



"Intelligence plus character--that is the goal of true education."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.,

LEAP Into THE CREEK

**GREAT SENECA CREEK
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
13010 DAIRYMAID DRIVE / GERMANTOWN / MD 20874

School Telephone: 301-353-8500
School Hours: 8:50 a.m. – 3:05 p.m.

February 1, 2012

Principal: Gregory S. Edmundson
Asst. Principal: Linda M. Jones
PTA President: Sandy Holloway
Web: www.greatsenecacreekes.org



@thecreekprin

FEBRUARY 2012				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
		1 Report Cards Distributed PTA Hands on Science (3:15-4:15) PTA Talent Show Rehearsal, Grades 3-5 (3:15-4:15) ESOL Parent Meeting (6:15) Parent Night at KVMS (5:30)	2 Club and Yearbook Candid Pictures	3 PTA Talent Show Rehearsal, Grades K-2 (3:15-4:15)
6	7 Kingsview MS Articulation Assembly, Grade 5 (2:00-2:45) Afterschool Clubs General PTA Meeting (7:00) - Child Care by Bar-T	8 PTA Hands on Science (3:15-4:15) PTA Talent Show Dress Rehearsal, All Grades (3:15-5:00)	9 Afterschool Clubs	10 PTA Market Day Orders Due Online PTA Talent Show at NWHS, (7:00-9:30)
13 PTA Sponsored Author Visit (Daryl Cobb)	14 Classroom Valentine's Day Parties (2:00) Afterschool Clubs	15 PTA Hands on Science (3:15-4:15)	16 PTA Market Day Pickup (7:30pm) Afterschool Clubs	17 Bullfrog Breakfast Field Trip to Natural History Museum - Grade 1
20 Holiday - No School President's Day	21 Afterschool Clubs Science Fair (7:00-8:30)	22 PTA Hands on Science (3:15-4:15)	23 Open House Tours (10:30) Afterschool Clubs PTA Red Robin Spirit Night	24
27	28 Afterschool Clubs	29 PTA Hands on Science (3:15-4:15)		

First Edition: This is the first edition of the newly designed newsletter for our school – called Leap into The Creek. This newsletter will replace the Bullfrog Bulletin AND the Ribbitt Review, as the place to go for the necessary information for the school. We will post necessary documents online at www.greatsenecacreekes.org and you will continue to receive the weekly This Week @ The Creek emails. By reducing the newsletters and combining efforts, we will be sure to be comprehensive in our approach, providing you with the best possible lines of communication. We aim to improve on our goal to *help you get involved and keep you informed.*



Honoring Contributions of African Americans

At GSCES, we are excited to learn about and to honor the many valuable contributions that African Americans have made to the development of our country. We are always mindful of how people from all cultures have contributed to our county's success however; February has been designated as a time to specifically reflect on the work of African Americans.

We owe the celebration of Black History Month, and more importantly, the study of black history, to Dr. Carter G. Woodson <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0878436.html>. Dr. Woodson's parents were former slaves and he spent much of his childhood working in the Kentucky coal mines. He went on to earn a Ph.D. from Harvard. It disturbed him that African Americans were not represented in the nation's history books so he took on the challenge of writing history books that would accurately display their contributions. The second week of February was chosen by Dr. Woodson to honor the contributions of African American people because this week contains the birthdays of two men who had a profound influence on the lives of African Americans. These men were Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln.



Pennies for Patients

In February your child will be embarking on an exhilarating and meaningful journey, one that will offer him/her a chance to experience the powerful feeling that can be derived from helping others. Our school SGA will be sponsoring the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Pennies for Patients, which is a three week-long program in which kids collect spare change to help those afflicted with blood cancer. Our program will run from February 6th - February 24th. During this time, we encourage you to help fill up that little box with change in order to make a big difference. In addition, we ask that you please take a moment to speak with your child about the value of helping others, then flip over the couch cushions and look under the car seats for spare change - every little bit helps in joining the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society in its fight against blood cancer.

PTA Spirit Nights Thank you to everyone who participated in our Spirit Nights for December and January we made \$95.00 from Hard Times Café, \$139.00 for Five Below Week, \$200.00 from Thai Tanium and for both Dominos nights we received \$82.

As a **GREEN SCHOOL**, we always aim to reduce the amount of paper we use at the school. We limit our copying and send messages, bulletins, updates, etc. via email. For this to happen, we need your updated email addresses, as well as a commitment from parents to regularly check their messages for school updates. Your support with this is greatly appreciated.

PTA Spirit Night Schedule:

Thursday Feb 23rd - **Red Robin**
Thursday March 1st - **Vocelli's Pizza**
Wednesday March 7th - **McTeacher Night**
Thursday March 8th - **Vocelli's Pizza**
Thursday March 15th - **Vocelli's Pizza**
Thursday March 22nd - **Vocelli's Pizza**
Thursday March 29th - **Vocelli's Pizza**
Monday April 23rd - **Chic-fil-A Night**
Tuesday May 15th - **Ledos Pizza Night**

After-School Clubs

Acceptance forms will be sent home this Friday, February 4th. Please be sure to send this form to school as your child will not be able to participate without documented dismissal plans. We will follow the same car rider pick-up procedures that we use during regular dismissal. Make sure that you have your Great Seneca Creek hangtag hanging from your mirror. Pull all the way to the end of the loop and wait for your child to exit the building via the stairs closest to the kindergarten classrooms. Parents of walkers are to wait outside of the main entrance. Our Winter/Spring 2012 Clubs begin Tuesday, February 7th and Thursday, February 9th and run through the week of March 26th with the following clubs scheduled:

Kid's Post, Yoga, Chess, Lego, Weaving, Hip Hop Cardio, Making a Difference, Reading, poetic Pupils, Hip Hop Hooray, Kids Are Scientist Too (KAST), Bullfrog Sports Club, Club Fitness, Cheerleading, Fun Run, Lights! Camera! Action! Acting Club, and Digital Story Telling

MIXED BAGS FUNDRAISING Starting Friday February 10th you will receive a packet home to start our Spring Fundraiser with MIXED BAGS this is a 2 week fundraiser! The items will be shipped to school and it is FREE SHIPPING but TAX has to be added at 6%.

HELP WANTED We are looking for people to volunteer for the Beach Bash which is Friday March 23rd if you are interested please contact Susan Strawser at Strawserfamily@verizon.net or 301-442-8278!

GSCES Open House Tours Mr. Edmundson will be conducting monthly tours of the school in order to provide the community an opportunity to visit the school and learn more about the programs available to students. The tours are primarily designed for parents who are considering GSCES as a possible school for their children to attend in the 2012-2013 school year. Tours will be held on the final Thursday of every month between 10:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. Please share this information with neighbors and ask that they call the school @ 301-353-8500 to schedule a specific date/time for their tour.



Donations of New and Used Games Needed for Indoor Recess

We would appreciate any donations of new or gently used but greatly loved games that you may have around your home. The students especially enjoy the following games and they are great for indoor recess play: *Uno, Yatzee, Chess, Trouble, Sorry, Connect Four, and Memory.* We would also appreciate donations of puzzles and building blocks of any size! Please send your donations to the

school office. Connect Four is the game that students really enjoy and we are in need of this game. As always, thank you for your support!

GSCES Science Fair

The Science Fair will be held on Feb. 21st. Please come see the wonderful projects our bullfrogs work so hard to complete.

Souper Bowl of Caring

Who will be the SOUPER BOWL winner this February? Germantown HELP! From January 30th through February 3rd Bullfrogs can cast a vote for their favorite team in the NFL Super Bowl game (Patriots or Giants) by placing a can of soup or other shelf-stable food item in one of the two team boxes outside the All Purpose Room. Competition can be fierce! But the biggest battle is combating hunger in our community. All SOUPER BOWL food items will be donated to our local food bank, Germantown HELP, to provide emergency food support for families in our community.

Fast Facts About Michelle Obama

- Born on January 17, 1964, Michelle Robinson was raised in a one-bedroom apartment on Chicago's South Shore. http://www.cafepress.com/january_17
- Michelle and her brother skipped the second grade.
- As a young girl, she practiced playing the piano so much that she had to be told to stop.
- After high school Michelle Robinson majored in sociology at Princeton University <http://www.princeton.edu>, graduating with cum laude honors in 1985. From there she attended Harvard where she earned her law degree in 1988, one year ahead of her husband-to-be, Barack, whom she hadn't met yet but attended the same law school.
- After graduating from Harvard, Michelle accepted a position at a downtown Chicago law firm. In 1989 she was asked to mentor a summer associate from Harvard <http://www.harvard.edu> named Barack Obama.
- Michelle Obama is married to President Barak Obama and they have two daughters.
- According to reports, Michelle has mastered being a mother, career woman and the wife of a politician. When Newsweek magazine trailed her in 2004, the reporter could not help but notice a to-do list for her two daughters Malia and Natasha that included time for "play." She is in bed most nights by 9:30p.m., and rises each morning at 4:30a.m. to run on a treadmill. This level of discipline and organization helps her manage her public and private pressures with poise. In New Yorker magazine Michelle noted that the life of a political wife is "hard and that's why Barack is such a grateful man."

