

The Cedar Lane School

11630 Scaggsville Road
Fulton, MD 20759

November 2007

www2.hcpss.org/cedarlane

FROM THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS

Paul S. Owens, Principal

Mary Beth Yelen, Assistant Principal

School Improvement at Cedar Lane

The Cedar Lane school staff members have been busy working toward our school improvement goals for academics, attendance, and promoting a safe environment. We recently held an "ALT-MSA Make and Take" for reading, math, and science on November 2nd where teams of teachers and Paraeducators created numerous activities and lessons for our students. Please visit our website to view the photographs of this event.

While the Alternate MSA has been met with some controversy in the past, it is important for us to realize that it is a part of the Annotated Code of Maryland (COMAR) and it sets the standard for teaching and learning at Cedar Lane. The teachers at Cedar Lane are making a focused effort to improve our scores by integrating the ALT-MSA mastery objectives into the instructional day and by learning new instructional practices. We are also aligning ALT-MSA objectives with IEP objectives to create a seamless cycle of instruction. We are hopeful that these new practices and a focus on instruction will lead to increased achievement on each child's IEP goals and objectives while meeting our ALT-MSA goals.

American Education Week

Our preschool and related arts teams planned two special events for American Education Week. Families are invited to attend a Harvest for the Hungry dance on Tuesday, November 13 (9:00-10:00 AM in the Cafeteria) and a craft activity (making topiaries) on Thursday November 15 in the Cafeteria from 9:00-10:00 AM for Preschool and Elementary, and 10:05-11:05 for Middle and High School.

Coffee with the Principal

The first coffee with the Principal for this school year will be held during American education week on Wednesday November 24th at 8am. Please stop by for a cup of coffee and a donut!

RELATED ARTS NOTES

ACTIVITIES FOR DAILY LIVING – Kathy Wah

Autumn is here and during this quarter we have incorporated many more domestic skills into the program. The students have been working on everything from laundry to dusting to dust mopping and sorting and hanging up laundry. We continue to also cook and will complete some craft projects and work on rec/leisure skills through individual choice opportunities and group games. We continue to stress communication and social skills through greetings at the door, attendance responses as well as throughout the lessons.

ART – Gena Luoma

The art room has been an active place since the beginning of the school year. It has not taken long for the room to be filled with a variety of works in progress.

High school students began with chair back self-portraits. We used technology by means of the isight program on our classroom computer to take immediate pictures of the students. These pictures were then used for the features of the self-portraits. Check out the display case and the media center for the great results.

All students have completed several seasonal projects including warm color painting/leaf prints and some florescent spider webs done under black lights! It is always amazing to watch the focus our students have when using the high contrast colors.

CALENDAR

November 2007

- 12-16** - American Education Week
- 19-20** - Parent-Teacher Conferences (3.0 hour early dismissal....11:15 AM dismissal)
- 21** - Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
- 22-23** - Thanksgiving Holiday (schools and offices closed)
- 24** - Coffee with the Principal (8:00 AM)
- 28** - School Picture Make Up Day

December

- 6** - PTA Executive Board (7:00 PM)
- 11** - Holiday Program for Middle School (12:15 PM)
- 12** - Holiday Program for High School (12:15 PM)
- 13** - Holiday Program for: Preschool (9:30 AM) Elementary (12:15 PM)
- 24 Jan. 1** - Winter Holiday (schools closed)

January 2008

- 2** - Schools Reopen
- 3** - PTA Executive Board (7:00 PM)
- 17** - End of Marking Period (3.0 hours early dismissal...11:15 AM dismissal)
- 18** - Teacher Work Day (schools closed to students)
- 21** - Martin Luther King's Birthday (schools and offices closed)

February

- 6-7** - Parent-Teacher Conferences (3.0 hours early dismissal...11:15 AM dismissal)
- 8** - Parent-Teacher Conferences (no school for students)
- 12** - Primary Election Day (schools and offices closed)
- 18** - President's Day (schools closed)

We are currently making paper pulp and using it to create 3-dimensional bowls! Students get to make the pulp by tearing paper, mixing it in a blender and squeezing excess water from the mix. They get to make color choices and press the pulp into bowls. This is a wonderful sensory project enjoyed by all! Look for the results to come home after Thanksgiving.

The art room continues to be a hub for inclusion opportunities. We are again welcoming a 3rd grade class from Fulton Elementary every Monday along with Lisa Miller's class. Monica Stroter, the Fulton Elementary art teacher accompanies the class. The third grade curriculum is followed and adapted for our students to enjoy art with their peers. Classes from Reservoir High School visit the high school art classes of Pat Tyler and Robin Close monthly. The Tuesday Club Advisory group is assisting our students with creating shiny glass mobiles that will grace our outside lunch pavilion in the spring. Peers from Lime Kiln join our middle school art classes Wednesday afternoons. Our preschoolers continue to enjoy an inclusive art class with the Child Development Program peers.

With all these programs going on, I can honestly say that every inch of this huge art room is filled with wonderful results! Please feel free to check us out next time you are in the building. Artwork is on display in the lobby, the office, and the showcases outside the art room, the conference room and the media center gallery.

CAREER SKILLS LAB – Ellen Roper

The first quarter has been very busy in the Career Skills Lab. We have been fortunate to work with various businesses, and Board of Education offices to complete various types of jobs. Below please find the breakdown of each job and the tasks that our students experienced.

- Historic Oakland Newsletter - 2400 Newsletters - Tasks include: Folding, Labeling, Taping, Packaging
- ARL - Career and Technology - 12,000 Letters - Tasks include: Remove Envelopes, Stuff Fliers
- Champ's Restaurant - 3000 Menu's - Tasks include: Folding, Packaging
- REMAX - Approximately 700 Calendars - Tasks include: Stuffing, Sealing, Labeling
- PTA Membership - 200 Fliers, Membership Envelopes - Tasks include: Stapling, Counting

We are always interested in receiving new jobs. Please pass on the word. Each job is done with care!!!!

HORTICULTURE – Amy Woodard

Classes have been busy transplanting perennials for our Spring sale. All students are involved at every level from mixing the soil, filling the containers and finally arranging the pots in flats. Then we use dibbles to make the holes and place our plugs in the soil. Some of our students bring the finished flats into the greenhouse and arrange them on the benches.

We have also planted seeds and are watching them germinate. As soon as these seedlings are ready they will be transplanted into pots.

As the Holiday season approaches we will become busy with wreaths, poinsettias, and other seasonal items.

MEDIA – Angie Delaverson

Our school Media Center has adapted books, games, and switch activated animal toys for use with our students. There are also, hand puppets and big books, magazines, educational videos and computers.

New on the shelves this year are a variety of puzzles for ALT-MSA goals and **PIGS that count, can you imagine!!!!**

Also, there are professional books and books for parents which can be signed out.

The pre school inclusion classes always enjoy the theme of the month. They include stories told by Gisele Morin-Connolly and myself with adapted toys and books. I'm sure they and the rest of the classes here are looking forward to our fall and Thanksgiving Day stories!

March

6 - PTA Executive Board Meeting (7:00 PM)

17-24 - Spring Break (schools closed)

TBA - Basket Bingo

April

4 - End of marking period (3.0 hours early dismissal...11:15 AM dismissal)

24 - Professional Development Day (Schools closed for students)

26 - Walk for Our Stars fund raiser

May

1 - PTA Executive Board (7:00 PM)

8 - Challenge Day

16 - Professional Work Day-Schools closed for students

21 - Awards Program (12:15-2:00 PM, MS/HS)

20 - Awards Program (12:15-2:00 PM, PS/EL)

26 - Memorial Day (schools closed)

TBA - Graduation 10 am

June

10 - Early Dismissal (3.0 hours...11:15AM dismissal)

11 - Early Dismissal (3.0 hours...11:15 AM dismissal)

12 - Early Dismissal (3.0 hours....11:15 AM dismissal)

MUSIC – Mary Lou Reynolds

The music room has been filled with the sounds of Fall. High School and Middle school classes have enjoyed moving and listening to various marching band selections. Our preschool and elementary classes have worked on fine motor skills with the concert magic keyboard feature on our digital piano. Inclusion classes have been busy making music as well. Preschool music inclusion has learned songs about friendship and exploring how instruments are played (tapping, scraping, shaking). Our Fulton friends from grade 3 have joined some of our elementary students in tapping out rhythm rhymes, learning the "Jubilee" dance, and friendship songs in swahili and spanish. All our classes have enjoyed our traditional Halloween favorites like "The Old Lady" and "Halloween Night." The second quarter will bring holiday and winter sounds using bells, glockenspiels, and African drums.

HEALTH ROOM NOTES

FLU VACCINE FACTS

Every winter it's a fact of life – the headache, dry cough, body aches, fever and sore throat that signal the onset of the flu. Each year 5 to 20 percent of the population gets hit with the influenza virus according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

According to the CDC, anyone who wants to reduce their chances of getting the flu can get vaccinated. According to Jim Campbell, M.D., a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at the University of Maryland Center for Vaccine Development, it's especially important for children ages 6 to 59 months and their close contacts to get the influenza vaccine. It is also recommended that children and adults with chronic health conditions receive the flu vaccine.

Despite the benefits of the flu vaccine, several misconceptions persist. The most common myth is that the flu vaccine can actually give you the flu. There is no live influenza virus in the vaccine so it can't cause the flu. Another fallacy is that the side effects of the vaccine are worse than the flu. Only 5 to 10 percent experience mild side effects, such as headache or low grade fever for about a day after the vaccine. In truth, the worst side effect you're likely to get is a sore arm.

Of course, the main way to prevent the flu is to get the vaccine. But since the flu is a highly contagious viral respiratory tract infection, you can also reduce your risk by avoiding contact with infected people and frequently washing your hands. Also be sure to clean doorknobs, telephone receivers, and computer keyboards to decrease the possibility of transmission. Ultimately, the flu vaccine still gives the best protection for the entire season, it's much cheaper and we know it works very well.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTIONS AND SUPPORT (PBIS)

PBIS is a process for creating safer and more effective schools. The process focuses on improving a school's ability to **support and encourage positive** behavior for all students.

Students are rewarded with a "heart" when they demonstrate appropriate behaviors. These "hearts" may be used to purchase items at the Heart Store. "Hearts" are tallied throughout the semester, and a Hearts Honor Roll is posted on the PBIS bulletin board.

The PBIS Committee is proud to announce the 1st Quarter Heart Honor Roll winners for each school level:

Preschool - Noah Lee

Elementary - Grant Learman

Middle School - Chris Seay

High School - Doug Burnett

Please congratulate these students for following the School Rules the next time you see them.

All results are posted on the PBIS Bulletin Board across from the teacher workroom.

FULTON CAMPUS NEWS

Middle School – Melissa Preston

Cedar Lane School has joined Lime Kiln Middle School in a collaborative effort to collect non-perishable food items for the Harvest for the Hungry Food Drive. Students from both schools are collecting food items and then the Maryland Food Bank will come and pick them up, just in time to help those less fortunate at holiday time. We did not collect as much food as in years past, but the turn out was good. Look for upcoming community projects and continue to contribute to our local community.

LKMS and CLS hosted an African Dance troupe in the the Cedar Lane cafeteria. Two Cedar Lane Middle School classes got to join in the fun with two LKMS gym classes in learning new dances and listening to music.

HIGH SCHOOL – Wendy Cohen-Holbrook

Cedar Lane high school students and the students of Reservoir HS are crossing paths again this school year! Two students attend a class full-time: one in tenth-grade English, and the other in Concert Choir. One student attends Weight Training once a week, and several students have had the opportunity to visit the Madrigals class who will sing at our Winter Program in December. Two high school classes eat lunch at RHS on a regular basis.

The RHS Marching Band marched up from Reservoir to give the whole school a concert on a beautiful September morning, and later that week, the entire CLS high school had the opportunity to go to the Homecoming Pep Rally. The Early Childhood Development classes come to CLS twice a week to collaborate with the preschool, and several individual RHS students come for work-study time in our daycare, preschool, and front office. An RHS advisory class provided non-edible „Ätreats,Äù for our trick-or-treating preschoolers. Finally, we are hosting two monthly club advisory periods for students from both schools: Fun with Duct Tape and Glass Mobiles.

CONGRATS & ALL THAT

☺ Maria (Mary) Del Carmen Fernandes, Preschool Paraeducator, recently became a United States citizen.

☺ Corey Connolly, son of Gisele Morin-Connolly, Speech Pathologist, will be returning home after his second tour in Iraq. Sgt. First Class Connolly should be home for Thanksgiving! He has been in Iraq for 15 months.

☺ Robin Close, high school teacher, “popped the question” to Emily Betz. Rumor has it an August 2008 wedding is being planned.

☺ Staff Halloween Costume winners are: Funniest – Dennis Seibert (RA Teacher) and the other girls, Most Unique – Kathy Protokowicz (MS Teacher) and Selina Wertman (HS Teacher), and Most Colorful – Judy Terry (HS Para-educator).

☺ The Pittsburg Steelers/Baltimore Ravens game on November 5 brought out the team spirit among the staff. On Monday, the staff wore their favorite team colors and then on Tuesday morning we were all gold and black as the Ravens fans had to wear Steelers colors!

☺ The staff had a very successful heart auction on November 2. Paul Owens did a great job as our Auctioneer. The largest bid came from Bob Tyson (Aquatics Paraeducator), who bid 37 hearts to have Paul cover a 40-minute class. Stay tuned for an update!