

A P R I L 1 8 , 2 0 0 8

# the CCES PRESS

CHEVY CHASE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



VOL. II ISSUE 4

## Dates to Remember

### **Thurs., April 24**

Spring Play, "Peter Pan"  
3 performances

### **Thurs., May 1**

Volunteer Tea

### **Sat., May 3**

Parent Cocktail Fundraisers  
6:30 p.m.

### **Mon., May 5**

Deadline for submissions to  
Chevy Chase Chimes

### **Tues., May 6**

CCES Spring Concert  
7-9:30 p.m.  
B-CC

### **Sat., May 10**

Family Fun Day  
4-7 p.m.

### **Wed., May 21**

Science Fair  
7-8 p.m.

### **Thurs., May 22**

Field Day, Grades 3, 4, 5

### **Mon., May 26**

Memorial Day, No School



## From the Desk of Leslie Zimmerman, Assistant Principal

*A Sad Goodbye, A Warm  
Welcome, and a Nice Job By  
Students*

It was with much sadness that students and parents of the 5th-grade Highly Gifted Center said goodbye to Joy Wolfe last Friday afternoon. She and her husband are moving back to Arkansas because of parent health issues. It has been a true privilege to have Mrs. Wolfe as a member of the Chevy Chase staff, and she will be greatly missed by everyone. We also warmly welcome Mr. Andrew Sutherland, who will be working with the 5th-grade students for the remainder of the year.

The students all worked very hard to complete the Maryland State Assessment tests during the first two weeks of April. Though the tests weren't "fun," the students looked forward to a snack on test days and extra recess time. Many thanks to all the parents who provided snacks as well as those who functioned as hall monitors and helped out when students needed assistance. Students who demonstrated effective effort were awarded a ticket for all their hard work. The tickets were placed in bins and students were able to win fun little prizes. Students, congratulations on a job well done!

It is amazing to review the master school calendar and see the vast number of special events that are scheduled for all grade levels between now and the end of the year. Please review all grade level letters and other school communications carefully to find—and mark on your calendar—those events that your child will be participating in. Also, please remind your child that school behavior expectations are in place during all events. We would not want to exclude any child from a special event because of failure to follow school behavior guidelines.

# Notes from Melissa & Marcie...



Spring time has finally arrived at CCES and that leaves eight more weeks of school.

**PTA Recruiting: We need YOU!** Now is the time for the PTA to plan for next year, and we are recruiting for next year's positions. Don't like the way a certain event was handled? Wish that our PTA better served your interests? Have a new idea that you have seen at other schools and would like to replicate at CCES? Looking for a good excuse to meet the staff, teachers, administration, students and parents of CCES? Want to show your children how committed you are to their elementary school?

Now is the time to step up and volunteer for next year's PTA. We have positions that are right for you and your schedule, whether you can help one hour per year or hours each week; whether you can come to school or want to work from home; whether you are a "people person" or a paperwork person. Call us and we will be happy to find the perfect opportunity for your interests and availability.

**Montgomery County Budget Cuts** As you have probably heard, County Executive Ike Leggett is proposing \$50 million in cuts to the MCPS budget request. If these cuts are approved by the Montgomery County Council, MCPS will be faced with layoffs, larger classes, and the elimination of successful programs and initiatives. Specifically, MCPS would be forced to eliminate 800 positions, including more than 400 teachers; class sizes will increase in all schools; and other programs will be rolled back, including the expansion of middle school reform and the support for ESOL students with interrupted education. All programs would be on the table for consideration.

What can you do? What should you do?

1. **Write** to Ike Leggett and the various members of the County Council. Let them know, loud and clear, that education matters and that the budget should be fully funded for MCPS.
2. **Attend the April 21 meeting** with Mr. Leggett. He has invited the members of all Montgomery County PTAs to "be a part of a conversation regarding the MCPS Fiscal Year 2009 Operation Budget." The meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Earl B. Wood Middle School, 14615 Bauer Dr., Rockville.
3. **Let the MC Council** know your opinions! The County Council must authorize the operating budget by May 22, 2008. Don't complain later if you don't speak up now. If you have any questions or would like any further PTA discussions on the budget issues, contact us.

**Traffic Studies** If you have driven in the vicinity of CCES during morning or afternoon hours, especially on Hillcrest or Rosemary Streets, you know that we have a traffic problem. This problem has been brought to the attention of the administration and the PTA through parent complaints, reports of cars being hit, and worst of all, through some dangerous situations involving the children. We have traffic

backlog problems on Rosemary; unsafe parking and drop-offs on Hillcrest; and illegal bus passing on the circle (that would be cars illegally passing buses during loading and unloading — can you say "\$500 fine?"). This culminates in safety issues for the children, civility issues among the parents, and one large headache for the surrounding community.

We know there is a problem, so what's the solution? Neither the PTA nor the administration has the expertise or the authority to solve the problem. Mrs. Smith has notified the proper authorities: the local police, the Montgomery County traffic authorities, and Montgomery County Public Schools. She has also notified the Town of Chevy Chase regarding her concerns. We are currently awaiting the written reports of each entity notified, then Mrs. Smith will forward the suggestions to the Town of Chevy Chase for community input. If you have any suggestions, please let us know.

In the meantime, please respect Montgomery County traffic regulations.

*Do not park within two car lengths of the corners.* It's the law, and school buses and delivery trucks cannot make the turns with your car there. Please be considerate.

*Do not pull into opposing traffic to unload your student.* It's against the law to be on the wrong side of the street and it is dangerous to you and those around you.

*Do not drop your child off across the street, in the middle of the street.* Teach your children the proper way to cross the street: at the intersections, not in the middle of the street during busy morning and afternoon drop-off times.

*Do not make a U-turn in the middle of a street during drop-off and pick-up hours.* Please be considerate. This is not a safe time to U-turn in traffic.

*Do not double park while waiting for your child.* If there is no spot immediately available, pull one street down and walk—even if you see your child and it is "just for one minute." We do have plenty of legal parking in this neighborhood. Remember: you are teaching your children how to act in public.

Most importantly, *be considerate and civil to the teachers, administration and other parents.* Our traffic problem has, on occasion, morphed into a civility problem. Take a deep breath, smile, yield the right of way occasionally. Remember: our children are watching and they learn problem solving skills from our example.

**New and Improved CCES T-shirts on Sale** Visit the CCES Web site ([www.ccespta.org](http://www.ccespta.org)), click on T-shirt sales, and you will be taken to the Web site that carries the new CCES line of T-shirts, jackets and hats! Now with more selection than ever! Pick your style, pick your cuts, pick your colors! Have it delivered to the school or, for a small extra fee, to your door. Browse the Web site today. (Our ID is CCES and our password is Cheetah). The first round of orders will be submitted April 25, so order now.

— Melissa Peppe & Marcie Sandalow,  
PTA Co-Presidents

# The Green Corner

## Kids & Parents to the Rescue



Many CCES students and parents are doing their best to help the planet and always think green. Here are three great examples:

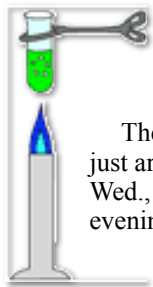
My son, sixth-grader Peter Horton (Ms. Gleason), has literally gone the extra mile to help the environment. He has made a goal of walking to school every day this school year. Because he walks, the CCES bus has been able to bypass Peter's assigned bus stop (he was the only person at that stop) and take a more direct route to the next stop, saving the bus from going one-quarter of a mile each morning. As a result, by the last day of school, Peter's efforts will have saved the bus from travelling an extra 46 miles (185 school days x .25) this school year.  
—Nancy Horton

My daughter, fifth-grader Maggie Scott (Ms. Friese), felt that we were throwing away too much paper rather than recycling it. So we set up recycling bins for paper in our

computer room and by the kitchen. I think it's great that my daughter's consciousness put the pressure on me to act! Our children's generation is developing such a wonderful awareness of protecting the environment stemming in large part from school activities.  
—Marcie Scott

We reuse our plastic bags when possible. We take reusable plastic bags to the grocery store. We also take plastic bags used for produce and reuse them for produce in the store again. We recycle plastic bags when we can. We use plastic bags that can't be recycled to pick up the dog poop. We also use dry cleaning bags, tied at one end, to line trash cans.

—Julia Craighill,  
Mother of Bo Tembunkiant, 5th grade,  
Ms. Mannino



## Science Fair Needs Parent Scientists

The CCES Science Fair is just around the corner on Wed., May 21. During the evening of the fair, we plan

for each participating student to have the chance to meet, and

discuss his or her project, with a real scientist—one of you!

As your kids begin to prepare their projects, we ask you to consider participating in the fair as parent scientists. The mission of an elementary school parent scientist is to engage each student in a discussion of his/her project without scaring the student. By discussing their work with professional scientists, the students will get a deeper understanding of the scientific process and will also see that professional scientists are not all old men with bad haircuts.

The commitment on your side is limited to the evening of the Science Fair. If enough parents are willing to

participate, every student will have the benefit of speaking to someone who can make constructive comments about his or her presentation.

If you are interested and available to participate—or even if you just have questions about how this works—please contact me. I prefer e-mail, but you can also reach me by phone in the evenings ([sj.franklin@verizon.net](mailto:sj.franklin@verizon.net); 301-229-6175).

ALSO, if your child IS preparing a science fair project this year (some students are required to do so, but others aren't), please send me an e-mail with the following information:

1. Child's name
2. Child's grade and teacher
3. Does your child plan to attend the exhibition in the evening, Wed., May 21st at 7 p.m.?

IF YES (attending in the evening), then please also tell us:

4. Is your child participating in a group

project with other students (we will have a scientist visit the full group of students together for a group conversation)? If part of a group, please provide the names of all other students in the group.

—Sharon Bradford Franklin,  
Mother of Noah Franklin, 5th grade,  
Ms. Mannino

### TRASH-FREE LUNCH WRAPS

Support the CCES Green Committee, save money and reduce plastic bags in landfills by using "wrap-n-mats." These are washable sandwich wraps that are cloth on one side and plastic on the other. They are \$6 each and half of that goes to the CCES Green Committee. Contact Karabi Acharya (c/o Keya Acharya, 4th, DeWitt) or [karabib@yahoo.com](mailto:karabib@yahoo.com).

Checks should be made out to CCES PTA.

## CCES Bulletin Board: News, Notes, Odds & Ends

### Hearing and Vision Tests

Hearing and vision screening will be held at Chevy Chase Elementary School on April 25 and 28. At this time, all 4th grade students, those new to Maryland and any referrals will be tested. Students having difficulty with the test will be re-screened on May 28. Reports will be sent home for any student who does not pass the screening.

### Calling All Student Artists and Writers

The Chevy Chase Chimes, the annual student literary and art magazine, is seeking entries: stories, articles, poems, cartoons, drawings, prints, photographs—you name it. Be aware that it is published in black and white, so color artwork can be used, but is not ideal.

We are off to a late start this year, so time is short—the deadline for submissions is Monday May 7. Flyers with submission guidelines have been sent home, and the guidelines will be posted on the PTA Web site. Also, each teacher should have a copy of the guidelines in the classroom.

All entries are published (if the students are proud of their work, that's good enough for us), and all students receive a free copy of the magazine.

Please urge kids to submit—electronically, if possible—one or two original works. If they do their own illustrations for written work, even better. Submissions may be given to teachers or the office staff in an envelope marked "Chimes," or e-mailed to Catherine Clifford, [kmcliff@msn.com](mailto:kmcliff@msn.com). Any questions, check the PTA Web site or contact Catherine Clifford by e-mail or at 301-718-8845.

### A Week at Wintergreen

Take advantage of a rare chance to bid on a resort getaway to benefit the CCES Educational Foundation. Enjoy a week-long stay at the Baer/Sagawa's fabulous house at Wintergreen Resort.

Nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains just outside Charlottesville and an easy 3 1/2-hour drive from CCES, Wintergreen offers golfing (Rees Jones-designed; 45 holes), indoor/outdoor pools, tennis, mountain bike trails, climbing wall, bungee trampoline and more. For younger members of the family (2-1/2 to 12), there is a professionally staffed kids camp.

The house sits at the end of a ridge and offers private, spectacular panoramic views of the mountains. The house has two master bedrooms and sleeps 10. It's

an ideal vacation for two families. Dates to be mutually agreed upon. Must be used by November 15, 2008. Excludes June 28-July 6 and Aug. 29-Sept. 1. Check out Wintergreen at [wintergreenresort.com](http://wintergreenresort.com).

The starting bid is \$500. Please reply via e-mail (bids will be considered in the order received). This offer will end at noon on Friday, April 25. To place a bid, e-mail [bestlifenuitritiontg@gmail.com](mailto:bestlifenuitritiontg@gmail.com) or phone Tracy Gensler at 301-657-4436.

### Something to Sing About

Sue Trainor, the artist in residence, will be teaching song-writing to the 3rd grade classes during the week of April 28. The final assembly is Fri., May 2 at 2:15 p.m. All 3rd grade parents are invited/encouraged to come and see the culmination of a week's worth of learning about song-writing. Each class will sing their own song.

### Help Our Garden Grow

Please send your contact information to Serena Fossi if you have interest in schoolyard gardening at CCES. She is helping the PTA, faculty and administration coordinate several exciting garden projects and your ideas, resources, and involvement are wanted!

Send to: [RSANSE@verizon.net](mailto:RSANSE@verizon.net).

### We Need You!

Next year's PTA needs you! It takes many, many parent volunteers to enrich the CCES experience for our children. Please consider volunteering for positions such as PTA Membership Coordinator, MCCPTA Delegate, BCC-Cluster Rep, Staff Appreciation, Room Parent Coordinator, Volunteer Coordinator, Rosemary Hills Liaison, Special Needs Liaison, NAACP Rep, Junior Achievement, Community Service Club, Chevy Chase Chimes, After School Club Coordinator, After School Club Registrar, After School Homework Club Coordinator. Contact: Nissen Ritter at [nissenlee@msn.com](mailto:nissenlee@msn.com), 301-718-0929.

**PET-SITTER:** Lindsay Druskin, 6th grader, is available to care for your pet if you are away or walk your small dog while you are at work. Call 301-654-6944.



For more news check the PTA website: [CCESPTA.org](http://CCESPTA.org)

### THE CCES PRESS

Chevy Chase Elementary School  
4015 Rosemary St.  
Chevy Chase, Md. 20815  
301-657-4994  
<http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/chevychasees/>

Editor: Susan Baer

Please send items for the next issue to:

[susan.baer@gmail.com](mailto:susan.baer@gmail.com).