

# PAW PRINTS

CLOVERLY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA NEWSLETTER  
WWW3.MCPS.K12.MD.US/SCHOOLS/CLOVERLYES  
WWW.CLOVERLYPTA.COM

November 2009

Volume 21, Issue 3



## From the PTA President

Hello everyone! Since November is often a time when we take a moment to say thanks for all we have, I would like to take time to recognize a variety of different PTA volunteers who have supported programs and activities this fall. Coordinators and volunteers worked very hard to bring us the **Sally Foster fundraiser, the Kidstuff fundraiser, Spiritwear, the School Directory, and a host of other PTA-related items.** Thank you for all of your tremendous efforts!

Last month, I had an opportunity to highlight the contributions of the teachers and parent volunteers connected with our newly-revamped afterschool science club, and the word on the playground and in the hallways of Cloverly is that the program is a great success! This month, I would like to recognize another group of individuals who greatly contribute to our organization—**those individuals who work in partnership with PTA through their businesses.** Volunteering/donating through matching corporate programs, advertising in PTA publications, donating supplies to different events...we are truly fortunate to have the support of local businesses in all that we do. In particular, please be sure to check out the advertisement that Cloverly parent Charles Lee, owner of Home Base Remodelers, included in this year's directory, where he not only purchased ad space, but has pledged to make a donation to PTA with the purchase of certain items/services. Charles also generously sponsored the printing of our silent auction catalog this past spring, and is a great example of how a business owner can creatively support our community. Interested in exploring the possibilities of a similar partnership with the PTA and your business? The possibilities are endless! Please contact me to discuss all of the options available.

How blessed we are to have such an active community that works together to make Cloverly the best it can be...Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Kimberlee Billok

## November Calendar of Events

November 2	No School – Professional Day	
November 4	PTA Meeting	7:00 pm
November 6	Walk for the Homeless	11:55 a.m. - 1:35 pm
November 11	Early Release Day	12:35 pm
	No PEP Classes	
November 12	Early Release Day	12:35 pm
	No PEP Classes	
November 13	Weather Assembly	9:30 am
	Grades 3, 4 & 5	-11:00 am
November 14	Family Ice Skating Night	6:15 pm - 8:00 pm
November 17	Individual Picture Retakes	10:00 am
November 25	Early Release	12:35 pm
	No PEP Classes	
November 26 & 27	No School – Holiday	
November 30	Cultural Arts Assembly	TBA



### PTA General Membership Meeting Dates

September 1st

October 6th

\*\*November 4th

December 1st

January 5th

February 2nd

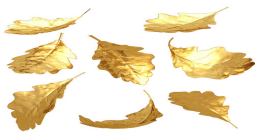
March 2nd

\*\*April 7th

May 4th

\*\*June 2nd

\*\* Wednesday Meeting



### Mark Your Calendars!

The Annual Cloverly Variety Show will be held on Friday, February 12th! Fliers will go home this month with all the information needed to participate.

800 Briggs Chaney Road

Silver Spring, MD 20905

(301) 989-5770

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# From the Principal

Dear Cloverly Families:

I would like to thank all of the parents for attending *Open House* and *Academic Night* last month. We hope you walked away with a variety of activities that will serve as a reinforcement or extension to our instructional program.

We are very committed to providing a first-class instructional program at Cloverly. As a part of our professional learning community, the Cloverly staff takes advantage of the following training opportunities to promote their professional growth:

## Ongoing Professional Development

Continuous improvement through ongoing professional development is paramount at Cloverly. Led mainly by our reading specialist and staff development teacher, our monthly staff training meetings focus on targeted educational strategies that support the teaching and learning process. This year's training focus is on infusing critical thinking using Promethean technology.



## Data Chats

Close, ongoing monitoring of student achievement data to know what is working for individual students takes place during monthly Reading and Math Data Chats. Each grade level meets for approximately one hour with the involvement of the school administrators, reading or staff development specialist, instructional data assistant, and counselor to analyze and determine strategies needed to adapt instruction and to regroup students for remediation or acceleration as necessary. Providing intervention supports for at-risk students continues to be a focus this school year.

## Intervention Meetings

School administration, reading specialist, ESOL teachers, special education resource teacher, and staff development teacher identify specific interventions for at-risk reading students. Input is also provided by the classroom teachers. As a result of these meetings, students are recommended for reading intervention programs such as SOAR, Corrective Reading, Read Naturally, or in-class interventions. Additional intervention recommendations for math are decided upon and are implemented primarily in the classroom. These meetings are held early to ensure that intervention supports are in place right from the start of the new school year. We will be implementing a new MCPS titled Collaborative Problem-Solving (CPS) that focuses on providing appropriate and effective interventions to at-risk students.

## System-Wide Professional Development

Ongoing professional development is provided to all staff (i.e. teachers, support staff, and school administrators) throughout Montgomery County Public Schools. Some trainings/meetings are required. This year, many of our teachers attended trainings on grading and reporting and on critical thinking using Promethean technology. Ongoing training continues to take place at the local school level.

## Training to Support New Teachers

Teachers new to teaching and experienced teachers new to MCPS are required to go to new teacher training over the summer or at the beginning of the school year. New teachers are assigned a mentor or consulting teacher in addition to the support provided by their teammates, colleagues, staff development teacher, and school administration. There are additional courses like *The Skillful Teacher* that is offered to new and experienced MCPS teachers. Many of our teachers have taken this course.

Several of our teachers take advantage of college/university course offerings and attend statewide conferences to promote their professional growth. For example, Mrs. Jennifer Grey is working on her Master's Degree in Bilingual Special Education.

~Continued on page 3~

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~From The Principal Continued~

We are committed to providing accelerated instruction and opportunities that promote critical thinking. To date, all of our general teachers have been trained and are implementing the William and Mary Program (grades 3-5), Junior Great Books (grades K-5), and Jacob's Ladder (grades 3-5) for the delivery of effective, enhanced reading instruction. At each grade level, we have at least one class of students receiving above grade level math instruction. We continue to engage in ongoing trainings that focus on the infusion of critical thinking and Promethean technology in all subject areas.

As a school community, we are actively engaging in collegial conversations about race and its impact on student achievement. This year, we are extending our focus to the community through the *Study Circles* program. The ultimate goal of the program is to have staff and parents work together to remove racial and ethnic barriers to student achievement and parent involvement. *Study Circles* are scheduled to begin on January 13 for six consecutive weeks. Additionally, our leadership team is studying a book titled, Mindset.

Our staff goes "above and beyond" the call of duty to ensure that all students receive a well-rounded education. In addition to initiatives that were started last year, we continue to implement the *Mentoring Support* program. Selected students receive mentoring support from assigned staff persons. Parents must give permission for their children to participate. Ms. Carol Elliott, our school counselor, oversees this program.

To also support Cloverly's instructional program, meaningful, comprehensive teacher-led after-school programs are being offered to students. This year we have 2 sessions (fall and spring) of Math (grades 2-5), Science (grades K-5), and Technology (grades 4-5) clubs being offered to students. **Math Club is by invitation only.**

As a result of all of the professional development, the collaboration of parents and teachers working together, and the extension activities being provided to students, we continue to maintain an outstanding instructional program for our students.

Sincerely,

Ms. Melissa Brunson

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## Girl Scouts are Collecting Coats!

**(plus hats, gloves & scarves)**

The Girl Scout troops of Cloverly E.S. will be collecting coats and any other accessories – hats, gloves, scarves – throughout the month of November. The coats will be given to the Shepherds Table, a non-profit organization that will distribute the items to the homeless and needy. All sizes will be accepted, however, men's coats are especially needed. You can bring your items to the Cloverly school office and place them in the large box marked COAT DRIVE .

Thank you for your support!



## Call for Volunteers for Staff Appreciation!



The Staff Appreciation Committee will be hosting a lunch for our "SOUPER STAFF" on Wed., Nov 11th. We are looking for Cloverly families to make/buy soup for this event.

If you would like to contribute a crock pot full of your favorite soup,

please contact Jackie Stock by Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> at

[jackie.stock@jhuapl.edu](mailto:jackie.stock@jhuapl.edu) or 301-384-8315.

## Enrichment Program Opportunity

Saturday Discoveries is a special one-day enrichment program for Gifted and Talented Students in Grades 4 & 5. The next session will be held on Saturday, November 14th from 8:30am-2:50pm at the Takoma Park/Silver Spring Campus of Montgomery College as a part of the Montgomery College Youth Programs. For more information, go to [www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth). <<http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth>.> or call 240-567-7917.

## Box Tops

Thank you to everyone for your Boxtop submissions for the drive that ended on October 15th! Keep on clipping and collecting over the holidays for the next submission which will be around Valentine's Day. More on that after the start of the New Year! Just as a reminder, please check your Boxtops before you submit them to ensure that they are not already expired or damaged in any way. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Bryant at 301-384-1661. Thanks!



### This Month's Green Box Issue is...

What is your opinion of the PTA budget? What do you think PTA funds should be spent upon?

We look forward to your written thoughts on this issue at our monthly PTA meeting. If you are not able to attend the meeting but would like to participate, please e-mail your response to [kbillok@yahoo.com](mailto:kbillok@yahoo.com).

### Reminder: Reflections Submissions Due

Creative entries for the PTA Reflections Program are due on Friday, November 6th. We are so excited to see everyone's projects! For more information, please contact committee chair Colleen Sullivan at 301-879-9346 / [colleensuv@comcast.net](mailto:colleensuv@comcast.net).

## Advocacy Committee News

Did you know .....

that the Cloverly PTA has a newly-formed Advocacy Committee?

that we recently spoke before the Montgomery County Board of Education, letting them know what's important to our members?

that the actions of the committee will be driven by YOUR input?

that we're looking for new members? Come fight for changes that will directly affect your children!



More details will be provided in a separate flyer, to be sent home in November. For more information in the meantime, contact Jenn Gruber at [jenngruber@msn.com](mailto:jenngruber@msn.com) or 301-879-6928.

## PTA Directory

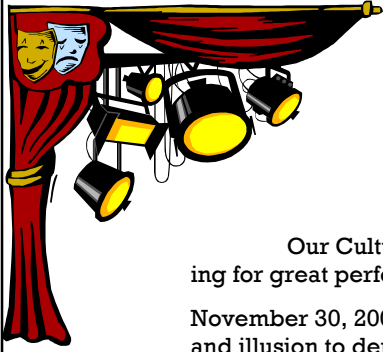
All PTA members should be receiving a 2009-2010 Cloverly PTA Directory this week. If you joined the PTA and have not received one, please contact Jenn Gruber ([jenngruber@msn.com](mailto:jenngruber@msn.com) or 301-879-6928). If you haven't yet joined the PTA, it's not too late! Contact Amy Creel ([creels@verizon.net](mailto:creels@verizon.net) or 301-774-6357) for information.

## Get Ready for Family Ice Skating Night!

Cloverly Elementary's Annual Family Ice Skating night will be held on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> from 6:15-8pm at Wheaton Regional Park's ice skating rink. Admission is \$4.00 per person, and skates are available for the evening for an additional \$3.15 per person. Additional registration forms are available outside the PTA office at Cloverly. For more info, please contact Lynette Scaffidi at [Lynette.Scaffidi@comcast.net](mailto:Lynette.Scaffidi@comcast.net).



Don't miss the tradition. . .don't miss the fun!!



## Cultural Arts News!

Our Cultural Arts committee attended showcases of performers in October and is busy arranging for great performances for Cloverly.

November 30, 2009: Joe Romano debuts his "Green" magic show at Cloverly. This new show uses magic and illusion to demonstrate the importance of recycling. Back to back shows will be presented for grades K-2 and 3-5 in the morning – look to the CloverlyPTA listserv for exact show times. As always, parents are welcome to attend either or both performances.

December will also be an exciting month for Cultural Arts, as we will present percussionist Hal Trapkin for back to back daytime performances. Also, we are pleased to announce Spinny Johnson will be performing an evening show for families during our family night at the book fair. More information will be sent home in December about these exciting events. For more information about our Cultural Arts programming, please contact Betsy Sirk at [betsy.sirk@nasa.gov](mailto:betsy.sirk@nasa.gov) or call 301-421-1294.



## ***YOU make the difference ...***

Between a yearbook that is good and a **YEARBOOK that is GREAT!!**

Please take pictures at every school event and field trip!

We are currently accepting photos for:

**Open House**

**First Day of School**

**Movie Night**

**Halloween**

**Field Trips**

### Guidelines for submitting pictures:

All pictures **MUST** be submitted on CD/DVD in .jpg file format.

Mark the CD/DVD with your name and your child's grade or teacher. (ex. Melanie Everett/4<sup>th</sup>/Shaffer)

The file name for each photo should contain the event description. (ex. openhouse1.jpg, openhouse2.jpg, 1stday1.jpg, etc.)

All photos must be digital...no hard copies!

Discs should be addressed to PTA/yearbook and given to your child's teacher or placed in the PTA mailbox.

Discs will be the property of the Cloverly PTA.

If you have any questions about the yearbook committee or about the process for submitting photos, please contact Melanie Everett at [got2livlyf@aol.com](mailto:got2livlyf@aol.com).



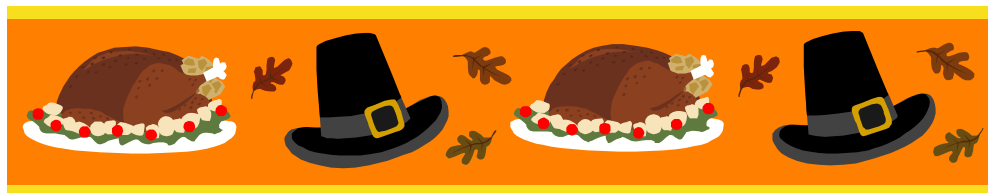
## The Cloverly Cubs Care Club Participates in National Volunteer Project for Kids Care Week 2009

In honor of Kids Care Week (October 18 – 24), the Cloverly Cubs Care Club participated in a national volunteer project as part of the Kids Care Week theme of “Microfinance for Kids- Feed the Hungry.” Inspired by the book One Hen – How One Small Loan Made a Big Difference by Katie Smith Milway, Kids Care Clubs have awarded mini-grants/microloans totaling \$18,500 to 70 Kids Care Clubs in 32 states, the District of Columbia and to clubs in Saudi Arabia and China.

The Cloverly Elementary Cubs Care Club received a grant, or “microloan,” which will be used to implement a fundraising project. The fundraising project the club has chosen to do is a club cookbook, with recipes and illustrations supplied by its members. The cookbook will also include a resource chapter with information about local volunteering opportunities and projects for families with children. Fifteen percent of the original “microloan” will be donated to a microfinance organization and the rest of the profits are being donated to **Heifer International**, which provides gifts of animals and training to help families in developing countries move toward self-reliance.

The Cloverly Cubs Care Club is one of more than 1,800 Kids Care Club groups nationwide. Club membership exploded this year, increasing from 65 students last year to over 100 students for 2009-10. Kids Care Week, a week devoted to the power of youth volunteerism, is celebrated annually during the third week of October.

If you are interested in pre-ordering a Cloverly Cubs Care Club Cookbook, please send \$10 (*checks made out to Cloverly PTA*) to school in an envelope marked **Cubs Care Club**. Please include your child's name and homeroom teacher with your order. Cookbooks should be ready for delivery by January.



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**. On that day, ALL STUDENTS 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.

All funds raised by Cloverly will go to the **Montgomery County Coalition for the Homeless**, a community-based non-profit organization that provides housing, emergency shelter, and supportive services for homeless families in our community. ([www.mcch.net](http://www.mcch.net))

The **Help the Homeless Committee is still seeking volunteers to help during this event**. If you are able to assist during any recess period, please contact Cheryl Minus ([cnt14@hotmail.com](mailto:cnt14@hotmail.com)/301-384-3648) or Karen O'Brien ([kobrien@psyc.umd.edu](mailto:kobrien@psyc.umd.edu)/301-388-0650).

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## **Babies, Bosses, Busy Schedules...**

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

1. Enjoy a walk outside? Join your child for the Help the Homeless Walk on Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> during recess!
2. Lots of behind-the-scenes opportunities for volunteering are available in connection with the Variety Show! Contact Angela Edwards at [are1000@comcast.net](mailto:are1000@comcast.net) for more info.
3. Do you have to take off work in order to attend conferences this month? Stay at the school after your appointment to assist with the distribution of the Sally Foster orders. Contact Heather Duffy at [hduffy0410@aol.com](mailto:hduffy0410@aol.com) for more info.
4. Grab your camera and bring it to Ice Skating Night, then submit your photos to the Yearbook Committee for inclusion in this year's yearbook. Look for more info on page 5 of the newsletter!
5. Volunteer to make a meal for a family in need through the Community Concerns Committee. Contact Beth Augustin, Diane Tregoning, and Patti Belke through [www.cloverlypta.com](http://www.cloverlypta.com) to find out more.

### **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 November 20th to receive December's newsletter electronically)

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](mailto:newsletter@cloverlypta.com).

