



*"We are what we repeatedly do.
Excellence, therefore, is not an act
but a habit." ~Aristotle*

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.

November 2, 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

November-12				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
			1	2 PTA Market Day Orders Due Online RCMS Upcounty Magnet Application Deadline
5 No School - Professional day for teachers	6 No School - Presidential Election Day	7 PTA General Meeting - Media Center (7:00-8:30pm) Deadline for Mixed Bags Fundraiser Orders	8 PTA Market Day Pickup (7:30pm) After School Clubs	9 PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive Begins PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser Begins Grade 1 In-house Bread Making Activity
12 Early release day K-8. Parent conferences PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive continues PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser continues	13 Early release day K-8. Parent conferences PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive continues PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser continues After School Clubs	14 PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive continues PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser continues Report Cards Distributed ESOL Parent Night (6:00)	15 PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive continues PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser continues Bullfrog Breakfast After School Clubs	16 PTA Coat, Hat & Glove Drive - Last Day PTA Honey-Baked Ham Fundraiser continues Ident-A-Kid
19 PTA Thai Tanium Spirit Night	20 First Grade Thanksgiving Feast After School Clubs Honey-Baked Ham Pick-up	21 Early Release Day	22 No School - Thanksgiving Holiday	23 No School - Thanksgiving Holiday Five Below Weekend through November 25th
26	27 Math Night (7:00-8:30) After School Clubs	28	29 Kingsview Concert at GSCES (9:30-10:30am) Second Grade Fieldtrip to Strathmore After School Clubs	30 Holiday Gift Shop Opens

Meet Your 2012-2013 SGA Officers



President: Gage Tozser -5th grade-Mr. Lichvar's Class

Vice President: Chase Strawser-4th grade-Ms. Taylor's Class

Treasure: Jack Grange-4th grade-Mr. Tanzi's Class

Historian: Nareen Herrera-Davila-3rd grade-Ms. Williams' Class

Secretary: Carolyn Draetta-3rd grade-Ms. Woody's Class

For all parents of students in the ESOL program:

Come to our first ESOL Parent Night of the year on Wednesday, **November 14th**. Dinner will be served from 6-6:30. Then, find out how to help your child become a better reader. **Please RSVP** so we know how much food and the number of child-care providers we need. **See you there!**



Padres de estudiantes ESOL: Estan cordialmente invitados al primer "ESOL Noche de Padres" del año. La fecha es miércoles, **14 de noviembre**. Vamos a servir la cena desde 6:00 hasta 6:30. Entonces vamos a hablar sobre como puede Ud. ayudar a su niño leer mejor. **Favor de decirnos antes cuantos en su familia** van a asistir para saber cuanta comida y cuantos babysitters necesitamos! **Hasta entonces!**

We are **very happy** that our **Great Seneca Creek community** was **safe** during hurricane Sandy and all of our bullfrogs returned to school safe and ready for learning. We would like to thank all of our parents for helping with the Halloween parties and participating in the parade. It was loads of fun!



Note for Tuesday Afternoon Clubs:

Due to Hurricane Sandy, We missed our Tuesday Club on October 30th, but don't worry we will make it up. **Tuesday clubs** will be **extended** and end on **Tuesday December 11, 2012**. This will be the last day for Tuesday clubs. **Please make a note!**

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

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.

Mixed Bags Deadline Extended!

Due to the unscheduled school closings the deadline for our Mixed Bags Fundraiser has been **extended** to Wednesday, **November 7th**. 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. Thank you for your support!

Please join GSCES, as we **collect canned goods for needy families!** Our food drive is **November 9th-16th**. We need **nonperishable** foods such as canned and boxed items. The donations will be given to Manna Food in Rockville, MD. **Manna Food** is the main food bank, serving Montgomery County, MD. **Manna Food feeds 3,300 families each month** at fourteen locations in the county. Thank you for helping our community!

The Application/Choice form deadline for all magnet programs is Friday, November 9, 2012. The deadline was extended! 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.**

Parent Teacher conferences are November 12th and 13th. Please make



sure that you have scheduled a conference with your child's teacher. You will be receiving a confirmation letter stating your scheduled time. It is very important that teachers remain on schedule, so try to **arrive early** and **respect the time limits** set for each meeting. Conferences with specific Math teachers can be scheduled later in the month, if requested by the parent, but these conference days are specifically for homeroom teacher conferences. We have an incredibly **supportive** and **involved community**, built through a **mutual respect between staff and families.**

The **IDENT-A-KID Child Safety Program** will be at our school on **November 16, 2012** to PHOTOGRAPH, FINGERPRINT, WEIGH and



MEASURE children. To participate, please fill in the Application Envelope which will come home with your child and have your child return it to school. Applications are also available on line at www.identakid.com. It is recommended that each parent keep a card with them at all times and additional cards should be given to anyone who regularly cares for your child. Participation in the program is at the individual Parents' option. **New this year**, and free if ordering multiple cards, we are introducing the electronic Ident-A-Kid card, known as **eKid-ID**. With your child's eKid-ID stored directly on your cell phone, you can immediately distribute his or her information to authorities, friends and neighbors in case of an emergency. The cost per child is \$7 for one card, \$10 for two cards, and \$13 for three cards (all include eKid-ID). **Please feel free to contact your local program director with any questions: Donna Aversa-Smith - (443) 275-1543.**

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.



Our **Book Fair** was a huge success! **Thanks to Janice Brady and Susan Strawser**, we sold almost **\$11,850** worth of books and items at the fair. This will go a long way in supporting our PTA and school. **Thank you**, Janice and your entire committee! **Job well-done!**

Math Night

GSCES Will host Math Night on **Tuesday, November 27th** from 7pm-8:30pm. Please join us for a night of fun and engaging activities. Mark your calendars now.



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**.



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

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.

Our clubs have gotten off to an amazing start! 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.**



The **NAACP Minority Club** has rescheduled its first meeting to **December 11, 2012** at 6:30pm. Mr. Curry and Ms. Jones will be attending the meeting. Please come and **join us in this open forum** to discuss topics and issues concerning our minority population.

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>.

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 Marla_J_Yoho@mcpsmd.org.

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.



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.

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.

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!