



"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.

September 7, 2012

Principal: Scott T. Curry

Asst. Principal: Linda M. Jones

PTA President: Sandy Holloway

Web: www.greatsenecacreekes.org



Scott T. Curry, Principal
@CurryAtTheCreek

Linda M. Jones, Assistant Principal
@LMJ302

September-12				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3 Labor Day - No School	4	5 PTA Board Meeting (9:15)	6	7 PTA Market Day Orders Due Online PTA Kidstuff Coupon Books Sent Home
10 PTA Vocelli Pizza Spirit Day	11 Back to School Night for Grades 4 and 5 (7:00)	12 Back to School Night for Grades 1, 2 and 3 (7:00)	13 PTA Market Day Pickup (7:30pm)	14
17 Rosh Hashanah - No School PTA Vocelli Pizza Spirit Day	18	19	20	21
24 PTA Vocelli Pizza Spirit Day	25	26 Yom Kippur - No School	27	28 Early Release Day (12:30) PTA Kidstuff Coupon Book Orders Due Back

This Week @ The Creek Emails: Please be sure you are signed up to receive our weekly email, every Monday at 6am, describing the important information and calendar dates for the week to come. Please take a few minutes to read the email and be "in-the-know" with what's going on with your child's school. Your feedback is always welcomed for improvements. If you need to update your email address at any time, simply send a message to [Jayne L Quinn@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Jayne.L.Quinn@mcpsmd.org).



Back-to-School Nights: We hope you are able to attend our upcoming Back-to-School Nights. This year we will be conducting two sessions on two different nights. Grades 4 and 5 will meet on Tuesday, **September 11th**. Grades 1, 2 and 3 will meet on Wednesday, **September 12th**. Both programs will begin in the all-purpose room at 7:00 p.m. Throughout the evenings you will hear about our school goals and plans for instruction as well as information regarding grade level curricular expectations. This is a great opportunity to meet your child's teacher(s) and learn about his/her daily educational experiences as well as hear how you can continue to support learning at home. Due to a lack of space, as well as safety concerns, we are not able to offer child care for our students. This is an adult only event. Weather permitting; parking will be available on the sports' field, the blacktop, and in our two lots. In the case of rain, we will not be able to use the field; however the blacktop will remain open. We look forward to seeing you as we work together to ensure the success of all our students.

Our bi-weekly newsletter is a combination of school and PTA information that will be sent out every other Friday throughout the school year. The **Leap Into The Creek** will be posted on the main page of our website. If you have information you feel is needed for a specific edition, please contact our assistant principal Linda M. Jones at Linda_M_Jones@mcpsmd.org

Parents will receive an email each Monday morning at 6a.m. called **This Week @ The Creek**. This electronic newsletter will have an update from the principal, reminders regarding noteworthy items, and calendar events scheduled for the week. Always be sure to check the school's website.

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. Please be sure that your child's classroom teacher has your email address as well.

PTA Spirit Night Schedule:

Monday Sept 10th Vocelli's Pizza
 Monday Sept 17th Vocelli's Pizza
 Monday Sept 24th Vocelli's Pizza
 Tue Oct 9th McTeacher Night
 Monday Nov 19th Thai Tanium
 Fri-Sun Nov 23rd-25th Five Below
 Friday Dec 14th Hard Times Café
 Fri-Sun Dec 14th-16th Five Below

Emergency Contact Information Due to Office

Parents please return all requested forms to the office as soon as possible. Of particular importance are the yellow Emergency Contact and Parent/Child Reunification forms that were sent home in our "second-day" packets. It is imperative that we have your emergency contact information available at all times and to document the names of the adults authorized to pick up your children in your absence.



Parents please remember that the **bus lane is closed to cars from 8:20-9:00 a.m. each morning**. Only buses will be allowed in this area at this time. Also, remember to cross Dairymaid and Mateny at the intersections only. Crossing the street in areas other than marked intersections is dangerous and may also result in a "jay walking" citation from the police department. Thank you for your efforts to ensure the safety of all our Bullfrogs each day.

There are students in our school who have **severe allergic reactions to various food products**. Nuts, especially peanuts, are of particular concern. **The allergic reactions can be life-threatening.** Therefore, we have plans in place to ensure these students' safety throughout the school year. We are asking for your help as we implement our "nut-free" classroom policy for classrooms where such allergies exist. This means that no nuts of any kind are permitted in the classroom during celebrations, snack-time, and on field trips. All food products brought in for birthday and holiday celebrations must be store-bought and contain the original ingredients' labels. **Nut products are permitted in the cafeteria**, as the lunchroom contains a "nut-free" table to allow the students with allergies to be seated away from lunches that may be harmful to them. Children without nut allergies may sit at the "nut-free" table upon request, **ONLY** if they are purchasing the school's lunch. (Please note that school-provided lunches do not contain nuts or nut oils). In our parent handbook (found on the website), we have listed a number of pizza shops that are peanut/tree nut free. Thank you for your support of the procedures that we have in place for students with severe food allergies. As always, the education, health, and safety of our students are paramount.



Through our PBIS initiative, we ensure that all students have a greater opportunity to be recognized for their positive behavior choices by receiving **Bullfrog Bucks** for their efforts. These "bucks" are matched with specific feedback, explaining the positive behavior being demonstrated, and its relationship to our core values of being **Safe, Respectful, and Responsible**. Bullfrog Bucks are redeemable at our school store, which will be open to each class twice a month. **Any donations** are greatly appreciated so we can continue to keep our store stocked. Some school store donations could be; journals, pencils, bracelets, balls, bubbles, etc.



The **George B. Thomas Learning Academy (GBTLA)** is a tutoring and mentoring program that enhances the academic performance and achievement of students in grades 1-12. The program helps students reach their potential through individualized assistance with school work, study and test-taking skills. Certified teachers and volunteer tutors work with students on Saturday mornings from 8:30 - 11:30 a.m. Our cluster center is located at Northwest High School. Parents and students can register for the GBTLA between 8:30 - 11:00 am on September 15th at Northwest HS. More information is available from the GBTLA office (301-320-6545) and on their website: www.gbtlearningacademy.org. The GBTLA Saturday school starts on Saturday, September 29th. You can also access this site via a link on our school webpage: www.GreatSenecaCreekES.org.

Curriculum 2.0 MCPS is continuing to introduce its improved Curriculum 2.0 for the elementary grades. This curriculum is designed to provide a strong foundation in the areas of reading, writing, and mathematics, while placing a renewed emphasis on other areas, such as science, social studies, the arts, and physical education. It also helps students develop the creative and critical thinking skills that are extremely important for success in the 21st century. In 2012-2013, Curriculum 2.0 will be implemented in Grades K-3 in all schools, and report cards for those grades will be improved to provide parents more information about how students are performing in specific areas. More information is available on the web site at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/2.0.





Have you been clipping those Box Tops this summer? Now you can start sending them into the school! Right now

many products have double and triple Box Tops available. Through the Box Tops for Education Program our school has raised thousands of dollars that have been used to enhance our classrooms. Look for a collection sheet in our next Leap Into the Creek.

Quick Reference to Frequently Called Numbers



Child Find

(programs for children w/disabilities) 301-929-2224

Clarksburg Bus Depot

301-353-0955

Early Childhood Education

(Pre K-2nd) 301-230-0691

Food and Nutrition Services

301-840-8170

General Info

(MCPS Call Center)

301-309-6277

Hispanic Hotline

301-230-3073

Homework Hotline

(Channel 52)

301-279-3234

Weather Info

(Late opening/early closings)

301-279-3673



Homework

Hotline

Live offers

free homework help for students in grades K-12. Contact the Homework Hotline Live teachers and receive personalized help through this website (<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/itv/hhl/HHL-Resources.shtm>) or by watching TV in Montgomery County, MD. Starting September 12th, Homework Hotline Live is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. From 4 to 6 pm, call 301-279-3234 with questions. Watch teachers at this website and on TV in Montgomery County. Send text and online questions until 9 pm!

The PTA Back to School Picnic was a huge success and we would like to thank the PTA Board members for organizing such an amazing event. We would also like to thank Bar-T and Shauna for providing the moon bounce. The PTA received \$180.00 from Potomac Pizza, and \$140.00 from Maui Wovi. **We also made \$401.00 at the Red Robin spirit night.**

Once again we will be offering Market Day each

month. The order forms will go home with the students one week prior to the order date. Every purchase you make will earn 10 – 20% profit for our school, and every product is backed by 100% satisfaction guarantee. There are two ways to order, you can fill out the order form and send your order form with payment into the school, or you can order online at www.marketday.com. Please contact Karen Morrison if you have any questions at 301-613-7599.



KidStuff Coupon Books offer fabulous savings from Kohls, Regal, Macy's, Five Below, and many more retailers. You can purchase your KidStuff coupon book for \$25.00 and our school will receive 50% back for your purchase. Your family could earn a **FREE** book for every **5** (five) books you sell. The KidStuff coupon books are going home with our

Kindergarten and 1st grade students Friday, September 7th, for grades 2nd – 5th the students will bring home KidStuff coupon book order forms. If you did not receive a book and would like to look through one stop by the PTA table at the Back to School night to look at one. Payment is due Friday, September 28th, please make checks payable to GSCES PTA. If you have any questions you can contact Karen Morrison at 301-613-7599.

Are you a PTA Member Yet? It's not too late; you can still join the PTA today and become a member of an organization that works for our children at the national, state, and local levels. The PTA is instrumental in planning activities for parents, teachers, and students and is serves as an organized voice to the School Board to express our views. Questions? Please contact Allison Stein, VP of Membership at allipta@yahoo.com.



Register your Giant Rewards Card for A+ School

Rewards October 5, 2012 through March 28 2013. Our school will earn **CASH** each time you shop at Giant! You must register for **A+ Rewards** every year, even if you registered in the past. To register log onto www.giantfood.com/aplus, or call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone. You must have the school ID# to register, our school Id# is **05307**.

September is School Safety Month! As we begin this new school year, we are reminded that safety is everyone's concern and responsibility. During the month of September and throughout the school year we will practice and review the importance of safety in the school and community. We will do this with monthly fire drills and practice shelter in place in case of weather related or other issues. We will also address safety on the playground.



Counselor's Corner

After School Frenzy

Dear Parents,

I hope your school year is off to a great start! You made it! You got the kids off to school. Your child had a Great day at the Creek and now what? The after school frenzy has begun. Listed below you will find a few useful tips that may be of help to you and your child.

- Set aside talk time... Some of the best conversations take place in the most unusual places, such as the car and bath time. We are all busy and sometimes, we do not always have time to eat dinner. Be creative and flexible with your time.

- Home work time ... Most of our Great teachers at the Creek provide homework packets at least a week in advance. Homework time doesn't need to begin right away. Sometimes, students need down time before beginning their next task.

- Learning time ... Learning doesn't begin and end during school time. Home is one of our first learning experiences! Dinner time is perfect to teach measuring. Children love the outdoors. You may use this time to explore rocks, soil, study the clouds and stars.

- Down time ... Enjoy some free time. Do absolutely nothing at all. Children and adults are always over scheduled.

Ms. Morris, School Counselor



Free and Reduced Meals Application Forms Parents, Free and Reduced application forms need to be turned in as soon as possible if you wish to apply. The Division of Food and Nutrition Services have thousands of applications to process. **Meal benefit eligibility from last year will remain current only through September 2012 or until a 2012-2013 application is processed.** Students who received meal benefits last year **must** have a new application approved by the end of September in order to continue receiving free or reduced-price meals. **Beginning October 1st, all students who do not have an approved application for the current year must pay for meals until a new application is processed.**

Peace Week Please join us, as we celebrate World Peace Week! The inception of World Peace Week was created by the United Nations. The United Nations has devoted itself to worldwide peace and encourages people to work in cooperation for this goal. Millions of people around the world take part in various activities and organize events centered on the theme of "peace". Peace week will be celebrated Sept. 18-21. During this week, we have planned a variety of activities and events. Our final activity will be a Peace walk Sept. 21, during recess on the playground field. We would like for any interested parent volunteers to contact Ms. Morris, School Counselor. Thank you in advance for your continued support.



Parent Volunteer Training Calling all

Volunteers!!!! Please mark your calendars as we will be conducting volunteer training sessions for parents new to Great Seneca Creek and returning volunteers. The sessions will be held in the media center on Tuesday, September 25th. In order to accommodate schedules, we are offering a choice of two training times, 11:30-12:30 p.m. or 4:00-5:00 p.m. We welcome and appreciate all volunteers and look forward to working with you in support of our students. Thank you for your support!



After-School Clubs: Parent Sponsors Needed



We are pleased to announce that our **Fall session of after-school clubs will begin the week of October 16th. Clubs will run for six weeks and are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:15-4:15 p.m.** We are seeking parent volunteers to sponsor clubs this session. Please contact our assistant principal, Linda M. Jones at **[Linda M Jones@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Linda_M_Jones@mcpsmd.org)** if you are able to donate one hour a week during this fall session to share your expertise or hobbies with our students. In the past parents have sponsored sports, scrapbooking, karate, yoga, and chess clubs. We welcome your talents and look forward to the many exciting learning opportunities that you can offer our Bullfrogs!