



*"When educating the minds of our youth, we must not forget to educate their hearts."*  
Dalai Lama

## ***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.

**October 5, 2012**

Principal: Scott T. Curry

Asst. Principal: Linda M. Jones

PTA President: Sandy Holloway

Web: [www.greatsenecacreekes.org](http://www.greatsenecacreekes.org)



Scott T. Curry, Principal  
@CurryAtTheCreek

Linda M. Jones, Assistant Principal  
@LMJ302

October-12				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 PTA Cluster Meeting (7:00pm Media Center)	2 PTA General Meeting (7:00pm Media Center)	3 National Walk to School Day	4	5 PTA Market Day Orders Due Online
8 PTA Donuts for Dads (8:00am) School Open House (8:50am)	9 McTeachers Night (4:00-9:00)	10 ESOL Family Night (6:30pm)	11 Student Fall Pictures PTA Market Day Pickup (7:30pm) Roberto Clemente Upcountry GT Center Parent-Student Information Night (RCMS)	12 PTA Mixed Bags Fundraiser Begins Walk for the Homeless
15 Bullfrog Breakfast (9:00am)	16 5th Grade Field Trip to Strathmore (11:00am)	17 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	18 Deadline for 1st Box Tops Contest PTA Scholastic Book Fair PTA Movie Night (6:30pm)	19 No School - MSEA Convention
22 PTA Scholastic Book Fair PTA "Grands" Day at the Book Fair	23 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	24 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	25 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	26

**In October, each MSMC school** will hold individual open houses, providing information about the unique **magnet programs** offered by the school. Both parents and their 5th grade child(ren) are encouraged to attend.

- Wednesday, October 17 - Parkland Middle School Magnet Open House,
- Wednesday, October 24 - Argyle Middle School Magnet Open House,
- Wednesday, October 10 - A. Mario Loiederman Middle School Magnet Open House.

The Middle School Magnet Application Programs provide rigorous and engaging programs in Humanities and Communication and in Math and Science. Admission to these programs is competitive. Students submit an application, teacher recommendations, and grades, and take special testing in December.

**Tuesday, Oct 23**-Humanities and Communication Magnet Program, Eastern Middle School Magnet Parent & Student Information Meeting.

**Thursday, Oct 11**, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Magnet Program Takoma Park Middle School Magnet Parent & Student Information Meeting.

**Thursday, Oct 11**, Humanities and Communication, Mathematics, Science, Computer Science Roberto Clemente Middle School Parent & Student Information Meeting.

**The Application/Choice form deadline for all programs is Friday, November 2, 2012.**

To learn more about these programs, and addresses to all meeting locations, please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/enrichedinnovative/events/middle.aspx>

**Please obey the "No Parking" signs** in the bus lane, handicapped spaces and reserved spaces at the side parking lot. Parents are encouraged to drop their children off in the Kiss-N-Ride area without exiting their vehicles. School Safety Patrols and adult supervision will be present to assist students from their vehicles to the school building. **Dropping your child**



**off at the curb of area roads is unsafe and not permitted.** Maintaining a consistent traffic flow is very important. Signs are posted to mark the beginning and ending points for cars to drop-off. Please do not leave cars unattended along the curb in front of the school. Parking is prohibited on the school-side of Dairymaid Drive, but cars are permitted to park on the far side of Dairymaid Drive, facing up the hill. Please be sure to follow all local parking signs and avoid parking in private residential areas. The school is not responsible for any parking fees, tickets, or tows.

### PTA Spirit Night Events:

Tue Oct 9<sup>th</sup> McTeacher Night  
Monday Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Thai Tanium  
Fri-Sun Nov 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Five Below  
Friday Dec 14<sup>th</sup> Hard Times Café  
Fri-Sun Dec 14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> Five Below

**McTeacher Night is October 9<sup>th</sup>, from 4:00-9:00p.m. at the Mateny Rd. location.** Please



join us to see which teachers and staff members (or principall!) will be working in each area of the store! Who will staff the drive-thru or the French fry machine? **McDonald's will donate 15%** of all proceeds during the event to the GSCES PTA. Invite your friends, neighbors, and relatives to have dinner or a snack at McDonald's that night. See you there!

### 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 18<sup>th</sup>.**




Millions of students across America will celebrate **Red Ribbon Day on October 24<sup>th</sup>!** Red ribbon day is a **celebration of healthy choices** and healthy life styles. Please wear red in support of this important celebration. Thank you for choosing to stay healthy!



Great Seneca Creek Elementary School is excited that we are able to participate in the 2012 **Fannie Mae Help the Homeless Walk**. This is a unique program intended to involve students in community service and to support local agencies serving homeless families. **All monies collected from our walk will go directly to The Dwelling Place, a local program helping homeless families achieve independence.** Participation in this event models our commitment to educating our students regarding the importance of social responsibility and aligns with our core beliefs. Registered students and staff members will walk through the community to support efforts of The Dwelling Place. The walk will take place on **October 12, 2012 from 1:45 - 3:00 p.m.** Led by our principal, we will walk down Mateny and turn right on Creamery Hill. From there, we will walk along Great Seneca Highway, turning right on Dairymaid to head back to the school. We will have assistance from our local police department regarding any intersections and/or traffic concerns.

### Sign Up Today.....

**MCPS currently communicates emergency or system wide changes**

through various media, including the MCPS website, MCPS  ITV Channel 34, QuickNotes email service, Twitter, a recorded emergency information telephone line, and local media outlets. Alert MCPS adds the ability to communicate via text messages delivered to electronic devices such as cell phones and personal data assistants. This service provides messages in English and Spanish. You can subscribe to **Alert MCPS** by signing on to the Alert Montgomery website at <https://alert.montgomerycountymd.gov>.

**Market Day orders are due online today.**

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.) Every purchase you make will earn 10 - 20% profit for our school, and every product is backed by 100% satisfaction guarantee. Order online at [www.marketday.com](http://www.marketday.com). Please contact Karen Morrison if you have any questions at 301-613-7599.



**Market 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.



**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.

**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-2<sup>nd</sup>) 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



**Register your Giant Rewards Card for A+**

**School Rewards** October 5, 2012 through March 28 2013. GSCES 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](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus), or call 1-877-275-2758 to register your card over the phone. Our school ID# is **05307**.

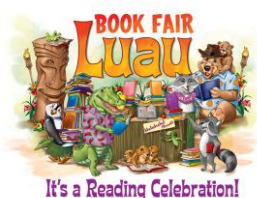
Through our PBIS initiative, we ensure that all students have a greater opportunity to be recognized for their positive behavior choices by receiving **Bullfrog Bucks** for their efforts. These "bucks" are matched with specific feedback, explaining the positive behavior being demonstrated, and its relationship 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.



for

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. More information is available from the GBTLA office (301-320-6545) and on their website: [www.gbtlearningacademy.org](http://www.gbtlearningacademy.org). You can also access this site via a link on our school webpage: [www.GreatSenecaCreekES.org](http://www.GreatSenecaCreekES.org).

**COMING SOON...The Annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair and Movie Night**



We are still looking for volunteers for the annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair. If you have an hour of time you can share to instill a love of reading in our Bullfrogs please sign-up at the below link.

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D49AEAA238-scholastic>

**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](mailto:allipta@yahoo.com).



**School-based Flu Vaccination Clinic Dates:** On Monday, November 5, 2012, DHHS will hold vaccination clinics to administer nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist) for school-aged children only at:

John F. Kennedy High School  
 Richard Montgomery High School  
 Seneca Valley High School  
 The clinics are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.



On **Monday, November 12 and Tuesday November 13, 2012**, DHHS will conduct flu vaccination clinics in all MCPS elementary schools. School Health Services Nurses and School Health Room Aides will administer nasal spray flu vaccine (FluMist).

**Vaccinations will be given only to those children enrolled in the elementary schools where the clinic is held.** Parents must sign up for appointments by contacting the school's health room. The two-hour clinics will begin 30 minutes after students are dismissed for the day. Please visit <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/emergency/flu/> for schedules and information.

### **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.



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.

**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.

### **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, Yahtzee, 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. As always, thank you for your support!

Applications for the Elementary Centers for the **Highly Gifted (HGC)** were 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.**

**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 8<sup>th</sup> at Northwest High School. Auditions are scheduled for **Monday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** from 3:15-4:30 for kindergarten through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade only and **Wednesday, December 12<sup>th</sup>** from 3:15-4:30 for 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **Outdoor Recess Policy**

Temperatures are beginning to drop and it is getting colder with each passing week. Generally, students will go outside for recess when it is **32°F or warmer**. Anytime the temperature falls below 32°F, then we will stay inside. Please help us by making sure that your students are coming to school with appropriate winter clothing, coats, hats and gloves, as they will be going outside for recess on most days.



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.



Each label we collect is worth 24¢ for GSCES PTA. Please send in your