

PAW PRINTS

CLOVERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER
WWW.MCPS.K12.MD.US/SCHOOLS/CLOVERLYES
WWW.CLOVERLYPTA.COM

September 2009

Volume 21, Issue 1

From the PTA President



PTA General Membership
Meeting Dates
Tuesday's at 7:00 PM

September 1st

October 6th

**November 4th

December 1st

January 5th

February 2nd

March 2nd

**April 7th

May 4th

**June 2nd

** Wednesday Meeting



Special Interest

It's time again to renew those Giant Bonusbucks and Safeway Escript subscriptions for the 2009-2010 school year! Look for flyers in backpacks this week.

800 Briggs Chaney Road
Silver Spring, MD 20905
(301) 989-5770

Hello everyone and welcome back to another exciting year at Cloverly Elementary School! While the students have spent the last few weeks testing out new sneakers and sharpening pencils in preparation for the 2009-2010 school year, the PTA community has also been busy getting ready for all of the events, activities, and programs that will take place in the coming months.

Our first major event this fall will be the **Family Movie Night**, Friday, September 11th at 6pm. Please join us as we kick off the school year with a variety of fun activities, followed by our feature film, *Bolt*, to be shown on our brand new PTA outdoor movie screen. Thanks so much to Lynette Scaffidi and the members of the Family Programs Committee for all of their hard work in preparation for this great kick-off event!

Two other exciting endeavors in the month of September are our **Membership Drive** and **Sally Foster** fundraising campaign. Have you signed up for PTA for the new school year? If you haven't had an opportunity yet, I encourage you to join us. New incentives include a car magnet for each family that has at least two adult members join PTA, as well as an opportunity for one lucky member to win a \$500 Target gift card! Look for details inside this month's newsletter. Sally Foster is also gearing up with wonderful merchandise and new incentives for participation—look for catalogs and much more in your child's backpack next week!

Finally, I would like to thank all of our committee chairs for the 2009-2010 school year. Your leadership is what makes the Cloverly PTA such a wonderful resource at our school! All of your efforts are truly appreciated, and Susan, Jill, Erin, and I look forward to working with you. If anyone is still interested in chairing a committee, we do have a few positions available, so if you would like to be involved, please feel free to contact me at 301-384-4710 / kbillok@yahoo.com.

Welcome Back, Cloverly Cubs!

All the best,

Kimberlee Billok

September Calendar of Events

September 1	PTA Meeting	7:00 p.m.
September 7	NO SCHOOL – Labor Day	
September 11	Family Movie Night	6-9:30 p.m.
September 16	Instrumental Music Parent Information Meeting	
	4 th and 5 th grade parents	6:00 – 6:30 p.m.
September 16	Back to School Night	
	Grades K-2, PEP, & Autism	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
	Staff Introductions & Presentation	7:30 – 8:00 p.m.
	Grades 3-5	8:00 – 9:00 p.m.
September 28	No School – Yom Kippur	



From the Principal



Dear Cloverly Families,

Three cheers to a successful first week at Cloverly! I am overjoyed with our 500+ students' enthusiasm and eagerness to learn as we begin our school year. Since August, we've had the following staff changes:

Melissa Ramsey, previous paraeducator in the autism program, is working as a paraeducator at Earle B. Wood Middle School.

Michelle Bowie, Cloverly parent volunteers and long-term substitute, will be working as a paraeducator in the autism program.

Samantha Dumman, recent college graduate, will be working as a paraeducator in the autism program and as a recess/lunch aide.

Theresa Wellens and Theresa Mooney, Cloverly parent volunteers, will be working as lunch/recess aides.

Have you noticed all of the new technology (Promethean boards and carts with laptops and mini-notebooks) that have been installed in majority of the classrooms at Cloverly? We are thrilled to be participating in the 21st Century Action Research Project with the MCPS Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). The purpose of this project is to research innovative approaches to elementary education by incorporating new technologies and an inquiry based pedagogical model that supports all learners.

The goals of this project are:

To use technology to provide every student with access to individualized, rigorous, and relevant learning to prepare all students for the 21st century.

To provide ongoing, meaningful professional development around technology that leads to changes in teaching and curriculum implementation.

To research and evaluate these innovative approaches in elementary education.

We look forward to all these exciting developments.

At Cloverly, we strive to maintain a positive and safe environment in which optimal learning can take place. Each student should have received the comprehensive Behavior Management Plan. Please read over its contents and share them with your children. Please sign and return the last page to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

On behalf of the Cloverly staff, I would like to thank Kim Billok, PTA president, for decorating the front office. We hope that the warm and inviting atmosphere will give our parents and visitors a sense of welcome when they enter our front office.

We believe that the success we have with each child will depend on the cooperative efforts of home and school. The best way that parents can support their children's education is through active participation. We encourage you to become involved in school and PTA activities. Working in partnership, we will effectively maintain the high standards of excellence at Cloverly Elementary School.

Ms. Conley and I look forward to personally greeting each of you at our "Back to School" night on **Thursday, September 16, 2009**. The *revised* schedule is as follows:

6:30-7:25 Grades K, 1, & 2 (PEP & Autism)

7:30-8:00 Staff Introductions and Presentation

8:05-9:00 Grades 3, 4, & 5

~Continued on page 3~

~From The Principal Continued~

The MCPS board of education is holding two public forums to provide parents, staff, students, and community members the opportunity to give their input on important issues affecting Montgomery County Public Schools. The forums will take place on **Thursday, September 17, 2009**, at Quince Orchard High School and on **Thursday, October 15, 2009**, at **John F. Kennedy High School**.

Again, *Welcome Back!* I am optimistic that the 2009-10 school year will be an exciting year for everyone.

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Brunson

Babies, Bosses, Busy Schedules...

5 Flexible Ways This Month to Participate in PTA-Related Activities

1. Volunteer to help out with preparations for Family Movie Night by contacting Lynette Scaffidi at Lynette.Scaffidi@comcast.net.
2. Offer to assist in the coordination of our School Directory by contacting committee chair Jennifer Gruber at jenngruber@msn.com for more information.
3. Computer-savvy? Contact webmaster Karim Phillips and offer your assistance with updates for www.cloverlypta.com.
4. Join the PTA—our numbers make us strong!
5. Interested in putting your editing skills to work? Contact newsletter editor Hollie Taylor at newsletter@cloverlypta.com.

Childcare During PTA Meetings!

Beginning in October, childcare will be available for general PTA meetings, normally held on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please look for further information about reserving a space for your child later in the month on the PTA listserv, and in the October edition of Paw Prints.



PTA DIRECTORY

Be sure to keep your eyes open for the bright orange **2009/2010 Cloverly PTA Directory Form!** Only those students whose families submit forms will be included in this year's publication. The directory is a valuable resource for Cloverly families and staff and will be distributed to PTA members in October. If you have not received a form by Friday, September 4th, or if you're interested in placing an advertisement in the directory, please contact Jenn Gruber at jenngruber@msn.com or

301-879-6928.

PTA Reimbursement Information

For any PTA members needing reimbursement for purchases made for the PTA, there will be two deadlines for turning in your reimbursement requests. For purchases made from August until December of 2009, reimbursements need to be turned in by January 15, 2010. For purchases made from January to June of 2010, the reimbursement requests need to be turned in by July 15th. Thank you for your help with turning in your requests in a timely matter.

Jill Wingard, PTA Treasurer





Why Join PTA?

Top 5 reasons to join the Cloverly PTA this year!

5) Grades are higher, test scores rise, self-esteem grows and schools improve with a strong PTA.

4) When you join the Cloverly PTA, you also join the Maryland state and national PTA and become part of an effort to improve the education of every child.

3) Membership connects you with the school, staff, parents and other students and gives you a voice in deciding the direction of the PTA.

2) Joining the PTA does not mean you *have* to volunteer (though we hope you will) And if you do decide to volunteer, there are opportunities to fit every schedule.

And the number one reason for joining the Cloverly PTA this year (drum roll, please...)

1) One lucky family will win a \$500 Target gift card! (We'll also have some great Erunner up' prizes)

Join by the end of October and you'll automatically be entered into our contest. Please contact Amy Creel with any questions. 301-774-6357, creels@verizon.net.

Join the Cloverly PTA listserv, (Cloverlypta@yahoogroups.com), to stay connected to the Cloverly ES community. Members receive e-mail messages about school activities, PTA business, and relevant educational issues. Cloverlypta is administered by the Cloverly PTA, and is an announcement only listserv. Cloverlypta is not a chat or discussion forum; and membership is limited to Cloverly ES families and staff. To post a message, simply send an e-mail to Cloverlypta@yahoogroups.com.

To join, send an e-mail to the moderator at Cloverlypta_mod@yahoo.com, providing your name, the name(s) and grade(s) of your Cloverly ES student(s), and specifying the e-mail address(es) to be added to the listserv. Please note, that if you are already a member of Cloverlypta, you do not need to join again unless there has been a change to your e-mail address, as the membership list is not automatically purged at the end of the school year.

WE NEED YOU



Now that we have dusted off the backpacks and bought new school supplies, we need to be out with the old and in with the new mulch in our courtyard! Keep your eyes open for a flyer indicating the September Sunday morning of our Fall Courtyard Cleanup. Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes and your family! We hope to see you there! Please contact Susan Kirk at 301-879-5059 or susan_kirk88@yahoo.com with any questions.

This Month's Green Box Issue Is...

As we begin the new school year, what suggestions do you have to increase traffic on our PTA website, www.cloverlypta.com? What additional features would you like to see included on the website in the future?

We look forward to your written thoughts on this issue! Please e-mail your response to kbillok@yahoo.com.



Paw Prints is a monthly publication of the Cloverly Elementary School PTA. **Submission must be received by the 20th of each month.** Submissions should be emailed to the Newsletter Committee at newsletter@cloverlypta.com.

Don't forget to record your volunteer hours in the log book in the front office or e-mail them to r1fboyer@verizon.net



Cloverly Outdoor Family Movie Night!!

Sept. 11 from 6 PM to 9:30 PM

Come at 6 to enjoy the festivities – DJ and dancing, playing on the playground and enjoying Vocelli’s pizza, popcorn, ice cream, smoothies, coffee drinks, and much more! The movie will start at dusk, and the movie and fun is free!

Bring money for pizza and other food.

Movie Feature will be BOLT and will be shown on Cloverly’s new big outdoor screen. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more information please contact Lynette Scaffidi at Lynette.Scaffidi@comcast.net

CULTURAL ARTS NEWS



The goal of the PTA Cultural Arts Committee is to bring high-quality performances representing a variety of arts and sciences to Cloverly to enrich our students’ educational experiences. In addition to school day programming, our committee often arranges for evening Cultural Arts performances for Cloverly Cubs to enjoy with their families.

Free showcases of performers open to the community will be held on September 29, October 5, 8, and 15, at the Carver Educational Center Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, MD, from 9 am to 2:30 pm each day. A different performer is presented every 15 minutes, and each day features different performers. We encourage you to attend any of the showcases so you may provide input for our cultural arts programming. To volunteer for the committee or for more information, please contact Cultural Arts Chairperson Betsy Sirk at betsy.sirk@nasa.gov or 301-421-1294.

Cloverly Spiritwear and Car Magnets Available

Is your Cloverly cub wanting to show school spirit? We have just what you need! Cloverly Spirit wear is ready for purchase! Short sleeve and long sleeve t-shirts, crew neck and hoodie sweatshirts, polo shirts, sweat pants, shorts and more. Show that Cloverly pride and purchase your apparel today.

Ordering is simple:

1) Go on-line to view the selection and place your order at <http://www.amimprints.com/>

username: CES
password: cubs

We will also have a limited supply available for purchase during the Family Movie night on Friday, Sept. 11th. Purchase at this event and your student will have their gear immediately! Don't forget to purchase the Cloverly Car Magnet(\$5)also! Just make a note on your order form to include the magnet. If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Kiras at tkiras@umd.edu or Ann Johnson at johnsonzool@verizon.net



Lack of affordable low-income housing is one of the leading contributors to homelessness. Every year in the United States, 3.5 million people, 1.35 million of them children, experience homelessness. The average age of a homeless person is 9 years old. In Montgomery County alone, on any day, there are over 300 homeless children and a total of 1,100 homeless people.

To teach our students about the problem of homelessness, Cloverly Elementary School will be holding its annual **Help the Homeless Mini-Walk on Friday, November 6, 2009**. ALL STUDENTS will hear a speaker on homelessness and will participate in a Mini-Walk around the playground during their recess period. Family members, teachers and staff members are invited to join in this walk. Further information about this event and related activities will be forthcoming in student folders and Back to School Night.

Cheryl Minus (minusfamily@gmail.com) and Karen O'Brien (kobrien@psyc.umd.edu),

Help The Homeless Committee Chairs



The Community Concerns Committee would like to thank all the families that contributed meals or assistance during the 2008-2009 school year for our Cloverly families. All volunteering and meals provided were gratefully appreciated.

The Cloverly Community Concerns Committee is a Cloverly Elementary School based committee that assists families in our immediate school that might have needs arise during the school year. These needs are kept confidential and handled with the utmost care and execution. If you have a need such as a sudden illness/hospital stay/or other family emergency you can contact a member of our team or our school counselor Mrs. Elliot. Team member can be reached by contacting:

Patty Belke – 301-388-2051 / pbelke1@comcast.net

Beth Augustin – 301-785-4288 / FBKE88@aol.com

Diane Tregoning – 301-879-7911 / rtregoning@verizon.net

Electronic Version of PawPrints Request

I would like to receive the monthly PTA newsletter PawPrints electronically for the 2009-2010 school year. By choosing this option, I know that a paper version of the PTA newsletter will not be sent home with my child/children.

Signature: _____

Name (printed): _____

e-mail address: _____

phone number: _____

names/grades/homeroom teachers of children attending Cloverly:



(Please return to school marked "PTA E-Newsletter" by September 20th to receive October's newsletter electronically)