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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:
jeffalex@stanfordalumni.org

April Kaplan:
aprilkaplan@hotmail.com

PTA MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Tuesday, May 4, 7:15 pm

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

President's Letter
By Pete Thomson

When people find out I am the President of the PTA, the first thing they ask me is how I can manage to find the time to do everything. Most of them don't believe me when I say that it really doesn't take me as much time as you would think. They think I am dissembling or simply lying. Sometimes I wonder if I'm just not doing enough, if another President would be spending more time and doing a better job.

Truly, though, the reason that I don't have to spend so much time and effort is the great group of volunteers that do all the actual work. When I signed up for this gig, I knew that there was a large group of committee chairs and co-chairs (about 60 at last count!) that took care of all of the activities and functions of the Association. I owe each of them a lot—it is their work that makes the PTA successful.

Two things happened in the past couple of weeks that really brought it all home for me. The first was a request from MCCPTA that each PTA provide statistics for volunteer hours. Lisa Cohen, our Volunteer Coordinator, provide the answer within just a few minutes, an average of 2,000 hours logged each year for the past three years. This is more than 11 hours per teaching day. If you are a volunteer, you know that nowhere near all of the hours get logged. With all these people doing all this work, my job really is easy.

The second thing was the Variety Show. What amazed me, beyond the diverse talents displayed by our students, was the number of volunteers and the huge commitment they made to the Show. They have each committed huge amounts of time and effort.

Please don't think that all this effort means that there is no place for you. There is always more that can be done and more that is needed, so please let me or Lisa know if you have some time you can give.

Thanks for all your help!

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

PTA Committee & Community Announcements

5th Grade End of Year Activities Planning for the 5th grade end of year activities is well underway. Information was sent home in the fifth graders backpacks. The EOYA committee is asking each 5th grade family to contribute \$45. This contribution will cover all end of year activities, including graduation, pool party, school gift, teacher gifts, a special DVD to be shown at graduation and given as a memento to each child, and a t-shirt. We hope to collect donations as well as pictures of the kids (baby and “now” picture) by March 19th!

We are looking for volunteers to help us make the end of year special for our graduating 5th graders. Please let us know if you are interested in helping out. The position for chairperson of the Community Service projects is still available.

For more information please contact the Chairpersons of the 5th Grade End of Year Activities: Meg Westwood meg@michaelwestwood.com or Susan Proctor (suseproctor@aol.com).

Variety Show Thanks

By Rebecca Cornelius

Thank you to all who made the 2010 Variety Show a success! I would like to express a very special thank you to the 4 Cold Spring moms who were with me through the entire creative process, **Jane Burns, Duffy Kean, Sheila Menconi and Christy Morakis.**

Also, many thanks to Rachel Ehudin, Abby Gleicher, Vicki Klein, Ann Wagner and Mike Westwood for sharing your time and talents with us.

In 2003 Mr. Barnett asked me to produce a variety show for the school and here we are 4 shows later. I want to personally thank him for the endless support and freedom he has given me over a decade to provide Cold Spring Elementary School the opportunity to experience the performing arts. My greatest wish is that this biannual production will live on. Thank you.

Geography Week Contest Winners

By Bill Oldach

I would like to extend my thanks to all those students who participated in this year’s Geography Week contest, which involved making a poster under the theme “Mapping Your World.” Grades were given particular categories on which to focus their efforts:

K & 1st Grade: A place such as a bedroom, classroom, or store

2nd & 3rd Grades: A larger location such as a neighborhood, park or town

4th & 5th Grades: A fantasy world

One winner from each grade was selected to win a \$20 Barnes & Noble gift card. And without further ado, here they are:

Kindergarten:	Dhrub Pai
First Grade:	Achintya Yedavalli
Second Grade:	Yash Shahi
Third Grade:	Varsha Krishnan
Fourth Grade:	Mehana Daftary
Fifth Grade:	Cori Alexander

Congratulations to all of you!! And finally, a big thank you to the members of the Evaluation Team for their time in judging our entries!

Cold Spring Runs the Silver Diner! Please join the Cold Spring community on Monday evening, March 22 at the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike. Between 5:00 and 8:00pm, Cold Spring faculty and staff will be on hand to wait on you! 20% of proceeds from the evening will go to Cold Spring's PTA! Want to double your impact??? Purchase a Silver Diner gift card ahead of time, that you can use that evening. Send your \$25 check along with your child's name and teacher's name in an envelope marked Silver Diner Gift Cards by March 12th. Cold Spring PTA will earn 20% of gift card sales, too!

School Tool Boxes Return to CSES Keep your eyes posted for information about this popular PTA fundraiser, returning to Cold Spring after Spring Break. Participation is completely voluntary.



Box Tops for Education

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

Recycle Cartridges & Cell Phones Your used printer cartridges and cell phones can make a difference. Cold Spring just started a new recycling program through Funding Factory by collecting used

inkjet and laser printer cartridges and cell phones. To contribute to the recycling effort, please deliver your items to one of the bins located in the hallway outside of the Teachers' Lounge.



Giant Bonus \$\$\$\$

Giant A+ Bonusbucks program is running again this year. The program begins October 9, 2009 and runs through March 25, 2010. Giant customers can help our school earn cash each time they shop using their Bonus Card. All you need to do is designate Cold Spring Elementary School as the recipient school. This can be done on-line by visiting the Giant website <http://www.giantfood.com/aplus> or by calling 1-877-366-2668. Our school ID is 00749. Please note that you need to re-designate Cold Spring even if you had designated us last year.



Safeway Escrip Program Safeway's "escrip" program is once again up and running. Operating in much the same manner as the Giant Bonus Bucks program, Safeway's program requires you to sign up online at www.escrip.com. Our school ID is 6489882.



Target Takes Charge of Education Use your Target Visa or REDcard when you shop at Target and support Cold Spring. The Cold Spring ID is 58117. Just visit www.target.com/tcoe, or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate our school.



Harris Teeter

Together in Education

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.

MINUTES
COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MEETING
FEBRUARY 2, 2010

CALL TO ORDER:

Pete Thomson, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

ATTENDANCE:

Those in attendance were Pete Thomson, President-Elect Debra Bernal, Vice-President Jonathan Lusk, Treasurer Sudha Sivaram, Recording Secretary Lynn Jordan, and Corresponding Secretary Carolyn Messitte. Principal Martin Barnett was representing Cold Spring Elementary. Also in attendance were Lacey Simmons, a student at University of Maryland Business School, and parents Rebecca Cornelius, Vivian Yao, Amy Ullman, and Lisa Cohen.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Barnett reported that the Hearts for Haiti program was launched, allowing students to make small purchases with all donations going to Haiti.

He also reported that the school will not be getting any new computers for at least 2 years due to the budget.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Pete Thomson allowed Lacey Simmons to distribute a survey about preschool education to those in attendance.

He reported that he has been approached about banding together with other magnet schools with schools with centers to object to budget cuts that would eliminate busing for these students. He indicated he would distribute information before committing to anything.

He reported that there was not enough interest in Imagination Stage or Mad Science at this time. These activities may go forward at a later time if there is interest.

He finally reported that the meeting about the new gymnasium was to take place following the PTA meeting at 8:00. He encouraged everyone to attend and let his or her comments be known.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The draft minutes from the December meeting reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Sudha Sivaram will distribute the budget report at the March meeting.

GEOGRAPHY WEEK:

Pete Thomson reported that Geography Week is underway and Bill Oldach is in charge. A Lesser was distributed.

VARIETY SHOW:

Rebecca Cornelius reported that the Variety Show will be March 4-5. Tickets will be \$7. She will be looking for someone to take over running the show in 2012.

SCIENCE EXPO:

The science fair will take place March 23, 2010.

COMMUNITY NIGHT:

Lynn Jordan reported that the Potomac Pizza fundraiser raised \$300 and the My Pottery Place fundraiser raised \$85. The next Community Night is scheduled for March 22, 2010 at Silver Diner. Teachers will be asked to help and the PTA will sell gift cards ahead of time for an additional 20% profit.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 pm and everyone asked to move to the multi-purpose room for a presentation on the new gymnasium project.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Jordan, Recording Secretary

**DRAFT MINUTES
COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA MEETING
MARCH 2, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER:

Pete Thomson, PTA President, called the meeting to order at 7:18 pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

ATTENDANCE:

Those in attendance were Pete Thomson, President-Elect Debra Bernal, Vice-President Jonathan Lusk, Treasurer Sudha Sivaram, Recording Secretary Lynn Jordan, and Principal Martin Barnett was representing Cold Spring Elementary. Also in attendance were parents Jyoti Bisbey and Jonah Odim.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

Mr. Barnett reported that as of March 12, the budget will be frozen. He also noted that the land survey for the gym is currently being conducted, and that the gym is currently on schedule.

He also reported that a 5-day school waiver has been granted, so none of the days from the Blizzard will have to be made up.

He also reported that cameras and a buzzer system are being installed before spring break so that parents will now have to be "buzzed" in to the school.

Finally, Mr. Barnett reported that Mr. Light's son assisted, without pay, with snow removal during the Blizzard. Teachers have collected about \$250 to present to him as a gift. A motion was made and passed to match the contribution with PTA funds.

PRESIDENT ELECT'S REPORT:

Debra Bernal reported that she has formed a nominating committee consisting of herself, Lalitha Yedavalli, Vivian Yao, April Kaplan, and Lynn Jordan. A motion was made and passed to approve the committee. New officers will be voted on at the June meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

The draft minutes from the February meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made and passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT/MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

Sudha Sivaram distributed the financial report. A motion was made and passed to pay the \$250 late-payment fine to the Secretary of State for registration as a charitable organization. It appears that the registration was paid but never received.

Discussion was also had about the fact that teachers have not been submitting receipts for the Teacher Support funds to which they are entitled. Pete will look into whether checks can be issued without receipts.

VARIETY SHOW:

The Variety Show is March 4th and 5th. About 200 tickets are still available. The Gazette will do an article on the show.

SCIENCE EXPO:

The science fair will take place April 28, 2010.

COMMUNITY NIGHT:

Lynn Jordan reported that the next Community Night is scheduled for March 22, 2010 at Silver Diner. Teachers will be asked to help and the PTA will sell gift cards ahead of time for an additional 20% profit.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Jordan, Recording Secretary