



"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 21, 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 6:00 a.m., 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).

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. 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!



Free and Reduced Meals Application Forms need to be turned in as soon as possible if you wish to apply. **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.**

Coming Soon - Donuts for Dads

On **Monday, October 8th** we will honor all of the fabulous Bullfrog men in our family with a special Donuts for Dads breakfast in the APR from 8:00-8:40 a.m. Come in and have a relaxing breakfast with your child, chat with fellow bullfrogs and teachers and then stick around for the GSCES annual Open House at 9:00 a.m. We are still looking for a few volunteers to help with donuts. Please sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20FOD49AEAA238-donuts>

PTA Spirit Night Events:

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 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.

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 still register for the GBTLA. 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 Box Tops this summer? Now you can start sending them into the school! Make sure to label them with your child's name and homeroom teacher. Many products currently 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. Our next Box Tops contest will run through October 18th.

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. Homework Hotline Live is available Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 4 to 6 p.m. Call 301-279-3234 with questions. Send your text and online questions until 9:00 p.m.

Market Day orders are due online by **Friday, October 5th**. Special Offer for New Customers: **Save \$5 when you spend \$25**. Enter Promo Code **NEWFIVE** at checkout. (This offer is available for first-time purchases online only.) The order forms will be sent home with 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.



Market Day



KidStuff Coupon Books Our PTA fundraiser for Kidstuff Coupon Books will be coming to a close next **Friday, 9/28**. The coupon books were sent home to the youngest in the family for students in Kindergarten and 1st grade. For the families that received the books, we ask that you either send in the \$25 for the book or return it to your student's teacher. Families that have students in 2nd - 5th grades should have received an order form that was sent home. The order form can be returned to your student's teacher with payment for a book (s) and the coupon book(s) will then be sent home with your child shortly thereafter. If you have any questions, please contact Karen Morrison at taymor101@yahoo.com or 301-613-7599. Thank you for your support!

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 it 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.



Please join us for our first PTA Meeting this year on Tuesday, **October 2nd** at 7:00 p.m. in the Media Center. We have heard all the talk about **Promethean boards**, but do we as parents know what they are and how they work? Join us at the PTA meeting on October 2nd and we will have an interactive demonstration of the Promethean boards. Bar-T will provide child care during the meeting for any child who is fully potty-trained. Unfortunately we cannot accommodate children in diapers.



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**.

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 6:00 a.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.

National Hispanic Heritage Month



Each year, Americans observe

National Hispanic

Heritage Month from September 15th through October 15th

by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988, on the approval of Public Law 100-402.

The day of September 15th is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16th and September 18th, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12th, falls within this 30 day period.

2012-2013 Science and Technology Expo

will be held on February 20th. Our students do a wonderful job each year and this year will be GREAT as well!



Students will be bringing home entry forms and guidelines. Entry forms are due to classroom teachers

by December 7th. There will be some changes for this year's fair! Be sure to check back here for more details.

Thank you so much for helping to make Peace Week a success. Our Bullfrog students learned about the meaning of world peace week, Nobel peace prize winners, displayed over 2,000 peaceful acts of kindness and participated in a peace walk! Thank you again for your ongoing support!

To help raise additional funds for GSCES PTA, we will be taking part in a national fundraising program sponsored by Tyson Foods, Inc. called **Tyson Project A+**. All you need to do is clip and save the entire Project A+ label (recognized by the Support Your School copy) from participating Tyson products. Each label we collect is worth 24¢ for GSCES PTA. Please send in your Tyson Project A+ labels to the PTA and we will start processing them. More Information can be found at <http://ProjectAPlus.tyson.com>. Thank you for supporting the PTA and the school.

Recently, The Washington Post sent a reporter to Great Seneca Creek to



see how technology was integrated in our instruction. The reporter observed 2nd grade classes, as well as a class visiting the media center. The reporter was able to gain a firsthand understanding of how technology engages students in their learning, leading to a deeper understanding of content topics.

The article from her visit can be found

at: http://www.washingtonpost.com/local/education/montgomery-schools-plan-to-buy-2000-interactive-whiteboards-upgrade-wireless/2012/09/16/e1052cdc-fb7c-11e1-8adc-499661afe377_story.html

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the **Highly Gifted (HGC)** were recently mailed directly to all parents of Grade 3 students in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). This is a reminder that if you are interested in having your child considered for the HGC, you must complete the application and return it by November 2, 2012 to: **HGC Application, Division of Consortia Choice and Application Program Services, 11721 Kemp Mill Road, Silver Spring, MD 20902**. There will be two parent information meetings about the HGC on October 3, 2012 beginning at 7:00p.m. The parent information meetings will be held simultaneously at Wheaton High School, 12601 Dalewood Drive, Silver Spring, Maryland 20906 and Quince Orchard High School, 15800 Quince Orchard Road, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878.

Talent Show: Do you love to sing, make people laugh; can you play an instrument, or wow the crowd with your magic acts? Then we would love to have you come be a part of the PTA Talent Show. This year we are looking for both individual and family acts. The PTA Talent show will take place on Friday, February 8th at Northwest High School. Auditions are scheduled for **Monday, December 10th** from 3:15-4:30 for kindergarten through 2nd grade only and **Wednesday, December 12th** from 3:15-4:30 for 3rd through 5th grades only. So, dust off your tap shoes, warm up your voice, and start tickling those ivories because we cannot wait to hear your act in December.



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.