

SEPTEMBER  
CALENDAR

- September 25– schools closed for students– Professional Development for teachers
- September 28- Schools closed for students– Yom Kippur
- October 6– First Quarter Progress Reports released
- October 7– Walk to School Day
- October 12- “Men Make a Difference Day” see article
- October 15– Individual pictures
- October 16– State Teaching Convention– Schools closed

**Pause with Ms. Seidel**

Coming up on October 6, all parents with children in grades kindergarten through six will receive progress reports to show how children are doing so far this year. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents and students to sit together and figure out ways to celebrate successes as well as to figure out how to handle challenges.

Parents, if you need ideas for how to assist your child to be successful in school, please remember your first point of contact is the classroom teacher. Our school is staffed with highly-qualified professional educators with many years of experience. One note about dismissal– all children are the responsibility of the staff outside at dismissal. Please remember, when you are picking up your child, it is not okay for your child to be running around, chasing other students, climbing on the walls, or other unsafe activities. In addition, it is unfair to the other students who are waiting to be picked up. Please encourage your child to follow all school procedures when on school grounds. Thank you.

*Kimberly Seidel, Principal*

# Greenbelt Gazette

Greenbelt Elementary School, 66 Ridge Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770



## Pause for Parents

At Greenbelt Elementary School, we truly believe that “Parents are our Partners.” Last year, Prince George’s County Public Schools began a county initiative called, “Men Make a Difference.” This was meant to encourage men to take a more active role in their child’s education and was well-received by our parents last year.

On October 12, 2009, Prince George’s County Public Schools will celebrate “Men Make a Difference Day.” It is being held on Columbus Day so that men can rediscover the excitement, the opportunity and the fun of public school education. On that day, we are encouraging men to come to school to observe their children in the classroom.

The day will begin in the Media Center with a special presentation on making a difference in your child’s life by Mr. Jacob Novick. Then, as fathers move into their child’s classroom, we will invite them to share a favorite story book with the class.

All parents are always invited to observe and participate in school events throughout the year. We offer many programs that bring parents to the classrooms to extend the opportunities we offer to all of our children.

Please RSVP for this event to Ms. Haber by calling the school at 301-513-5911 or by emailing her at [annie.haber@pgcps.org](mailto:annie.haber@pgcps.org).

Keep watching for more tips on how to get involved!

## *Have You Heard?*

Once again, it is time to say thank you to so many people who helped make the Greenbelt Elementary School Book Sale bigger and better than ever! We once again broke records for gross and net incomes, ensuring that our PTA program year will get off to a great start, including our visionary plans for Art Integration in the school this year.

First, thanks to the generosity of the people of Greenbelt, who donated around 25,000 books to our cause. Grateful thanks are due to the patience and flexibility of manager Bob Davis and the staff at Greenbelt Co-op, for receiving this huge amount of donations. Thanks also to the New Deal Café and Generous Joe's who helped us out with snacks, tables, and an extra tent, to McCormick Paint of College Park for the use of their pallets, and to Public Works for all their help with pallets and cleanup.

Thanks to all the PTA volunteers who worked so hard making book pickups from co-op, sorting books in the book room, loading books and driving vans for transport to the sale, setting up on Friday, selling books in shifts, organizing volunteers for those shifts, and cleaning it all up afterwards. Thanks especially to Dale Holmes, for renting the 14 foot U-Haul that we filled TWICE transporting books. I'd like to express thanks to past and current PTA Presidents, Anne Gardner and Mimi Noorani, for their hard work on behalf of GESPTA; Brigid Willson, our new Treasurer, who took on this daunting task in her first month on the job, and past Treasurer Susan Breon; Jon Gardner, who contributes valuable experience, expertise, and man hours every year; and Amy Hansen, who oversaw volunteer signups this year, in addition to coordinating the Favorite Books list and the Celebrity Readers on the main stage on Saturday. We also thank Principal Kim Seidel, teachers and staff, for patience and flexibility in letting us use the Music Room during the month of August and the first two weeks of school; especially Ms Reno, and Ms Fung for graciously working around the enormous pile of books. - From Melissa Sites, Book Sale Coordinator

The Family Portal allows parents to view their student's grades, assignments, attendance, and tardy information. It is a great way to know how your child is doing in school from your very own computer. Beginning on Monday, September 21, 2009, parents are invited to come to school to pick up your Family Portal letter. The letter contains your individual access key which allows you to log in to the information. You can pick up the letter from the office during regular school hours. Please contact me at school if you need help. If you already set up your username and password last year, this should still work and you don't need to get a new letter.

Information about the family portal can be found on the county website at [www.pgcps.org](http://www.pgcps.org). There is a wealth of information about school at this website so please check it out. Please contact our Parent Liaison, Ms. Annie Haber, with any other assistance you need to navigate our school system.

## Announcing the Return of the Book Review!!

In the spring of last year, we announced that the Gazette would publish book reviews, written by students. Please turn in your book review to Mrs. Case and she will publish it in a future issue! This week's reviewer is ...Mrs. Case!

especially those who love the Series of Unfortunate Events

**What it's about:** This is a fun story about a big secret that two nosy kids, Cass and Max-Ernest, who set about to unravel a story about a magician, a lost twin brother, a creepy "perfect" woman, and things that smell weird!

