

COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

January 28, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 29 Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5, 1:20, APR
Lifetouch: Group Pictures

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

- 1 – 5 MAP-R Testing
Geography Week
- 2 Middle School Counselors Visit Cold Spring, 5th Grade, 1:15 – 2:15. SNOW DATE Feb. 5th
PTA Meeting, 7:15pm, New Gymnasium Meeting, 8:00pm Math Resource Room, Babysitting Provided
- 3 Report Cards Distributed
- 9-10 Grade 2 In View Testing
- 10 Parent Meeting, Cabin John Middle School, 7:00pm SNOWDATE: Feb. 11th
- 11 “The Ned Show”, K-5, 1:30 – 2:15, APR
- 12 Valentine’s Day Activities, 1:30 – 2:30pm in classrooms
- 14 Lunar New Year, Year of the Tiger
- 15 SCHOOLS CLOSED Presidents’ Day
- 19 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Galusha, Seneca Schoolhouse
- 22 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Sydnor, Seneca Schoolhouse
- 23 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Cashman, Seneca Schoolhouse
- 24 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Cohen, Seneca Schoolhouse
- 26 MCPS Early Release Day, 12:35pm dismissal (Teacher Grading & Reporting/Curr. Planning)

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH

- 2 PTA Meeting, 7:15, APR, Babysitting Provided
- 4-5 Variety Show, Evening Performances, 6:00pm
- 5 Variety Show, 1:00 – 2:50pm, APR
- 8 – 17 MSA Testing, Grades 3-5
- 11 Book-A-Breakfast, 8:00am in APR, Grades K-5
- 14 Daylight Savings Time begins
- 23 Science Expo, 6:00 – 9:00pm in classrooms, SNOW DATE Mar. 24
- 26 Fifth Grade Field Trip: Colonial Williamsburg

Mar. 29 – Apr. 5 Spring Break

COLD SPRING HEARTS FOR HAITI

The Cold Spring PTA and the SGA are joining forces to assist the people of Haiti. SGA representatives will sell heart-themed items as pencils, erasers, and stickers to raise money for those unfortunate victims of the recent earthquake. The cost of each item will range from \$25 to one dollar. All proceeds will be sent to American Red Cross.

If you and your child(ren) wish to participate in Hearts for Haiti, please note that the items will be available for sale during lunch periods every Tuesday and Thursday from February until the end of March.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this worthwhile fundraiser. Special thanks to Mrs. Allison Peterson and the SGA for sponsoring this event.

READ-A-THON SUCCESS

Last Friday, the entire Cold Spring student population participated in a school-wide read-a-thon. After school 178 students remained to read until 5:30pm. The PTA generously provided a pizza dinner to all 178 students who stayed for the extended read-a-thon. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all.

CHORAL/INSTRUMENTAL WINTER CONCERT REACHES A HIGH NOTE

Last Thursday, Mrs. Minier, Mr. Allen, the talented fifth grade student chorus and advanced instrumentalists regaled parents and students with their resonant renditions of exquisite songs and classical pieces. Under the guidance of the talented Mrs. Minier and Mr. Allen, the students truly soared. Special thanks to Mrs. Minier and Mr. Allen for providing such a beautiful program.

VARIETY SHOW DATES

Please note the following Dress Rehearsal and Performance dates for Cold Spring's Variety Show:

Friday	February 26	12:45 – 3:00pm (Early Release Date)	Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday	March 3	3:15 – 5:30pm	Dress Rehearsal
Thursday	March 4	7:00pm	Performance
Friday	March 5	7:00pm	Performance

MAP-R SCHEDULE

Please note the winter MAP-R testing schedule so you can plan appointments for your child(ren) accordingly:

MONDAY	2/1	10:45 1:15pm	Stiefel Sydnor
TUESDAY	2/2	1:15pm	Galusha
WEDNESDAY	2/3	10:45am 1:15pm	Van Grack McPhaul
THURSDAY	2/4	9:05am 1:15pm	Sellitti/Peterson Sindall
FRIDAY	2/5	9:05am	Cohen/Cashman

IN VIEW TESTING

Feb. 9 and 10

Cold Spring will administer the In View Level 1 assessment to all Grade 2 students and selected Grade 3 students on February 9 and 10. The In View test is an assessment of cognitive abilities used in the global process to identify students for accelerated and enriched instructional services and gifted and talented identification.

FIFTH GRADE MIDDLE SCHOOL ARTICULATION BEGINS

With the beginning of the New Year comes the annual fifth grade articulation process. As the various dates become available to Cold Spring in regard to middle school meetings and testing, we will notify you via the Principal's Newsletter. As of this date, we have received the following Middle School Articulation information:

Cold Spring Counselor Visit	February 2 SNOW DATE: February 5	1:15 – 2:15
Cabin John Parent Meeting	February 10 SNOW DATE: February 11	7:00 – 8:30pm
Robert Frost Parent Meeting	February 11 SNOW DATE: February 18	7:00 – 8:45pm
Hoover Parent Meeting	February 17 SNOW DATE: February 18	7:00 – 8:00pm

Fifth Grade Field Trip to Middle School for Band Concert:

Frost Middle School	February 5	10:00 – 11:00am
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More information will be made available in future Principal's Newsletters.

HEALTH UPDATES FROM MRS. JORDAN

Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services is providing H1N1 vaccinations at clinics throughout the county. The CDC is recommending that everyone get vaccinated, as another wave of the virus is expected. Go to the following website for information and make an on-line appointment.

http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/mcqtmpl.asp?url=/content/exec/swine_flu/index.asp

On another note, stay healthy and don't touch the T Zone!

SCHOOL INFORMATION

GEOGRAPHY WEEK

Feb. 1 – 5

February 1st – 5th has been designated as Geography Week at Cold Spring. The purpose of this school wide activity is to heighten awareness and emphasize the importance of our global society. Further information regarding this voluntary activity will be forthcoming.

TRANSFER SEASON OPENS

Feb. 1

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a transfer for their children from their regularly assigned school may begin the transfer process during the upcoming transfer season, which will be held from **February 1 through April 1, 2010**. Students in Montgomery County Public Schools are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence and are expected to attend their home school. Transfers of students from one school to another are permitted under limited circumstances.

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may obtain a transfer request form and an information booklet that describes the process and provides useful information about the process. Transfer forms and information booklets will be available in schools beginning the first week of February.

Every effort will be made to notify parents of the transfer decision by May 15. For more information about the transfer process, parents are asked to contact the principal of their home school.

Non-English speaking parents may receive more information on the transfer process and booklet by calling the Spanish Hotline (301-230-3073), the Asian Hotline (301-230-5436), and the ESOL Parent Center (301-230-0674).

PTA MEETING / NEW GYMNASIUM MEETING SCHEDULED

Feb. 2

The next Cold Spring PTA meeting for the 2009 – 2010 school year will be held on Tuesday, February 2. The meeting will begin at 7:15pm sharp. A meeting regarding Cold Spring's new gymnasium will be held at 8:00pm, immediately following the PTA meeting. Babysitting services will be provided.

REPORT CARDS DISTRIBUTED

Feb. 3

Report Cards will be distributed to all MCPS students in Grades K-5 on Wednesday, February 3. Please be sure to sign the manila envelope and turn it back to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

TAKE YOUR PARENT TO LUNCH DAY

Feb. 12

Cold Spring parents are invited to attend designated lunch hour periods in recognition of the 114th anniversary of the National Parent Teachers Association. In conjunction with "Take Your Parent to School Week", students and parents will eat lunch according to the following modified schedule:

11:30am – 12:00pm	Grades K, 2 and 4
12:00pm – 12:30pm	Grade 1, 4th Center, and 5th Center
12:30pm – 1:00pm	Grade 3 and 5

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend this special daytime PTA event. **PARENTS WILL NEED TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN LUNCH. All lunches will be in the All Purpose Room as usual.**

VALENTINES DAY CELEBRATIONS

Feb. 12

Cold Spring students will be enjoying Valentines Day parties in their classrooms on Friday, February 12th after the lunch and recess periods at approximately 1:15 ish. Special thanks in advance to the room parents for the food, fun, and festivities.

2009-10 TESTING SCHEDULES

The 2009-10 testing schedule is as follows:

In View Testing	February 9 -10	Grade 2	
MSA (Maryland School Assessment)	March 8 - 23	Reading/Math	Grades 3, 4, and 5
	May 5 - 11	Science	Grade 5
Terra Nova II	April 26 – April 30	Grade 2	

Please put these dates on your family calendar ASAP. More detailed information regarding exact grade level testing dates and times will be forthcoming.

14TH ANNUAL SCIENCE EXPO PLANNED

Mar. 23

Cold Spring's 14th Annual Science Expo will be held on Tuesday evening, March 23, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. All students are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile event.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

CAREER DAY

Cold Spring's annual Career Day will be held Thursday, April 25th from 8:30-12:00. Mrs. Whited is looking for Parent Volunteers to assist her in preparing for this day. Planning and preparing begins now, so anyone willing to offer a little time each week will be very much appreciated. Please contact Mrs. Whited at corinne_e_whited@mcpsmd.org or call the school directly if you are interested in participating.

A sign-up link for those interested in speaking during Career Day is available on the Cold Spring web site.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

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 9:30 am, you will receive a computer-generated message requesting that you call school to inform us of the reason for your child's absence.**

REMINDERS

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.

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

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,
Principal**

The next Principal's Newsletter will be issued on Thursday, February 11, 2010

