



## **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: Julie Oldach  
[julieoldach@verizon.net](mailto:julieoldach@verizon.net)

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

Vice President: Susan Lusk  
[susan@ipo.org](mailto:susan@ipo.org)

Treasurer: Andrea Portes  
[aggportes@verizon.net](mailto:aggportes@verizon.net)

Recording Secretary: Laurie Gira  
[tlebgira@aol.com](mailto:tlebgira@aol.com)

Corresponding Secretary: Denise Schleckser  
[dschleckser@verizon.net](mailto:dschleckser@verizon.net)

#### **MCCPTA DELEGATES**

Christina Kyong:  
[ckyong@stoneridge.org](mailto:ckyong@stoneridge.org)  
Jeff Alexander:  
[jeffalex@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jeffalex@stanfordalumni.org)

#### **PTA MEETING SCHEDULE 2008-2009**

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

- Tuesday, February 3, 2009
- Tuesday, March 3, 2009
- Tuesday, March 31, 2009
- Tuesday, May 5, 2009
- Tuesday, June 2, 2009

### **Congratulations Reflections Program Participants!**

Thanks to all who participated in the PTA's Reflections Cultural Arts Program. All entrants received a certificate from the PTA, a participation medal, and a Barnes & Nobel gift card for their efforts. The top four entrants in each category have had their works forwarded to the County level.

Photography, Primary - Spencer Bernal  
Photography, Intermediate - Cole Abod, Alex Gleicher, Raja Ramesh and Eric Rong  
Visual Arts, Primary - Amelia Fox, Riley Jordan, and Indra Periwai  
Visual Arts, Intermediate: - Will Hartman and Eric Rong  
Literature, Intermediate - Michelle Dubovitsky  
Musical Composition, Intermediate - Eric Rong  
Film/Video Production - Intermediate - Max Jordan

**President's Message**  
**By Julie Oldach**

Dear Cold Spring Friends and Families:

I hope that you all had a happy and restful winter break. It is nice to be back in the swing of things at school, and I know many of you are looking forward to spring, which is right around the corner!

In January, the PTA sponsored two delightful activities. The Lesole Dance project performed lively South African dances for our students. They even managed to get the teachers and staff out on the dance floor! We also held our annual Readathon, a very popular event with our students. Thanks to all volunteers whose hard work makes these events possible.

This year, the theme for Geography Week is "Mapping the Americas." Interested students will create a mock postcard focusing on a geographical area of the Americas (depending on their grade). Student winners will be announced the first week of February, and will each receive a Barnes and Noble gift card.

On February 13th, we will sponsor our annual Valentine's Day parent lunch. See this issue for times to attend, as our lunch schedule is modified for this special event. Don't forget (parents and friends of students) to bring your own lunch this day. The children really enjoy this event, to be followed by classroom parties. Check with your child's teacher for details about these.

Just around the corner will be our biannual International Fair. Please mark your calendars to attend this fantastic event on Sunday, March 1st at 2pm. We are fortunate to have at Cold Spring representatives from many diverse communities who are eager to share their cultures with us. There are still lots of volunteers needed for that day to run smoothly. Please don't miss this opportunity to attend and lend a hand.

It is also time for everyone to begin to think about what they would like to do to help next year's PTA. Is there a position you would like to hold on the board? Is there a committee that you are ready to chair this year? If so, please let us know. The PTA needs you! Don't be afraid to take a risk and do something you never thought you would do!

As you can see, the temperatures may be cooling off, but the school year is really heating up! I look forward to seeing each of you at one of our upcoming events!

Sincerely,

Julie Oldach  
PTA President

### **Cold Spring Takes Over the Silver Diner!**

On Monday, February 23rd, Cold Spring Elementary School will take over the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike for a community night fundraiser. Mr. Barnett will be on hand, along with other Cold Spring staff, to seat and wait on you!

Twenty percent (20 %) of the proceeds of the entire diner, from between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., will be donated to the PTA, to support our many programs and events. So come out and get the Cold Spring staff working, hang out with your friends, and have some great food. And..., tell your friends and family too!

### **Readathon – Friday January 23**

Volunteers are needed for Cold Spring's annual Readathon for Friday, January 23rd. We have 2 shifts that need coverage.

2:45-3:30 p.m. (set up snacks and beverages)  
5:15-6:00 p.m. (serve pizza and drinks)

Please consider helping out for either or both shifts; especially if you have a child participating in the extended readathon (grades 3-5). If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Mary Meyer at [mcmhome@comcast.net](mailto:mcmhome@comcast.net) or at (301) 838-9691. Thanks in advance!

### **Cabin John Middle School Information**

The orientation meeting for in-coming sixth grade parents is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2009, with a snow date of Tuesday, February 24, 2009. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Cabin John Middle School (CJMS). The Tuesday, March 10, 2009, CJMS PTA meeting will have representatives from the Montgomery County school system to discuss the pending move to the Tilden holding school. Transportation, instruction, and materials will be part of the discussion. All parents are welcome to attend. The meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. in the media center.

Due to elementary school boundary changes for the schools that feed into CJMS and the resulting increase in students to CJMS, portables will be necessary at the holding school. The CJMS PTA is requesting that parents volunteer for the Portable Watch Committee to review the safety features of the portables for the holding school. Parents will focus on fire safety, mold, air quality, and the general safety of the portables. If you would like to volunteer, please contact the school or the CJMS PTA. The CJMS PTSA next meeting dates:

Tuesday, February 10, 2009, 7:15 p.m. in the Media Center  
Tuesday, March 10, 2009, 7:15 p.m. in the Media Center

#### **CJMS Contact Information**

Office: (301) 469.1150

Guidance: (301) 469.1160

Fax: 301.469.1003

Website:

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

#### **PTSA Contact information**

Jane Coburn, Cold Spring PTA Middle School  
Liaison

Home: (301) 294.9440

Email: [jacoburn@fdic.gov](mailto:jcoburn@fdic.gov)

Website: [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org)

If you would like to join the PTSA listserv please email [cabinjohnms-ptsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cabinjohnms-ptsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

### **Reminder - International Fair**

Reminder - the International Fair is around the corner! We're looking for volunteers to help children with crafts as well as with the clean-up effort. Service hours are available for responsible teenagers willing to help out. If interested, please contact Mila Clifton at [milita123@yahoo.com](mailto:milita123@yahoo.com) or Deborah Parker at [Debbie\\_Parker72@hotmail.com](mailto:Debbie_Parker72@hotmail.com).

### **Differences Awareness**

The Differences Awareness committee has been busy! In addition to talking to several individual parents regarding how to help their children succeed at Cold Spring, we have been planning some workshops for our teachers. The more information our teachers have, the better they are able to help our children and be prepared for whatever hurdles they may face with our kids.

Ann Dolin, who is a special educator well known throughout the metropolitan DC area, will be giving two lunchtime workshops to our teachers during February and March 2009. The topics are "Fostering Motivation and Resiliency," and "Differentiating Teaching Based on Different Learning Styles". The teachers, who had an opportunity to provide input on the subject matter, reflect their requests.

If anyone has any books they would like to donate to our special needs library, please let me know. Books geared towards parents, teachers, or children on all topics that would help our Cold Spring family are welcome.

Lastly, there has been some interest in a support group for parents of kids with special needs. If you are interested in forming a group, please contact Lisa Kerness at [ekerness@aol.com](mailto:ekerness@aol.com). If there is enough interest, Lisa has volunteered her time to help organize the effort.

### **Gifted Child Committee**

The next MCCPTA Gifted Child Committee (GCC) informational meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. at Gaithersburg High School (cafeteria). The topic is mathematics (acceleration, differentiation strategies, and pathways.) MCPS staff will present information and data and will be available for questions. The meeting will be open to the public.

Before the meeting, we are interested in hearing from GT Liaisons and parents at schools across Montgomery County. We want to know your questions, concerns, and suggestions about the accelerated mathematics curriculum. Getting this information before the meeting will help ensure that the meeting focuses on mathematics issues of the greatest concern. It will also help ensure that we can distribute materials responsive to parent questions and concerns, either at the meeting or via the listserv and GCC website.

Parents can call Susan Thomas at (301) 871 – 1345 with comments about the mathematics curriculum, or they can email comments to Susan at [susan.thomas30@verizon.net](mailto:susan.thomas30@verizon.net). Susan has indicated she will try to respond to messages within 24 hours. She is asking for parents to be persistent and call her again if you do not receive a prompt reply.

## Science Expo 2009

The Cold Spring PTA is happy to announce the Annual Cold Spring Science Expo 2009! It will be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. All grades are welcome to participate in this non-competitive event either individually or in collaborative groups of up to 3 students. Also, volunteers are needed to help with preparation and to be evaluators during the Expo. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Kenneth Cho at [kenchomd@yahoo.com](mailto:kenchomd@yahoo.com).

## Free Library Workshops

Registration and Information: call (301) 229-1347 or email [parenting@ymcad.org](mailto:parenting@ymcad.org)

**Dealing with a Strong-Willed Child** - Do you sometimes feel your child is more determined, more sensitive, more argumentative, and more volatile than others? Come and learn how to turn these strong characteristics into positive attributes and make day to day family living more tranquil.

When: Wednesday, February 4, 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Where: White Oak Library (11701 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring)

**Family Anger Issues (five-session class)** – These classes will help families understand their own and their family members’ intense feelings. Topics include:

- Parent-child issues - power struggles and emotional outbursts
- Child-child issues - sibling rivalry, dealing with conflicts
- Prevention strategies - trigger thoughts, temperament issues

These sessions will require persons to register for and attend all five classes.

When: Tuesdays through February 3 – March 3, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: YMCA Ayrlawn Program Center (5650 Oakmont Avenue, Bethesda)

**Communicating Success to Children (six-session class)** - Parents will learn to identify the purposes of a child’s misbehavior and develop effective discipline and encouragement strategies for positively redirecting these behaviors. There is a required text that will be made available the first class (\$20 donations for this class is appreciated).

When: Wednesdays, February 4 through March 11, 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.

Where: YMCA Ayrlawn Program Center (5650 Oakmont Avenue, Bethesda)

**Parenting Teens (six-session class)** - A down-to-earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teenagers. The group discussion format teaches skills to help improve parent/teen relations; develop teen self-esteem and self-reliance; and promote responsible teen behavior at home, school and in the community. Required text, available first night: \$20. Donations appreciated

When: Wednesdays, February 4 through Mar 11, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. (revised dates)

Where: YMCA Ayrlawn Program Center (5650 Oakmont Avenue, Bethesda)

You are cordially invited to celebrate  
**Valentine's Day at cold spring**



**Part 1: Take Your Parents to Lunch day**

Please join your young Valentine for lunch in the cafeteria on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup> for "Take Your Parent to Lunch Day." Please join your child(ren) according to the following schedule:

**11:30 am– 12:00 pm: Grades K, 1 and 2**

Classes: Hanley, Luther, Spitz, Spring, O'Neil, Testa

**12:00 pm-12:30 pm: Grade 3, 4th grade center and 5th grade center**

Classes: VanGrack, Stiefel, Cohen, Cashman, Sellitti, Peterson

**12:30 pm– 1:00 pm: Remaining 4th and 5th grade classes**

Classes: Willis, Sydnor, McPhaul, LeFlore, Sindall

**Parents: Please plan to provide your own lunch.** Feel free to stay and join your son or daughter for the half-hour recess that follows each lunch period.

**Part II: Classroom Parties**

Parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the traditional classroom Valentine parties which are held in the afternoon. The start times for these celebrations will vary. Please see the information that will be sent home by your child's teacher or room parent.

**January 2009**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			<b>1</b> No School (New Years Day)	<b>2</b> No School	3	4
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	10	11
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	17	18
<b>19</b> No School (Martin Luther King Day)	<b>20</b> No School Inauguration Day	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Readathon 1:00- 5:30 pm	24	25
<b>26</b> No School (Professional Day)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	31	

**February 2009**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	7	8
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Valentine's - Parents to Lunch Day	14	15
<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	21	22
<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	28	

**Minutes of the Cold Spring Elementary School PTA Meeting**  
**Date: December 2, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER:**

Julie Oldach called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE:**

Presided over by Julie Oldach, PTA President.

Those officers in attendance were Julie Oldach, PTA President, Pete Thomson, President-Elect, Susan Lusk, Vice President, Andrea Portes, Treasurer, Christina Kyong, MCCPTA Delegate, Denise Schleckser, Corresponding Secretary, and Laurie Gira, Recording Secretary.

Also in attendance were: Mr. Barnett, Debra Bernal, Lisa Kerness, Carla Meister, Taime Sydnor, and Cindy Willis.

**PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

**Mr. Barnett** reported that Superintendent Dr. Weast has indicated significant budget cuts for the coming year. The three teacher unions are meeting this week to negotiate changes to contracts. The December 11 CIP meeting for PTA Presidents and Principals wherein Dr. Weast usually unveils the coming year's Operating Budget has been postponed because too many issues remain unresolved. This meeting will be rescheduled. Parents should keep apprised of new budget developments. Layoffs, furloughs, buyouts, reductions in art, music, PE, and paraeducators are among the many items being considered.

Flu season is coming. Please dress your children appropriately as they will be going outside for recess.

Mr. Barnett reported that the school is celebrating National Inclusion Week, with morning announcements, a guest speaker assembly for grades K through 5, and all students will be writing essays on the subject. Mrs. Cross and Mrs. Whited have been working hard to coordinate these events.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

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

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**PTA Treasurer, Andrea Portes**, reported a slightly increased balance. Our biggest yearly fundraisers are complete, so the balance is expected to only go down as the year progresses. A few families responded to the PTA's reminder of needed direct donations. The PTA has not yet received the receipt from the purchase of the Poster Printer approved earlier in the year for the school. Mr. Barnett reported that the printer has not been purchased as yet because they are debating whether it would be better to use

the money to purchase a second Promethean board. He needs to make sure he will be able to get it installed before he makes the final decision.

**MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT:**

**MCCPTA Delegate, Christina Kyong,** Reported on the MCCPTA Delegate meeting held on November 25, 2008. The motion to close school on Inauguration Day was denied. Discussion included the issues of staff coverage and problems arising from conflict with high school exams ongoing at that time. A motion to support a change in the curriculum to include the day's events was accepted.

MCPS is conducting a parent survey and parents should have received information asking them to go online to fill out the survey. Some at our meeting had received this information, some had not.

The BOE, at its November 20 meeting, approved recommended CIP amendments. However, there may not be funding to support these amendments, it still needs to get the approval of the County Executive and then the County Council.

There will be a Forum with the BOE on Monday, January 5, 2009 at 7 pm. Our Cluster Coordinator emphasized the need for parent presence to show support and public interest.

**DISCUSSION OF BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:**

**PTA President, Julie Oldach, and Vice President, Susan Lusk,** attended the recent Cluster meeting regarding recommendations for the county education budget. The Cluster wants feedback on whether schools would prefer an increase in class size or a cut in programs and/or staff. Studies have shown little impact of class size above a level of 20 to 1. The concern is that programs that are cut are difficult to reinstitute. Mr. Barnett didn't think any of our programs would be impacted by these cuts. He indicated that he foresaw more combination classes if there is an increase in class size. Also, there could be a possible reduction in minutes for art/music/PE or a loss of paraeducators.

**President Elect, Pete Thomson,** will attend the December 17 meeting and get more information on the types of programs at risk.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BLOOD DRIVE:**

Thanks to **Lisa Rispler, Debbie Meisengeier, and Beth Sherman** who worked hard, along with many other staff and parents, to make our first blood drive a big success. Also, our local Junior troop made signs for the event. Mrs. Luther's class had the most donors and earned the ice cream party to take place tomorrow, December 3. With a goal of 28 pints of blood, CSES collected 32 pints which helped 96 people within a few days of the drive. CSES will receive a plaque of thanks.

**DIFFERENCES AWARENESS:**

**Chair Lisa Kerness** reported that two teacher talks are being planned. After consulting with the teachers to ascertain what topics would be most useful for them, Lisa has scheduled Ann Dolan, special education instructor, to speak with our staff during their lunch periods on the topics of "Fostering Motivation and Resilience" and "Differentiating Teaching to Different Learning Styles."

**COMING EVENTS:**

**Reflections Chair, Debra Bernal**, will hold the Reflections breakfast on Thursday, December 4 to recognize the 11 participants who entered 23 works of art in this year's competition. Each will receive a certificate and a Barnes & Noble gift card. The top four in each category will continue on to the county level of competition.

This year's **Readathon** will take place on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, with all grades reading from 1:00 to 3:00, and third through fifth graders having the opportunity to stay after school until 6:00 for continued reading and pizza.

**Geography Week Chair Bill Oldach** is developing his plans for this year's events.

**International Fair** has 17 countries signed up. Talent will include two dance clubs performing in the APR. Other talent will be featured in the same room with the country it represents. There will be more information going home in backpacks prior to the holiday to get more countries represented.

**Science Expo** will be held on March 24. **Chairman Ken Cho** will not be coordinating sales of Science Fair display boards this year. If a parent wishes this service to be provided and would like to coordinate it, they should contact him. Otherwise, the sales will not be offered. A listserve announcement to this effect will be sent out.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NEW BUSINESS:**

It has been customary in the past, due to the few school days which pass between the December and January PTA meetings, to cancel the January meeting. Those present unanimously agreed that this would be appropriate this year, as well.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting ended at 8:11 pm.

Respectfully submitted by  
Laurie Gira  
Recording Secretary

## Pain – Free Fund Raising

### Giant



If you shop at Giant, they will contribute a portion of their earnings to Cold Spring.

Renew or register at <http://www.giantfood.com/> or visit the store to apply.  
The Cold Spring School ID is 00749.

### Safeway



Renew or register with the eScrips fundraising program at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) or visit the store to apply. The Cold Spring School ID is 6489882.

### Box Tops



Save those Box Tops for Education! Cold Spring receives 10-30 cents per box top. If each Cold Spring student brought in just one box top per week during the school year, Cold Spring would receive \$1,600 in cash!!

Every little bit helps. Look at the packaging of the foods you eat. If you see the BOX TOP symbol (see above) cut or tear it off and send them into school.

For a weekend . . .  
for a lifetime . . .  
Become a foster or  
adoptive parent.



# Touch a Child's Heart

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Montgomery County Foster and Adoptive Parent Services

**For more information contact**  
**Montgomery County Child Welfare Services**  
**[www.montgomerycountymd.gov/kidsneedyou](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/kidsneedyou)**  
**240-777-1664**