

COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

December 10, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES

DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- 11 First night of Hanukkah
Fifth Grade Chorus Performance: Kenyan Embassy
- 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

JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- 4 School resumes for all students in MCPS Grades K-12
- 8 School Level National Geographic Bee, Grades 4 & 5, Grade 3 Audience, APR, 1: 20 – 3:00pm
- 12 Grade 3 Center for Highly Gifted Testing
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observed, All Schools Closed
- 21 Chorus and Instrumental Music Concert, 2:00 and 7:30pm , APR
- 22 Cold Spring Readathon: 1:00pm –3:00pm all students, K-5; 3:00-5:30pm, gr. 3,4,5
Pizza served @ 5:30pm compliments of Cold Spring PTA
Second Grading Period Ends
- 25 Professional Day for Teachers: No School for Students
Second Grading Period Ends
- 29 Spelling Bee, Grades 3-5, 1:20, APR

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS: AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

- 2 PTA Meeting, 7:15pm, APR, Babysitting Provided
- 3 Report Cards Distributed
- 12 Valentine's Day Activities, 1:30 – 2:30pm in classrooms
- 14 Lunar New Year, Year of the Tiger

HELPING HANDS HOLIDAY CHILDREN

Once again, the Cold Spring community showed their generosity by successfully participating in the Helping Hands Holiday Children program. Through this collection effort, Cold Spring families provide necessary items to needy children living in shelters in Montgomery County.

We extend a special "thank you" to all contributors to the holiday child, and in particular to the Cold Spring chairpersons, Kasia Coulter and Terri de Raet, for coordinating this meaningful event

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.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

REFLECTIONS PARTICIPANTS HONORED

Thanks to everyone who participated in this year's PTA Reflections Program. At the Reflections Breakfast, all artists received a certificate from the PTA and a Barnes & Noble gift card for their efforts. Art work will be forwarded to the County level. Congratulations to all!

Visual Arts, Grades K-2: Michelle Zhao

Visual Arts, Grades 3-5: Claire Chen, Simin Li, Joey Wong, Bradford Wood, Kelsey Yang and Minie Zhang

Photography, Grades K-2: Arunim Agarwal and Benjamin Winig

Photography, Grades 3-5: Eric Rong

2009-10 TESTING SCHEDULES

The 2009-10 testing schedule is as follows:

MSA (Maryland School Assessment)	March 8 - 23 May 5 - 11	Reading/Math Science	Grades 3, 4, and 5 Grade 5
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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.

HONORS CHORUS ACCOMPANISTS REQUESTED

The Honors Chorus presents opportunities for qualified students to participate as student accompanists. Students must be in Grade 5, should be exceptionally musical, and should be very advanced pianists who are able to accompany standard octavo music for treble chorus.

Auditions will be held ON January 7, 2010; the deadline to schedule an appointment for an audition is December 2, 2009. Interested and qualified students should request additional information from Mrs. Minier.

FIFTH GRADE INTERNATIONAL WINTER CARNIVAL

Dec. 23

Have you ever played Dreidel Dash or Santa's Sleigh? Then you've never participated in the annual fifth Grade International Winter Carnival. Every year the entire fifth grade wing celebrates the season with an international twist. All students gather together to work in small groups to perform a task—the creation of an international winter game. Each game reflects the spirit and the customs of the winter holidays. Students create the games and directions, play the games, and then earn prizes. Although this is a "learning experience", it is also a time when the group can get together to work as a team. Happy Holidays from the Fifth Grade Team!

GEOGRAPHIC BEE: WORLD CLASS COMPETITION

Jan. 8

On Friday, January 8th, Cold Spring **fourth and fifth grade class geographic experts** will assemble at 1:15pm in the APR. They will answer challenging questions in front of a **third, fourth, and fifth grade audience** as a part of the **National Geographic Bee** Competition. Furthermore, each third, fourth, and fifth grade audience member will be testing his or her own knowledge by jotting down the responses on an answer sheet. These answer sheets will be collected and the data tallied by fifth grade students to determine the Geography savvy of Cold Spring students. **Congratulations to our champion Cold Spring geographers!**

STUDENT SCREENING FOR HIGHLY GIFTED CENTER

Jan. 12

Parents of all Grade 3 students should have received an application in the mail directly from the Central Offices of MCPS concerning application to the Center for the Highly Gifted.

The Center Program is a rigorous, competitive program geared for those students who are working at the highest levels. If you have any questions pertaining to application to the Center for the Highly Gifted, please contact Mrs. Kathy Pappano, our G/T Coordinator.

Testing will take place at Cold Spring in the morning of January 12

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WINTER CONCERT

Jan. 21

On Thursday, January 21st, at 7:30pm in the APR, Mrs. Minier and Mr. Allen will showcase the musical talents of the Cold Spring students in a Choral/ Instrumental Music Winter Concert. Music for the concert is chosen for its artistic and educational value, and each selection reinforces or introduces concepts related to the MCPS music curriculum.

Congratulations to the marvellous performers! Special thanks to Mrs. Minier and Mr. Allen.

COLD SPRING READATHON

Jan. 22

This year Cold Spring ES will hold its Readathon on Friday, January 22. All K-5 students will participate in a variety of "reading activities" during the afternoon from 1:00 – 3:00pm. The extended readathon from 3:15 – 5:30pm will be for students in grades 2, 3, 4 and 5 only. All students must return a completed/signed parent permission slip confirming that they will be participating in the "Extended Readathon" from 3:15 – 5:30pm. The Cold Spring PTA will provide each participating student will pizza and drinks. A permission slip will be enclosed in a future principal's Newsletter.

MCPS PROFESSIONAL DAY

Jan. 25

On Monday, January 25, all schools in Montgomery County will participate in Professional activities. Students will not attend school on this day. Please plan accordingly.

PTA 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. Babysitting services will be provided.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

CAREER DAY

Cold Spring's annual Career Day will be held Thursday, April 8th 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

OVERDUE BOOKS REMINDER

Students should return all library books on time. After Winter Break, students who have an overdue book will not be allowed to check out any books until that overdue book is returned. Before the break, notices will be going out to all students with an overdue book.

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,

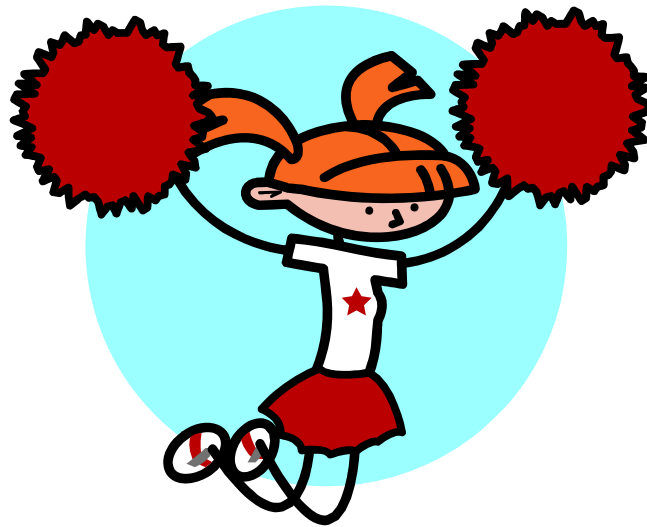
Martin J. Barnett
Martin J. Barnett,
Principal

The next Principal's Newsletter will be issued on Thursday, January 14, 2010

May you and your families revel in the spirit of the holiday season. Be safe, well, and happy!

Wootton High School Poms

Pee-Wee Pom Clinic



Tuesday, December 15th and Thursday, December 17th

6:00-7:30 pm (at Wootton HS gym)

culminating with a performance alongside the

Wootton High School Poms at the

Wootton Varsity Basketball Game

Half-time Performance

Monday, December 21st at 7 pm

Open to K-8th grade

\$30 per participant

Email PeeWeePoms@aol.com for information

Pee-Wee Pom Registration form

Name of Child _____

Age _____ School _____

Parent's name _____

Phone number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Email address _____

Address _____

Emergency Contact Information

Name _____ Relationship _____

Phone number (home) _____ (cell) _____

Payment type (please circle) cash check

Driver's license number if paying by check _____

I agree to allow my child to participate in the Pee-Wee Pom clinic. To my knowledge there are no serious health concerns that would affect my child's participation. In the event of injury, I agree not to hold Wootton High School, any member of the Pom Squad, Pom Coaches, staff at Wootton, or Montgomery County Public Schools liable.

Parent Signature

Print name

