

COLD SPRING ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

March 11, 2010

IMPORTANT DATES

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- 8 – 17 MSA Testing, Grades 3-5
 - 14 Daylight Savings Time begins
 - 19 Ladies of Maryland, In-School Field Trip, Grades 4 and 5, 1:15 – 2:30, APR
 - 22 Silver Diner Fundraiser, 5:00 – 8:00pm
 - 26 Fifth Grade Field Trip: Colonial Williamsburg
- SPRING BREAK: March 29 – April 6

APRIL HIGHLIGHTS

- 6 Professional Day for Teachers: No School for Students
- 7 SCHOOL RESUMES FOR STUDENTS
- 8, 9, 12, 13, 14 Jump Rope for Heart
- 14 Report Cards Distributed
- 15 Career Day, AM
- 19 – 23 Administrative Professionals Week
- 21 Administrative Professionals Day
- 22 Take Your Child to Work Day
- 23 "The Ned Show", K-5, 9:15 – 10:00, APR
- 25 Earth Day
- 26 - 30 Terra Nova Testing, Grade 2
- 27 Vision and Hearing Re-screening
- 28 Science Expo, 6:00 – 8:00pm
- 30 Lifetouch: Class Pictures

MAY HIGHLIGHTS - ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

- 3 – 7 National PTA Teacher Appreciation Week
- 3 + 4 Shakespeare Play, *Cymbeline*, Sellitti/Peterson, 9:45am and 7:00pm, APR
- 5 National PTA Teacher Day
- 7 Kindergarten Visiting Day (Registration)
- 10 Fourth Grade Field Trip: Baltimore Museum of Industry
- 10-11 MSA Science Testing, Grade 5
- 12 Safety Patrol Picnic, Montgomery County Fairgrounds

2009-10 TESTING SCHEDULES

The 2009-10 testing dates are here. Please remember to schedule all appointments around these dates.

MSA

Students in grades 3, 4, and 5 are currently taking the **Maryland School Assessment (MSA)**. This high stakes test measures what the children have learned in their current grade. The content of the test is based on the MCPS curriculum, which is aligned with the Maryland State Voluntary Curriculum (VSC). As you plan for family visits, doctor or dentist appointments, extended Spring Break, etc., please avoid scheduling anticipated events during the testing period. Each individual student score matters and contributes to our school's status as one of the best in Montgomery County!

March 8 and 9	Reading	Grades 3 and 4
March 10 and 11	Reading	Grade 5
March 12 and 15	Math	Grades 3 and 4
March 16 and 17	Math	Grade 5
May 10 and 11	Science	Grade 5

TERRA NOVA SCHEDULE

TerraNova II

April 26 – April 30

Grade 2

COLD SPRING HEARTS FOR HAITI UPDATE

The Cold Spring PTA and the SGA are joining forces to assist the people of Haiti. SGA representatives have been selling 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 the week of March 15.

The SGA has already raised \$858 for the unfortunate earthquakes victims of Haiti.

Thank you in advance for your participation in this worthwhile fundraiser. Special thanks to Mrs. Allison Peterson, who coordinated this event, faculty and staff who donated money to cover the expenses for all the items, the SGA for selling the items, and the Cold Spring community for donating to this worthy cause.

PENNIES FOR PATIENTS

Please note that the Pennies for Patients fundraiser will be starting in April. More information will be forthcoming in the next Principal's Newsletter.

VARIETY SHOW: EARTH-SHAKING ENTERTAINMENT

From the roaring rock bands to the martial arts marvels, this year's variety show—Celebrate Earth—was one for the record books. Thanks to Mrs. Rebecca Cornelius, her dazzling dancers, and the other talented Cold Spring students, the audience was treated with a 2-hour blast of riveting entertainment! A very special thank you to the four Cold Spring parents who shared their creativity and time through the entire production process: Jane Burns, Duffy Kean, Sheila Menconi and Christy Morakis. Many thanks as well to Rachel Ehudin, Abby Gleicher, Vicki Klein, Ann Wagner and Mike Westwood for their contributions to the show.

DESTINATION IMAGINATION REGIONAL COMPETITION **Mar. 13**

Cold Spring's "Destination Imagination" (DI) primary team, "The Treasure Team", will hold a rehearsal for the Kindergarten and first grade classes on Friday, March 12. The West Central Region Tournament will be held on Saturday, March 13 at Clarksburg High School. Cold Spring's team presents at 2:20pm.

TRANSFER SEASON CONTINUES **Feb. 1 – Apr. 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).

COLD SPRING RUNS SILVER DINER **Mar. 22**

Here's the chance for you to be waited on by your teachers! All Cold Spring students, their families, and their friends are invited to enjoy the delicious food at the Silver Diner on Rockville Pike on Monday, March 22 from 5:00- 8:00pm. A full 20% of all the proceeds made go to the Cold Spring PTA! To maximize your donation to Cold Spring, pre-purchase a Silver Diner gift card and use it on March 22. The Cold Spring PTA and staff hope to see you at the Silver Diner on March 22!

JUMP ROPE FOR HEART **Apr. 8 - 14**

April 8, 9, 12, 13, and 14, Cold Spring students will participate in the Jump Rope for Heart during their P.E. classes. This event is sponsored by the American Heart Association. It is a fun and meaningful way for students to improve their physical fitness while supporting a worthwhile cause. See attached flyer for details.

TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY **Apr. 22**

On April 22, MCPS permits students to participate in "Take Your Child to Work Day". On this day, parents traditionally expose their child(ren) to life in the workplace. **If you wish to take your child to work with you on that**

day, please send in a note the day before. This is required by MCPS for your child's absence to be excused. For your convenience, an excused absence form is attached to this Principal's Newsletter.

14TH ANNUAL SCIENCE EXPO PLANNED

Apr. 28

Cold Spring's 14th Annual Science Expo will be held on Wednesday evening, April 28, from 6:00 – 8:00pm. All students are encouraged to participate in this worthwhile event.

PTA MEETING SCHEDULED

May 4

The next Cold Spring PTA meeting for the 2009 – 2010 school year will be held on Tuesday, May 4. 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 15th 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

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

On Friday, May 7, 2010, from 9:15 – 2:30pm, Cold Spring will host its annual Kindergarten Orientation. Please note that **kindergarten classes will be cancelled on that day**. Children must be 5 years old on or before September 1, 2010 to be eligible. A form is attached to this Principal's Newsletter.

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, March 25, 2010

KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION

Dear Cold Spring Family:

On **Friday, May 7, 2010 from 9:15 – 2:30pm**, Cold Spring will welcome prospective Kindergarten students for the 2010 – 2011 school year. **Children who are five years old on or before September 1, 2010 and who live in our attendance boundaries, should be brought to our Kindergarten Registration on May 7, 2010.**

If you have a prospective Kindergartner for the coming school year, please complete and return the form below. If you do not, would you please pass this letter and form along to a neighbor who does have a child eligible for Kindergarten enrollment. Your help is greatly appreciated in reaching out to our neighbors who do not yet have children in school.

When we receive your completed form, we will contact you to set up your appointment for the May 7 registration. Additional forms and registration information will be given to you prior to May 7. You are asked to complete all forms and bring them with you to your registration appointment.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Barnett,
Principal

COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM

Child's Legal Name

Preferred Nickname

Date of Birth

Child's Social Security Number

Gender

Child's Home Address

Home Telephone

Mother/Legal Guardian Name

Work Telephone

Father/Legal Guardian Name

Work Telephone

Cold Spring Elementary School



**Take Your Child To Work Day
School Absentee Form**

As in past years, MCPS again will be participating in the **“Take Your Child to Work Day”** event scheduled for Thursday, April 22. This day will be a valuable experience for each child who attends.

Below, please identify the name of the child/student who will be participating in this program, and the name of his/her parent or guardian granting permission for the child/student to be absent from school on this day – **Thursday, April 22.**

Student’s Name _____

Teacher _____ Grade _____

School Name _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Jump Rope for Heart

Parents,

Our students are practicing jumping rope and other jumping skills to get ready for our annual ***Jump Rope for Heart*** April 8th- April 14th in support of the ***American Heart Association***. All students participate in the jump event as part of their physical education program.

This is also a fund raising event. I am sending home collection envelopes for students that wish to participate in the fund raising part of the event. Participation in the fund raising part of the event is voluntary. If your student wishes to participate, you will need to sign the permission slip and place it in the envelope with any donations. Be sure to check the form for newer options for fund raising like online donating. There is no need to return permission slips if your student is not collecting money. This year I am also asking that parents make sure that students do not send loose change, and if possible, **please convert cash to a check.**

On the specific jump day (regular PE day, unless notified), I am asking that students wear sneakers and loose fitting clothes that allow them to move freely. I will allow students to take trips to the water fountain as needed, so water bottles should not be brought in.

We are all looking forward to the event. One final tidbit: **If Cold Spring reaches our goal of 10,000 dollars, Mr. Robison is prepared to bleach his hair blond! ...And new this year, If we reach 5,000 dollars, Mr. Funkhouser is prepared to shave off his beard.**

Thank You,

**Mr. Robison
Physical Education
Cold Spring Elementary**