



## **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, May 5, 2009
- Tuesday, June 2, 2009

### ***Fifth Grade End of Year Important Dates Mark Your Calendars Now!***

#### **Community Service Car Wash and Bake**

**Sale:** Saturday, May 2 (rain date May 3),  
10 am- 2 pm. Proceeds from this event benefit  
the Stepping Stones shelter in Rockville.

#### **Fifth Grade Pool Party at Rockville**

**Municipal Pool:** Wednesday, June 10, 10 am-  
2:15 pm. \*\*\*Parent Drivers will be needed!\*\*\*

#### **Fifth Grade Graduation at Richard**

**Montgomery High School:** Monday, June 15,  
7:00 pm

Please contact Denise Schleckser at  
[dschleckser@verizon.net](mailto:dschleckser@verizon.net) with any questions.

## **President's Message**

### **By Julie Oldach**

Dear Cold Spring Friends and Families:

It is hard to believe that our school year will soon be coming to a close. Time flies when you are having fun, as they say! But before we are off for a summer of relaxation and fun, with the joy of our children constantly in our presence, there are quite a few events to review and look forward to.

April was truly a month full of showers as the saying goes. But the Artist in Residence did much to spread sunshine (and paint) on all of our spirits! Tara Holl devoted many hours working in concert with our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students to create a fabulous learning tree which will be on display in our library for all to enjoy. We thank her and our 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers, along with the many parent volunteers who made this all possible. Please be sure to stop by the media center to see this amazing masterpiece!

Ducking between the raindrops, our PTA sponsored a successful CSES spring spruce up. Our thanks go to all those who participated to help keep our school looking great.

May will be loaded with many events celebrating our 5<sup>th</sup> grade graduates. Please be sure to congratulate our 5<sup>th</sup> graders on their accomplishments and wish them luck in their future endeavors at middle school. Thanks to all those volunteers who worked to make the graduates feel truly special.

In May, we celebrate Staff Appreciation week. Thanks to all those parents and friends who donated their specialties to our staff lunches, and thanks to the volunteers who planned this wonderful event. May 11<sup>th</sup> will be our final Community Night to be held at Ledo's Pizza on Darnestown Road. Be sure to attend this event and trade stories about your summer plans with friends and neighbors.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we will have our last PTA meeting of the year where we will elect officers for next year's board. This is a pot-luck, so be sure to attend and bring a favorite dish! Our end of the year picnic will be on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6 – 8pm. Come enjoy friends and music while your kids enjoy the company of their friends!

On a personal note, I would like to thank the members of our Board for their support and friendship over this past year. It was truly an honor to work with such an energetic group! I also would like to thank all of our committee chairs for their patience and understanding, particularly as a result of the challenges presented by our new insurance carrier this year. And finally, thanks again to the wonderful staff at Cold Spring Elementary, headed by Mr. Barnett, who helped me not merely survive but also enjoy my term. It has been my privilege to serve as PTA President this year.

With warm regards,  
Julie Oldach

## THANK YOU!

The PTA would like to extend a great big THANK YOU to Cold Spring parent Eric Clair of Sav-A-Tree for donating his time and his company's equipment to remove the two foot stump in the bed at the Kindergarten door.

Eric did this in conjunction with the Spring Spruce Up. By clearing the area, we now have the ability to plant a new tree there. Thanks again Mr. Clair!!



### Keep sending those box tops to school and shopping at Safeway!

To date we have earned over \$2,600 for the 2008-09 school year!

The A+ BonusBucks program at Giant has ended for this school year, but please continue shopping at Safeway.

**Please have your child bring in box tops to their teacher by May 31.** Continue to save those box tops over the summer and we will collect them in the fall. We collected over 5000 box tops so far this year – that's more than \$500 for Cold Spring! Easy money!!



## Cold Spring 37<sup>th</sup> Graduation Special Report

# Class of 2009 Finishes in Style

4/20/09

By Ralph Nelson

It was a muggy Wednesday in June, 1974. Amanda was talking with her best friend Bev about having a play-date after school when she heard the closing school bell. They packed up their notebooks and walked out of Cold Spring's front door for the last time.

That was graduation for Cold Spring's Class of 1974. No events, no awards, and no ceremonies. **Just a 5 second bell.**

Fast forward 35 years later. Amanda, who now goes by Mandy and is my wife, has our daughter Heather graduating with Cold Spring's Class of 2009 – and things have changed a little.

Cold Spring has become legendary nationwide. It is a place of award winning teachers, recognized support staff, highly engaged and networked parents, and across-the-board exceptional students. **Now when the 117 members of the Cold Spring Class of 2009 walk out of school after the last bell on June 16, 2009, their entire experience at Cold Spring will be celebrated – for a month and a half!**



Looking at the event chart, you can see how Cold Spring's events leading up to graduation has changed. It's a major joint staff, PTA, and the parent effort. I interviewed parent volunteer Denise Schleckser, the End-of-Year Activities chairman, one day after pick-up to get a

handle of all of these events. If anyone knew how all of these things worked together, it would be Denise – because, well, she's really organized. When asked why she took on such a big project,

she said "I knew my organizing efforts would have an impact on the community." Starting last Spring, she said she received a binder and a list a half dozen volunteers all ready to go. "There was not a lot to do over the summer," she said. "Other than firming up committee chairs and reviewing last year's materials, it's pretty much already organized. She's also too humble. Although it might already be organized, it still takes a boatload of hours to manage and execute – all for only \$45 a family.

My family enjoyed Cold Spring's end-of-year activities with my son Peter two years ago and it was a blast. Consider enjoying it with your Cold Springer because when you think about it, this is your celebration too. On the chart, there are many events for parents of students from any grade including the concert, field day, picnic, and staff appreciation luncheon. They were all designed over the last 35 years to get you ready for your child's last closing bell at Cold Spring. Make it a celebration! We have.

**May Events**

| Est. Date | Event                                   | Who          | Contact      |
|-----------|---|--------------|--------------|
| 1-May     | 5th Grade Panoramic Group Picture       | 5th grade    | Mrs. Plakas  |
| 2-May     | 5th Grd Community Service Project (PTA) | All Families | David Weiss  |
| 4-May     | Staff Appreciation Week luncheon (PTA)  | Volunteers   | Meg Westwood |
| 22-May    | End-Year Musical Concert                | All Families | Mrs. Minier  |

**June Events**

|        |                                 |              |   |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------|---|
| 1-Jun  | Field Day                       | Volunteers   | Mr. Robison                                 |
| 8-Jun  | End-Year Picnic – Patrols       | 4th-5th      | Mrs. Sellitti                               |
| 9-Jun  | 5th Grader-Teacher Competition  | 5th grade    | Mr. Leflore, 5 <sup>th</sup> grade teachers |
| 10-Jun | 5th Grade Pool Party (PTA)      | Volunteers   | Lisa Tilley                                 |
| 11-Jun | End-Year Picnic – School        | All Families | Pete Thomson                                |
| 12-Jun | Mt. Vernon Field Trip 5th Grade | 5th grade    | Mr. Sindall                                 |

**Day Before Last Day of School Events**

|        |  |           |                                |
|--------|--|-----------|--------------------------------|
| 15-Jun | Clap-out                               | School    | Mrs. Sellitti                  |
| 15-Jun | Class T-Shirt -- after clap-out (PTA)  | 5th grade | Mary Meyer                     |
| 15-Jun | Graduation                             | 5th grade | Beth Higgins & Christy Morakis |
| 15-Jun | Class Gift @ Graduation Ceremony (PTA) | 5th grade | Alisa Mays & Audrey Weissberg  |

**Last Day of School Events**

|        |                                  |           |                             |
|--------|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| 16-Jun | School-wide Award Ceremony       | School    | Mrs. Sellitti               |
| 16-Jun | 5th Grade Class Auction (non-GT) | 5th grade | 5th Grade Teachers (Non-GT) |
| 16-Jun | DVD/Book (PTA)                   | 5th grade | Shiela Menconi & Lisa Cohen |
| 16-Jun | Final Bell                       | School    | 3:05 PM                     |

## **Minutes of the Cold Spring Elementary School PTA Meeting** **Date: March 31, 2009**

### **CALL TO ORDER:**

PTA Vice President, Susan Lusk, called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm. Welcome and introductions were made.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

Presided over by Susan Lusk, PTA Vice President.

Those officers in attendance were Pete Thomson, President-Elect, Susan Lusk, Vice President, Andrea Portes, Treasurer, Denise Schleckser, Corresponding Secretary, and Laurie Gira, Recording Secretary. Principal, Mr. Barnett was also in attendance.

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

**Mr. Barnett** reported that we have now entered the final grading period. MSA testing is complete and went well. The kids did a great job, and there were few absences. Mr. Barnett wanted to particularly thank the PTA (Abby Gleicher and Vicki Klein, Teacher Appreciation Chairs) for providing snacks for the teachers during this time. It was very much appreciated.

Regarding next year's Artist in Residence, Mrs. Minier and Mrs. Crandall have suggested rotating visual versus performing arts emphasis each year. Mrs. Minier is looking into performing visiting artists for next year, possibly the same opera lady from last year. Mr. Barnett indicated that the school is running out of room for the visual art displays and this rotation would alleviate that problem.

Regarding the budget for next year, we did lose one teacher as expected due to lower anticipated student enrollment. Mr. Barnett is hopeful that we will be able to keep math support (i.e., IM7) next year, which will be especially important as those requiring that instruction would otherwise need to travel to the Tilden holding school.

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

The minutes from the March 3 meeting were reviewed. A motion to accept the minutes was made, seconded and carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

**PTA Treasurer, Andrea Portes**, reported that we are still doing well in terms of keeping within our budget. We reimbursed the school for \$5000 of educational expenditures, as we planned. Our biggest upcoming expenditure will be for school tool boxes at the end of the year. Mr. Barnett reminded the PTA to check the required item list carefully in light of upcoming MCPS decisions about what are allowable "assessments" and what are not, and make sure the lists being used are in line with those. Robyn Alexander is the chair for School Tool boxes and will be made aware of this issue. Mr. Barnett will keep us apprised of forthcoming decisions on this matter.

Mr. Barnett anticipates ordering the previously approved Poster Making machine tomorrow. He has also ordered two Promethean boards, as previously discussed, which should arrive after spring break. One will be placed in the Media Center, and the other will be installed in the fifth grade area for use by the upper division classes. He hopes to get more boards in the future.

#### **MCCPTA DELEGATE REPORT:**

**Christina Kyong, MCCPTA delegate**, reported on the March 24 MCCPTA delegates meeting. The modified GT Resolution was passed, but was controversial, so it is not a dead issue. The proposed resolution regarding clarification as to curricular fees was also passed. Proposed revisions for the MCCPTA bylaws will come up for a vote in April, as will an Indoor Air Quality-Safety Committee proposed resolution presented by Cold Spring parent, Laurie Halverson. This resolution focuses on set standards for building plans and portable quality. The resolution is reasonable and prudent, and all agreed that the CSES delegates should vote affirmatively on both issues.

Susan Lusk brought forward the following point of interest for parents who may have children at the Eastern magnet school presently or in the future. Eastern has made the decision to change from an eight period rotating block of 80 minute classes, to a seven period 50 minute classes. The net effect is that many students will lose an elective. For students to take a language in middle school, they must give up their music elective. There has been a proposal to offer an optional eighth period after school for those with concerns.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **MARCH EVENTS:**

The year's final **Book-a-Breakfast** was again very popular. 170 students participated. Many thanks to chairperson **Anamika Krishna-Rogers**.

This year's **Science Expo** was also a huge success. 175 student scientists participated. Thank you to **Monica and Ken Cho**, who put in a lot of time to make this a well-run and fun event for all. Also, CSES parent, **Beverly Sivaslian**, did a great job again this year providing exciting demonstrations to enrich the evening.

##### **APRIL EVENTS:**

**Artist-in-Residence** will begin after spring break. Volunteers are already in place. **Pat Burns and Bruce Heno** have been hard at work cutting wood in anticipation of the projects.

**Spring Clean Up Day** at CSES will take place on Sunday, April 26 from 1 to 3 pm, rain or shine. Mulch has been ordered, boy and girls scouts will be helping out, and any other student who wishes to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours are welcome to join in. **Eleni Clark** is chairing this event.

##### **MAY EVENTS:**

May's Community night will be held at **Ledo's Pizza**, Travilah Road, on May 11. Ledo's will be giving CSES 20% of ALL proceeds from the restaurant for the entire day. Thanks to **Lynn Jordan** for organizing this terrific fundraising opportunity.

**APRIL'S BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING:**

CSES is excited to host a Board of Education (BOE) meeting in the CSES APR on April 23, from 7:30 to 9:00 pm. Wootton High School has generously contributed \$200 to help with refreshments for this important evening. We anticipate at least two Board of Education members will be in attendance, as well as approximately three representatives from each of the schools in the Wootton cluster, yielding about 50 in attendance. Each school's cluster representative should be prepared to speak about their school or ask questions. We will contact the schools to get a better idea of the number attending, and will work toward having nice refreshments and setup to put CSES's best foot forward.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Laurie Gira, Recording Secretary.

May 13, 2009

### **CABIN JOHN MIDDLE SCHOOL (CJMS) INFORMATION**

Due to the CJMS modernization the current school year will end one day early for all Cabin John students. The last day of class at Cabin John is Monday, June 15; this is a half day with school ending at 12:10 pm.

Two orientation dates for in-coming sixth graders are scheduled for Thursday, August 20, and Friday, August 21; 8:30 am to 11:30 am. There is no bus service; students will need their own transportation to the Tilden Holding School.

The orientation scheduled for Thursday, August 27, is for a morning half day at the Tilden Holding School and will have bus service. This is a practice day for sixth graders. Please contact the school for more information on the orientation dates and activities for the August dates.

Farewell to the Cabin John middle school building is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, from 3 – 5 pm. All are welcome to attend and enjoy light refreshments.

The Cold Spring ES PTA will need a middle school liaison for next year. This is an opportunity to learn about middle school and to meet the principal and vice-principals. Please contact the CSES PTA or me if you would like to volunteer.

### **THE CJMS PTSA NEXT MEETING DATES:**

Tuesday, June 9, 2009, 7:15 pm; Media Center

To join the PTSA listserv: email [cabinjohnms-ptsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cabinjohnms-ptsa-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

PTSA web site: [www.cabinjohnptsa.org](http://www.cabinjohnptsa.org)

Contact information for CJMS

Office: 301.469.1150

Guidance: 301.469.1160

Fax: 301.469.1003

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

Jane Coburn

2008-2009 Cold Spring PTA Middle School Liaison

Home: 301.294.9440

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| May 2009 |   |                       |           |          |        |                                |
|----------|---|-----------------------|-----------|----------|--------|--------------------------------|
| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday               | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday                       |
|          |   |                       |           |          | 1      | 2<br>CSES Car Wash 10 am - 2pm |
| 3        | 4<br>Staff Appreciation Week: May 4 <sup>th</sup> - 8th | 5<br>PTA meeting 7:15 | 6         | 7        | 8      | 9                              |
| 10       | 11<br>Community Night : ALL DAY Ledo's Darnestown Road  | 12                    | 13        | 14       | 15     | 16                             |
| 17       | 18  | 19                    | 20        | 21       | 22     | 23                             |
| 24       | 25  | 26                    | 27        | 28       | 29     | 30                             |
| 31       |   |                       |           |          |        |                                |

| June 2009 |  |  |           |   |                                     |          |
|-----------|--|--|-----------|---|-------------------------------------|----------|
| Sunday    | Monday                                 | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday  | Friday                              | Saturday |
|           | 1                                      | <b>2</b><br>PTA meeting<br>starts at<br>7PM.<br>Potluck. | 3         | 4   | <b>5</b><br>5th grade<br>pool party | 6        |
| 7         | 8                                      | 9  | 10        | <b>11</b><br>End of year<br>picnic 6pm<br>- 8pm | 12                                  | 13       |
| 14        | <b>15</b><br>Fifth Grade<br>Graduation | 16   | 17        | 18  | 19                                  | 20       |
| 21        | 22                                     | 23   | 24        | 25  | 26                                  | 27       |
| 28        | 29                                     | 30   |           |   |                                     |          |