

The Grove Gazette

February 8, 2012
Lee F. Derby, Principal



Please note our new fax number,
effective immediately:
301-253-0933

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/cedargroves/>

Souper Bowl Success

Our recent canned food drive, *Souper Bowl for Caring*, was a lot of fun and a great success. Students, staff, and visitors enjoyed watching the piles of food grow as contributors voted for their favored team by placing food donations under the corresponding helmet. The New York Giants won our drive and won the game, but the real winners were the members of our community who will benefit from your generosity through Damascus HELP. Thanks so much for participating and showing once again what a caring community we have here at Cedar Grove.

Support Cluster Schools

Tomorrow night, our cluster PTA coordinators will be testifying at the county council hearing on the proposed FY 2013 Capital budget and FY2013-2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) budget. The budget includes several key projects in the Clarksburg and Damascus clusters that must stay on track so we can avoid overcrowded schools for our children.

The testimony will be presented at approximately 7:30 p.m., and your presence is needed to show our elected officials that the residents of our area are fully behind these projects. Please attend if you can and send a strong message to the council. The hearing will be held on the third floor of the County Council Building at 100 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, MD 20850.

Pennies for Patients Begins

Earlier this week, all students were given information and collection boxes for our annual Pennies for Patients program. While we do not want students collecting money door-to-door, we do encourage them and you, to see if you have some spare change that can add up and make a big change for this worthy cause. The program continues through February 24, and the class that brings in the most money will win a pizza party.

Prepared for Anything

Last week we held our first-ever severe weather shelter (tornado) drill, and I'm happy to share that our students and staff did an outstanding job! Everyone moved quickly and quietly into our designated safe areas and assumed the protective tuck position. Our MCPS security and safety consultant was on hand for the drill and was very impressed with our preparation and execution, especially for a first time. Of course we hope that we never encounter a real emergency weather situation, but it is reassuring to know that we know how to handle it if we do.

Party Time

Next Tuesday afternoon, all classes will hold their Valentine's Day parties. Look for details from room parents and teachers soon if you have not already received it. We hope you can join the fun!

Let's Get Jumping

Jump Rope for Heart and *Hoops for Heart* are coming soon to PE classes soon. This is a great program that teaches students healthy habits while raising money for the American Heart Association. Details have been sent home with your children by Mr. Jansson and on the Physical Education page on our Web site.

Transfer Season Begins

Montgomery County parents who wish to request a Change of School Assignment (COSA) for their children from their home school may begin the process during the upcoming transfer season—February 1 through April 1, 2012.

Students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are assigned to a school on the basis of their place of residence or their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and are expected to attend their home school. Assignment changes for students from one school to another are permitted under the following limited circumstances:

- An older sibling attends the requested school in the regular program, absent a boundary change
- A continuation in a feeder pattern from middle to high school, except when affected by boundary changes
- A documented hardship situation
- A student selected for an exempt program

The transfer process begins in the home school, where parents may request the *Change of School Assignment Information Booklet* that contains the COSA form, describes the process and provides useful information. Beginning the first week of February, the COSA booklets will be available in schools and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/transfer.shtm.

There is a different process to access the elementary language immersion programs. Full information and Immersion Interest Forms are available at all elementary schools and online at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/specialprograms.

For more information about the transfer process, please contact the main office.

Dates to Remember

Tonight!	PTA Spirit Night- Corner Bakery
2/9	Grade 5 Band Concert- 7:00 p.m. @ CHS CIP Budget Hearing
2/10	Pajama Day
2/14	Valentine's Day parties SGA Meeting @ 8:30 a.m.
2/16	Grade 5 Strings Concert- 7:00 p.m. @ CHS
2/20	No School-Presidents' Day