



"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 19, 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

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 Upcounty 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) After School Clubs	17 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	18 Deadline for 1st Box Tops Contest PTA Scholastic Book Fair PTA Movie Night (6:30pm) After School Clubs	19 No School - MSEA Convention
22 PTA Scholastic Book Fair PTA "Grands" Day at the Book Fair	23 PTA Scholastic Book Fair After School Clubs	24 PTA Scholastic Book Fair	25 PTA Scholastic Book Fair After School Clubs	26
29	30 After School Clubs	31 Halloween Parade and Parties (1:30)	1 After School Clubs	2

Our clubs got off to an amazing start this week! We appreciate everyone picking up their kids on time so that we would have a smooth dismissal.

Just a **few reminders about dismissal** in order to keep things running smoothly:

- Clubs are dismissed at 4:15.
- Students are either car riders or walkers.
- Walkers must be picked up by an adult or older sibling in middle or high school. Students cannot walk home alone. Parents can wait in the foyer area for the staff to dismiss the kids.
- When picking up your child by car, you must remain in the car. Once you are in the car circle, you must remain in your car and wait for your child to be dismissed. It is vital to a smooth dismissal that drivers continue to pull forward as students are picked up.
- If you enter Dairymaid Drive from Mateny Road, you must get in the car line that forms along the curb to enter the car circle. **Cars should not be entering the car circle by crossing traffic on Dairymaid Drive.**

With your help and support we will continue to have a smooth club dismissal for the remainder of the five weeks for our fall session.

Please plan to join us on Wednesday, **October 31st** for our annual **Halloween parade and classroom parties**. The celebration will begin at 1:30 with



a parade of students outside, followed by classroom parties until dismissal time. If you will be providing any treats for the classroom parties please be sure that all items are store bought, nut-free and marked with a list of allergens. Please see below for information regarding the peanut policy.

PTA Spirit Night Events:

Monday Nov 19th Thai Taniun
Fri-Sun Nov 23rd-25th Five Below
Friday Dec 14th Hard Times Café
Fri-Sun Dec 14th-16th Five Below



Millions of students across America will celebrate **Red Ribbon Day** on **October 24th**! 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!

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](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.

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 have 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. Our school ID# is **05307**.

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.



The **NAACP Minority Club** will be hosting its first meeting on **October 30th**, 2012 at 7:00pm. Principal Mr. Curry and Assistant Principal Ms. Jones will be attending the meeting. Come and **join us in this open forum** to discuss topics and issues concerning our minority population.

IT'S HERE...The Annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair

We look forward to seeing you at the annual Fall Scholastic Book Fair from October 22nd – October 24th. Please plan on joining us for "Grands" Day on Monday, October 22nd! The fair will be open from 8:30-3:30.



The Application/Choice form deadline for all magnate 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>

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.**

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



Out of town friends and family interested in ordering from **Mixed Bags**? Orders can be placed online at



<http://www.mixedbagdesigns.com/friends-family-fundraising>.

Our fundraiser ID# is 89613 so that GSCES PTA can receive credit for the order. Thank you for your support!

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

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.

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.



Superintendent Joshua P. Starr will deliver his first State of the Schools address at the Music Center at Strathmore on November 12, 2012. Please join Dr. Starr as he shares his vision for the future and we gather to celebrate the outstanding students of Montgomery County Public Schools. This event is free and open to the public.

Please Join Us on Monday, November 12, 2012

The Music Center at Strathmore
5301 Tuckerman Lane
North Bethesda, MD 20852

7:30 a.m. Enjoy a light breakfast and student performances and artwork throughout the Music Center
8:30 a.m. Dr. Starr presents his State of the Schools address

Foreign language and sign language interpretation will be available.

Event will conclude by 9:30 a.m.

Free parking available in Grosvenor/Strathmore garage.

For more information about the event, please call 301-279-3424. Please RSVP by November 1, 2012 at

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/superintendent/stateoftheschools/>

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** 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.

Sign Up Today.....

MCPS currently communicates emergency or system wide changes through various media, including the MCPS website,

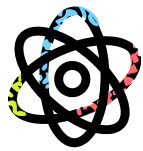


As a **GREEN SCHOOL**, we always aim to reduce the amount of paper we use at the school. We limit our copying and send messages, bulletins, updates, etc. via email. For this to happen, we need your updated email addresses, as well as a commitment from parents to regularly check their messages for school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

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.

A **big thank you** to everyone who came to McTeacher Night and made it a huge success! Due to your support we were able to raise **\$450** for the GSCES PTA.



2012-2013 Science and Technology Expo will be held February 20, 2013. Our students do a wonderful job each year and this year will be GREAT as well! Students will bring home entry forms and guidelines this week. Entry forms are due to classroom teachers by December 7th. There are some changes to this year's fair! Check back here for more details.

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>.



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.

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.



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.



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!