Susan Lusk** at susan@ipo.org. Let's make this a great, and profitable, year. It only takes a few minutes of your time!



Dear Parents:

Welcome to the start of a new school year and another year of A+ Bonus Bucks. Starting October 9, 2009 through March 25, 2010 Cold Spring Elementary will have the opportunity to earn cash through Giant A+ Bonus Bucks Program.

All you have to do is:

Complete the registration information below and bring it to the Giant/Safeway/Box Tops mail box in the CSES main office

OR

Log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus to register online

OR

Dial 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone

After you register your card, each shopping trip at Giant using your GIANT Card earns CASH for our school! Each month, the amount of CASH awarded will be updated on the Giant website. You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt and online when you create an account at giantfood.com. Our school will receive a check at the end of the program. The money can be used for any of our school's educational needs.

Remember, even if you registered your card last year, you must re-register this year for our school to receive credit. Attending to this simple process makes a HUGE difference to our school. We need your support. Please be sure to register your card to **benefit Cold Spring ES using ID #00749**.

Also, don't forget to encourage your friends and relatives to do the same. It could mean the world to our children.

(your name and phone number – in case I need to verify something; Giant does not see this form)

(your twelve digit Giant card number)