



Husky Herald

Don't forget to join us for Bingo Night! October 20th in the All Purpose Room

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October 2011

Fall into... Fundraising!

Let's talk about fundraising. Unfortunately it is a necessary part of any PTA, however, CES wants to make our fundraising easy, effective and efficient. When the executive board met over the summer to talk about the upcoming school year, we agreed to move away from traditional fundraisers and try a more direct approach. The Blue Envelope Campaign meets these criteria for the Clearspring Community.

It's easy! No products to sell to family, friends, neighbors or co-workers.

It's effective! CES receives 100% of the money.

It's efficient! Return your donation in the blue envelope provided and you are done.

Details on the Blue Envelope Campaign recently went home and the kickoff has officially started.

Besides this primary fundraiser, we wanted to focus our efforts in areas that families already take part in. Sign your Safeway and Giant cards up for the school give back programs. This is an easy way for CES to make money during your weekly trips to the grocery store. Besides the grocery store, Target also has a school give back program, you just need to sign your credit/bank card up and the school receives money when you purchase your needed household items. It's that easy. Collecting Box Tops for Education is another easy way

for the school to make money. You would be surprised how many items in your shopping cart have the box top label. How many box tops can you collect?

I hope you have a better understanding of the fundraising strategy being used this year and will help support your PTA.

- Joe Haren, PTA President

Turn in your blue envelope donation at CES Bingo Night on October 20th & receive 2 free bingo game cards!

See details inside...

PTA Officers 2011-2012

Joe Haren, President: Clearspring.PTA@gmail.com

Tracey Benden, Vice President Membership: tabenden@msn.com

Heather Garrett, Vice President Fundraising: garrehe@gmail.com

Karen Shimp, Treasurer: shimpy4@verizon.net

Tiffany Broadus, Corresponding Secretary: tnm@hotmail.com

Nancye Shipe, Recording Secretary: nas114@verizon.net

Upcoming PTA Meetings

Held in the Husky Den/Media Center at 7 pm, 1st Tuesday of the month. Babysitting services are available.

November 1
December 6
February 7
March 6
April 3
May 1
June 5

PTA Sponsored Events

Walk for the Homeless

Clearspring Elementary will be holding its 8th annual Help the Homeless Mini-Walk on October 17th with a rain date of October 24th. We hope you will support us by making a tax-deductible donation and/or join our Mini-Walk. It will be held during recess on the baseball field and we have different physical activity stations where the kids will also read and learn about the causes of how people become homeless, as well as steps that are taken to help homeless people and homeless families. Registration is \$20.00 for students, and \$30.00 for adults over age 26. Anyone can participate regardless of the amount donated. However, a donation of \$20.00 is required to receive a Homeless Walk tee shirt. A letter and registration form has been sent home. Registration is due back by Wednesday 10/12/2011. You can also register and/or get more information from the website: <http://www.helpthehomelessdc.org/site/TR/Walk/2011Miniwalk> and type in **Clearspring Elementary**.



Did you know that nearly 12,000 people in the Washington, DC area are homeless? More than 40% are families and one in four is a child. The Help the Homeless Program, which culminates with a Walkathon on the National Mall, raises funds to support organizations working to prevent and end homelessness in the Washington, DC area. Since 1988, the Program has raised \$85 million, impacting thousands of families and children in our communities.

You can make a difference in the lives of these families and children by making a donation or joining our team. With the support of people like you, the Help the Homeless nonprofit organizations touched over 400,000 clients offering over 6,200 housing units to the Washington, DC area.

For more information, please contact walk coordinator, Patrick Murphy at Patrickjm@verizon.net.

Bingo Night!

Join us for some family fun on Thursday, October 20. It's Bingo Night at CES; a chance to win great prizes and hang out with friends and family. Come out and have some fun!

Right before Bingo starts, we will be holding a coat and costume swap. Clean out your closets and bring your gently used coats and costumes for a swap! Children and adults sizes welcome. For more information, please contact Jennifer McDonald at jenbmcd@comcast.net.

Book Fair

The Fall Book Fair is coming November 7-11. More details coming soon! For more information, please contact Patrick Murphy at Patrickjm@verizon.net.

Volunteer Opportunities

Walk for the Homeless

Volunteers are needed to help with the Walk for the Homeless event on October 17th between 10 am -2:30 pm.

Book Fair

Book Fair is coming on 11/7/2011 thru 11/11/2011. Setup will be on Friday 11/4/2011 starting at 5:00 pm. Many volunteers are needed for setup, take down and during the book fair sale hours. If you can help out with either or both events, please contact Patrick Murphy at Patrickjm@verizon.net.

Wednesdays are Spirit Nights at CES!

Stop by the McDonald's in Damascus on Wednesday, October 12th between 5 -8 pm and 15% of all sales will go to the CES PTA!

Then order from Domino's Pizza in Damascus on Wednesday, October 26th, mention Clearspring, hand in your classroom slip, and 15% of sales will go our school!

Plus the classroom that orders the most pizzas on Domino's Spirit Night, wins a pizza party for their class!

For the month of September, the winner was Mrs. Beam's Class! Congrats!

Easy dinner, easy money!
Thanks for your support!

PTA Fundraisers *New year, new fundraiser...The CES Blue Envelope Campaign!*

In this age of rapidly changing technology, it is tough for schools to keep up. That's why the CES PTA wants to help our school by raising money to provide smart boards (interactive white boards) at every grade level, and eventually one in every classroom.

**2 FREE
BINGO GAME
CARDS!**

With a price tag of around \$6,000 each, we will be looking at all opportunities to raise the funds, including alternative sources such as grants and corporate sponsorships.

In addition to raising funds for technology, we must also raise monies for our ambitious operating budget.

Here's how the Blue Envelope Campaign works:

Any amount, anytime. You decide how much and when you want to donate. This is an on-going campaign throughout the school year, so no pressure or deadlines to make your donation.

Anyone can donate. Ask grandparents, aunts, and uncles if they would like to contribute to enhancing your child's educational experience too!

Check your company for match programs. Many corporations will match employee donations. Check with your company HR department to find out about possible company match programs.

It's a tax write-off! All donations are tax deductible! Please consult with your tax advisor.

Make checks payable to **CES PTA** and send to school in the envelope provided.

And since our kick-off period is this month, if you bring your donation to Bingo Night on October 20th, you will get 2 free Bingo Cards to play that night!

So please consider making a donation of any amount you feel comfortable and remember to check your company's policies on corporate donation matching. It could just be the difference in your child's educational experience!

Inside the numbers:

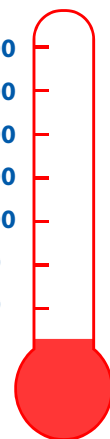
- 100% profit for CES
- With a minimum donation of \$25 per child, CES would get \$15,725! (629 students X \$25)
- Potential to double the amount of money raised compared to traditional fundraisers

CES PTA Fundraisers...

watch our profits grow!

Our Goal \$31,000

\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000
\$1,000



to purchase smart boards for our classrooms!

Watch our profits grow from the Blue Envelope Campaign and our other fundraisers! We will be measuring our success toward our goal on the PTA bulletin board in the school lobby.



Montgomery County School Community News

Mark the Calendar for Tuesday November 1

Montgomery County's new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Joshua Starr, will be holding a "Listen and Learn" event on Tuesday, November 1, at Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Road, Damascus from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This event is an opportunity for parents and community members to meet Dr. Starr and to offer their views and perspective on what is working well in MCPS and what the school system can do to improve. Dr. Starr has a keen interest in hearing directly from parents as he sets his priorities for the school system. This is also an opportunity for parents to learn more about his educational philosophy and leadership style. Everyone is encouraged to attend one of the upcoming "Listen and Learn" events. Childcare and interpretation services will be provided. If you are not able to attend the event on November 1, you are welcome to attend any of the other Listen and Learn events Dr. Starr will be holding throughout the fall. Times and locations are available on the MCPS website at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org.

What: Dr. Joshua Starr: "Listen and Learn"

When: Tuesday, November from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

Where: Damascus High School, 25921 Ridge Rd.

Trades Foundation Seeks Car Donations

Have a car you no longer need and would like to donate? The Montgomery County Students Automotive Trades Foundation (ATF) is seeking vehicle donations. ATF is a nonprofit that fosters automotive education by offering students hands-on instruction in maintenance, repair, sales and marketing. Vehicles may be donated at any of the automotive programs located at Damascus, Gaithersburg, Seneca Valley or Thomas Edison high schools. Donors may be eligible for tax deductions.

For more information, visit the ATF website or call 301-929-2164.

Join the PTA Help us make this the best year yet for our children at Clearspring. Join the PTA for just \$20 per family/\$10 for a single membership and that includes the 2011-2012 School Directory and informative PTA ListServ messages.

Download the membership form today at: montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/clearspringes/parents/ and send your form and money in to Clearspring PTA!

If you have news to share with the Clearspring community, please contact the Husky Herald Editor: Heather Garrett, garrehe@gmail.com

To be published in the next HH newsletter, please submit articles/information no later than the third Friday of the month.

Deadline for news items for the November issue is October 21, 2011.

Upcoming Dates

October

- 12 - Spirit Night at Damascus McDonalds 5-8 pm
- 17 - Walk for the Homeless during recess 11:30-1:30 pm
- 20 - Bingo Night
- 21 - MSTA Convention; no school
- 26 - Spirit Night at Domino's Pizza, Damascus 5-8 pm
- 28 - Classroom Halloween Parties
- 31 - Teacher Professional Day; no school; Halloween

November

- 1 - Listen and Learn with Dr. Starr, DHS 7-8:30 pm
- 7-11 Book Fair

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Principal - Holly Steel