



The Bullfrog Bulletin

Weekly Newsletter for Great Seneca Creek Elementary School Families

www.GreatSenecaCreekES.org

Vol. 4 No. 8

Friday, October 23, 2009

Great Seneca Creek Elementary School

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Germantown, Maryland 20874
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School Hours - 8:50 am - 3:05 pm

Gregory S. Edmundson, Principal
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Upcoming Important Dates:

October 23

- PTA Movie Night, 7:00 p.m.
- Scholastic Book Fair Begins, 6:00 p.m.

October 27

- Third Grade Highly Gifted Information meeting at Quince Orchard HS

October 30

- End of First Quarter
- Halloween Parade, 1:20 p.m.,
- Classroom parties-Immediately following parade
- Scholastic Book Fair Ends

November 2

- Professional day for teachers, No school

November 11 and 12

- Early Dismissal Days- Parent/Teacher Conference

The **GRRREAT** Program at GSCES We value:

- **Goal-setting**
- **Respect**
- **Responsibility**
- **Relationships**
- **Esteem**
- **Attitude**
- **Teamwork**

PRINCIPAL'S PAD

It's hard to believe that the first academic quarter of the 2009-2010 school year is coming to a close on October 30. **In planning ahead, be sure you have scheduled your report card conference with your child's teacher on November 11 or 12.** You may be finding it a little easier to navigate your way to your parent/teacher conference this year. This may be due to the fact that we have added large green and white street signs to our hallways. Each hallway is named for one of our GRRREAT Bullfrog characteristics (See box on left hand side). If you wanted to go to our Arts' wing, you would be directed to "Go down Main Street and turn right onto Teamwork Terrace." These authentic street signs were generously donated by one of our parents, Mr. Max Aronow...Spencer's dad!

Our school store continues to receive rave reviews from our students, staff, and parents. It is exciting to see the learning that takes place on so many levels as the students visit the store. Besides the obvious math connections, students are learning to plan their spending and budget their money. They are also learning the power of saving one week to purchase a more expensive item the next. The store also sells more than tangible items. Students can purchase privileges such as lunch with teachers or they can purchase employment opportunities such as reading to younger students. We recently received a new shipment of merchandise that will be on sale beginning next week. Some of the new items are the very popular NFL pencils and Bullfrog Logo velcro wallets. Parents we are always in need of donations of items to sell at the store. We would like to thank all our parent volunteers who are "employed" in our store and who provide such excellent customer service to our students. **Last Call For Any & All Orders Of Sally Foster And Entertainment Books!** PLEASE RETURN ALL ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS - in their plastic sleeves no later than Monday, October 26.

BOOK FAIR BEGINS TONIGHT!

GSCES Scholastic Book Fair begins tonight at 6:00 p.m. We hope you can visit the fair with your child. This year, we have an opportunity to bring more books to our students and classrooms. We call it One for Books. Donate just \$1 and sign a Book Slip with your name or your child's name so we can display it at our Book Fair. All of the money collected goes directly to purchasing more books for our school. Scholastic Book Fairs will match the One for Books dollars you raise with a donation of up to a million books to three non-profit organizations devoted to helping families in need: Kids in Distressed Situations, Inc., the National Center for Family Literacy, and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. Please send your dollar and signed paper Book Slip back to school with your child. On behalf of our students and teachers, THANK YOU! PTA Book Fair Chairs - Stacie Berman & Debi Fitzwilliam.

HALLOWEEN PARADE AND PARTIES

Classroom party information is being sent home by individual teachers and/or room parents. **There will be alternative activities for those students/families**

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

RAFFLE

Enter your chance to win an exciting prize every day during book fair. Use your great estimating skills guessing how many:

Monday – Fortune Cookies
Tuesday – Pasta Noodles
Wednesday – Tortilla Chips
Thursday – Country Flags
Friday – Chopsticks

- Please stop by our book fair and fill out your guess! Check our website for more information at www.bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/gscs. See you at the book fair!!!

BOX TOP CONTEST - WINNING CLASS EARNS A PIZZA PARTY

The class who turns in the most Box Tops from Oct. 26 – Dec. 4 will earn a pizza party in December. Write your name and teacher's name on a small zipper bag with your Box Tops inside and drop it into the Box Top box located outside the all purpose room. Be sure to include your teacher's name so your class gets credit.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITE LFE PRIZE

Would you like our school to get a set of 6 8.5 inch playground balls, a set of 12 jump ropes, or a 6 piece multiuse ball set as our Labels for Education (LFE) prize? Vote for your favorite prize by saving the LFE UPCs and dropping them into the appropriate box outside the all purpose room. The item with the most LFE points by Dec. 23rd will be ordered. For more information or questions, please email Kathleen Teselko at kteselko@yahoo.com.

FEDERAL AID SURVEY

Each year, principals and teachers are asked to assist in surveying students in connection with U.S. Department of Education title VIII of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Impact Aid). As a result of this survey, Montgomery County Public Schools receives federal funds that will be used to support the operating budget. These forms were sent home with students. Instructions direct parents to mail completed forms to: MCPS, Division of Controller, 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 156, Rockville, Maryland, 20850. Please contact Judy Van Sickle at 301-279-3039 with questions.

that opt not to participate in the afternoon's Halloween events. Contact your child's teacher to let him/her know if you do NOT want your child to participate.

Costumes should be brought to school in bags and will be worn during the afternoon only. **Please be sure to monitor all food brought in for this celebration. It is our school policy to serve only store bought food with visible ingredient labels. The food must be nut free and made in factories that do NOT process nuts or nut products. Thank you for helping ensure the safety of students with life-threatening food allergies.**

The parade will begin at 1:20 p.m. and will be followed by classroom parties. Lunch and recess will begin one half hour early on this day. Family members are welcome to attend both the parade and the parties. We look forward to this being a time to celebrate our entire school community.

SWEETS FOR OUR SOLDIERS

Overwhelmed with Halloween candy this time of year? Don't throw it away. Donate the candy to "Sweets for our Soldiers" at GSCES. All donated candy will be packaged up and shipped in a care package to our troops serving in Iraq or Afghanistan. Our soldiers love receiving treats from home and some also take candy out on missions with them to hand out to the children in local villages. But if you don't have any candy, our troops especially LOVE receiving any type of correspondence from home – letters of support, cards, or drawings. We can also send small items like pencils/pens, notepads, and blank cards for correspondence back home. Please send letters, drawings, and non-perishable packaged goodies/snacks (sorry, we can't send homemade food). Your child can drop the items in the Sweets for Our Soldiers box which will be available outside the All Purpose Room beginning November 3rd - 6th. We will then ship the package overseas to several teams of soldiers to arrive in time for Thanksgiving! Please contact chairperson, Renee Sirulnik, for more information.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CURRENT FIFTH GRADERS: MIDDLE SCHOOL MAGNET APPLICATION PROCESS

The Middle School Magnet Programs provide rigorous instruction in Humanities and Communication and in Mathematics, Science, and Computer Science. Admission to the Center Programs at Clemente is very competitive. Criteria used to evaluate candidates include teacher recommendations, written statements from candidates, previous grades, coursework, and test scores. Please note the following important dates and application deadlines:

- November 9, 2009 All Applications due to The Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services
- November 9, 2009 Recommendation Requests Due to Elementary Teachers
- December 5, 2009 Testing Day at Clemente Middle School- 8:00 a.m.
- December 11, 2009 Special Needs Testing Day- Location TBD

Application forms will be available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications after October 2. For more information please contact Melanie Bachrach, Div. of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, at (301) 592-2051.

ATTENTION PARENTS OF CURRENT THIRD GRADERS: ELEMENTARY CENTER PROGRAMS FOR THE HIGHLY GIFTED

The Elementary Center Programs for the Highly Gifted provide a learning environment for Grade 4 and Grade 5 students that enriches, accelerates, and extends the MCPS curriculum. All Grade 3 parents were mailed an application. School staff and parents can recommend Grade 3 students. Forms in multiple are available at:

www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms/admissions/applications. The deadline for all Highly Gifted Center applications is Monday, November 9, 2009. Parent information meeting is scheduled as follows:

- Tuesday, October 27: Quince Orchard HS