



*“Education is not the filling of a pail,
but the lighting of a fire!”
-Williams Butler Yeats*

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 15, 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)		

Thank You: Children's Book Author, *Daryl Cobb*, visited "The Creek" on Monday, February 13, 2012 to share three highly motivating performances! Mr. Cobb used his talents as a singer/songwriter/performer to teach students about the stages of the writing process, the importance of word choice and ideas. It was wonderful for students to hear about Mr. Cobb's challenges in becoming a published author and how he had to reinvent himself to succeed. Mr. Cobb also had an opportunity to visit several 3rd grade classrooms for impromptu Question & Answer sessions. Mr. Cobb inspired our students to read, write, and use their imaginations!



GSCES Science Fair Please mark your calendar for **Tuesday, February 21st**. Our annual Science Fair will be held at GSC, beginning at 7pm. We have over **100 students** participating in the fair, demonstrating their knowledge in science and technology. Come out and support the kids! They have worked very hard on the projects and we are very excited!

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.

PTA Spirit Nights Spirit Night February 23rd Red Robin from 4 to 9 p.m. please come out and support the PTA! March 1st is Vocielli Pizza Night and March 7th is McTeacher Night! We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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

Kindergarten Registration and Orientation

If you have a child who will be entering kindergarten next fall at GSCES, please complete the survey form found on our website and return the form to the school office. Our kindergarten orientation is scheduled for April 26th and 27th. Please pass this information along to your neighbors and friends who may have children who will be five years old on or before September 1, 2012.



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.

MIXED BAGS FUNDRAISING Mixed Bags fundraiser is in full swing until Friday Feb 24th please get those orders into us by then. Also we have had some questions on ordering online and we discovered that you will have to pay shipping and our school won't get as much profit for online orders. If you need to order online please make sure our school id number is put into the order so we do still receive credit. The id # is 89613. If you have any questions feel free to let me know 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. 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.



Beach Bash Volunteers Needed

Calling All Volunteers!! We are looking for volunteers to help out at our 5th Annual Bullfrog Beach Bash which will be held on Friday, March 23rd from 7:00-9:00p.m., if you are interested please contact Susan Strawser at Strawserfamily@verizon.net or 301-442-8278! Help is needed selling raffle tickets, serving food, setting-up, cleaning-up, etc... If you are a PROUD Bullfrog parent we need your help to make this a memorable event for our children. We are also looking for a limited number of middle or high school students to help out. All middle and high school students must be assigned a task prior to the event.

Fast Facts About Maya Angelou

- Dr. Maya Angelou is one of the most renowned and influential voices of our time.
- Hailed as a global renaissance woman, Dr. Angelou is a celebrated poet, memoirist, novelist, educator, dramatist, producer, actress, historian, filmmaker, and civil rights activist.
- Dr. Angelou has received over 30 honorary degrees and is a Reynolds Professor of American Studies at Wake Forest University.
- Dr. Angelou's words and actions continue to stir our souls, energize our bodies, liberate our minds, and heal our hearts.



Testing Schedules for 2012

Spring testing is right around the corner and will be here before we know it. Instruction using the MCPS curriculum prepares our students well for these assessments. It is important that students are present in school on the testing dates. The dates are below. Please try not to schedule appointments on your child's testing days. Thank you for your cooperation.

Assessment	Dates	Grade/Group
MSA Reading	Mar 12-13	Gr. 3, 4
MSA Reading	Mar 14-15	Gr. 5
MSA Mathematics	Mar 16-19	Gr. 3, 4
MSA Mathematics	Mar 20-21	Gr. 5
MSA Science	Apr 30	Gr. 5
TN/2	Apr 16-20	Gr. 2