

COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

November 12, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH

- 13 Deadline, Center for the Highly Gifted application, Lifetouch Picture Retakes/Make-ups
- 14 Blood Drive, 8:00 – 2:00pm
- 24 Fifth Grade Field Trip: Politics and Prose, Peterson/Sellitti, 9:30am – 12:30pm
- 25 Early Release Day, Thanksgiving Holiday, 12:35pm Dismissal
- 26 – 27 SCHOOLS CLOSED: Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 1 PTA Meeting, @7:15pm, APR, Babysitting Provided
 - 3 PTA Reflections Breakfast, APR
Assembly: Kids on the Block, 11:00 – 11:35, Grades 3 and 4
 - 4 Assembly: Kids on the Block, 11:00 – 11:30, Grades 1 and 2
 - 11 First night of Hanukkah
 - 15 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Smith Center, Cohen/Cashman
 - 16 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Smith Center, Sydnor/Galusha
 - 18 Latin Dance, 1:30, K-5
 - 25 Christmas Day
 - 26 Kwanzaa begins
 - Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- Dec. 24 – Jan. 3 WINTER BREAK: ALL SCHOOLS CLOSED

SWINE FLU UPDATE

The incidence of flu symptoms among Cold Spring students has increased over the past few weeks and will probably continue for many weeks to come. To keep accurate records, it is important for parents to notify the school by 9:30am each day if your child is ill. You can do this by calling 301-279-8480 or by emailing Mrs. Camardese at Beverly_A_Camardese@mcpsmd.org. Please note the spelling—CAMARDESE. Students should be kept home until they're fever free for 24 hours without use of a fever reducer. Thank you for your cooperation.

LIFETOUCH: PICTURE RETAKES/MAKE-UPS

Please note that Lifetouch will be visiting Cold Spring this Friday, November 13, for picture retakes and make-ups. If you wish for your child to have his or her picture taken, either submit a completed form or picture packet.

PRINCIPAL'S eNEWSLETTER IS HERE

Welcome to the first exclusively "e" edition of the Cold Spring Principal's Newsletter. From hereon in, the newsletter will only be made available online via the Cold Spring web page. The biweekly newsletter will continue to update parents with time-sensitive dates and events.

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; this will soon be sent home with your child(ren). Please place a new, unwrapped item from the list in the large collection bag in your child's class. The collection bags will be placed in each classroom on **November 16** and collected on **December 10**. Then items will 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@verizon.net.

PTA BINGO NIGHT BAKE SALE SUCCESS

Many thanks to the Cold Spring families who contributed to the Bingo Night Bake Sale. All of the wonderful brownies, delicious cookies, creative cupcakes, spooky doughnuts, pumpkin loaves, mini muffins and more were greatly enjoyed by the many 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 greatly appreciated!

FINAL FRONTIERS UPDATE

In an effort to nurture the scientific curiosity of our fifth grade Cold Spring students, Mrs. McPhaul and Mrs. Peterson, the two fifth grade science teachers, encourage students to participate in a county-wide science problem solving competition—Final Frontiers. Many Cold Spring students designed creatively engineered projects in a variety of categories. They are currently in the process of testing and competing on the school level. The winners will proceed to Wootton High School to compete with other Montgomery County students.

The Aero-Car activity has been completed and the winners are:

1st place	Will Sherman and Phil Zhang
2nd place	Aaron Green and Colin Hendrie
3rd place	Minie Zhang and Melissa Klein

SGA ELECTION: WORK IN PROGRESS

Please stay tuned to the next edition of the Principal's Newsletter for SGA election results.

WEATHER ALERT

As the summer temperatures finally fade to fall, we are reminding all parents to encourage their child(ren) to dress appropriately. Since all students will be participating in recess, it is recommended that students wear jackets or sweatshirts to school. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter!

SIDEWALK SAFETY

The beautiful September weather has resulted in a large number of students walking or riding bicycles to and from school. Therefore Officer Terese Guilday and her safety enforcers at Cold Spring would like to remind all students and their families to avoid the car entrance crosswalk. **For optimal safety, all students approaching the school from Orchard Brook must make use of the sidewalk circling the parking lot to get to the school building.** This rule applies to walkers and bicyclists alike. Student patrols will be stationed at regular intervals along the walkway to monitor safe behaviors as students proceed toward the various grade-level entrances.

With the cooperation of all stakeholders in this matter, Cold Spring's slogan—"Safety Is No Accident at Cold Spring"—will continue to be the order of the day. Thanks for your understanding.

Please remember to always walk nearest to the grassy side of the walkway. In this way, students will be safe from cars pulling into parking spaces.

ABSENCE PROCEDURES

We will be implementing the Connect Ed attendance system at Cold Spring to verify student absences. It is the legal responsibility of each school to accurately report and explain student absences. **Please telephone the office to report any student absence to expedite the process. If we have not heard from you by 10:00am, you will receive a computer-generated message requesting that you call school to inform us of the reason for your child's absence.**

DESTINATION IMAGINATION

Ms. Hanley, our staff coordinator for Destination Imagination, spoke with the children earlier this week at lunch time about the program. She hopes to be able to field several teams to participate in this creative problem-solving program this year. Each team is made up of 3-7 students guided by a team manager. Each team also needs an adult to serve as an appraiser to help out during the tournament days. Please talk this over with your child as soon as possible. The information packets should be coming home today. Please note the sign-up deadline of Oct. 30.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Hanley at school or Mrs. Christina Kyong our DI parent support, at 301-770-4026.

CHILDREN'S CHORUS OF WASHINGTON AUDITIONS

The Children's Chorus of Washington (CCW) is currently holding auditions for young singers. The chorus is open to girls and to boys with unchanged voices, who are between the ages of 9 and 16.

The Children's Chorus of Washington (CCW) is now in its 12th year of providing children from the greater Washington area with an excellent music education program. Under the direction of Joan Gregoryk, this outstanding choral ensemble is recognized nationally and internationally for its program and artistic excellence. The chorus has performed with the National Symphony at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, with the Baltimore Symphony, and with many adult choral organizations in the area. The chorus has toured overseas, visiting Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, London, Wales, and South America.

This is a wonderful opportunity available to interested and talented students. Furthermore, many Cold Spring students—both present and past—are members of the chorus. If you are interested in more information about the CCW program and the auditions, please ask your child to pick up a brochure from Mrs. Minier.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

CENTER FOR THE HIGHLY GIFTED APPLICATION

Nov. 13

The Montgomery Public School system offers seven centers for the highly gifted for students entering Grade 4. These centers are designed for students whose academic needs for advanced instruction may not easily be met in their local school. Cold Spring houses one such center. For more information about the centers and the application and testing process, please contact the school, visit www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched or call 301-592-2040.

If you are interested in having your child considered for the Center for the Highly Gifted, please complete the application and return it by November 13, 2009. If you have not received an application and would like for your child to apply to the program, please access the application from the web site at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/.

Parents of present third graders who would like to have their child screened/tested for the Center for the Highly Gifted should follow the timeline below:

September 25- October 2, 2009	Highly Gifted Center applications/information mailed home to all Grade 3 students
November 13, 2009	Deadline for parents to submit completed applications to the school
December 14, 2009	Deadline for schools to submit completed applications to the Department of Accelerated & Enriched Instruction
January 6, 2010	Testing occurs at the local elementary school

BLOOD DRIVE

Nov. 14

As the winter holidays are rapidly approaching, let's all do something to give back to our community. Cold Spring Elementary will hold its annual Red Cross Blood Drive on Saturday, November 14th. Donations may be made from 9:00am until 1:00pm and appointments are strongly recommended, however, walk-ins are welcome. You must be at least 17 years old (16 with written parental consent) and 110lbs. to donate. Ninety-five percent of the population will need a blood transfusion within their lifetime. Only 5% of the eligible public actually donates. Your donation will help up to 3 people. To make an appointment please contact Deborah Altman at altman.deborah@gmail.com. For more information on blood donation, contact the American Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

PTA MEETING SCHEDULED

Dec. 1

Cold Spring's next PTA meeting for the 2009- 2010 school year will be held on Tuesday, December 1. The meeting will begin at 7:15pm sharp. Babysitting services will be provided.

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 YOUR CARTRIDGES AND 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 BonusCard. 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.

SAFEGWAY 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

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 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.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Barnett
Martin J. Barnett,
Principal