



Walk to School Day Comes to Greenbelt

On Wednesday, October 8, 2009, Greenbelt Elementary School students, teachers and parents walked to school in support of the National Walk to School Day which happens each year. Many teachers, students and parents, as well as community members were seen walking on one of the many safe routes to our school. Thanks to everyone who participated, and special thanks to the Greenbelt City Police Department and McGruff for making a special appearance.



Students Rafael Martin, Carly Feldman, Ben Ehreich and Wesley Velazquez escorted teachers Ms. Allen, Ms. Ewalt, Ms. Hutchins and Ms. Kendall to school on National Walk to School Day 2009.



McGruff, Officer Parker and Mr. Fisher of PGCPSS School Security Office attend National Walk to School Day on Wednesday, October 8, 2009.

Pause with Ms. Seidel

This past Tuesday, October 6, 2009, first quarter progress reports went home with all students in grades kindergarten through 6. It is so important to sit down with your child and discuss

ways that he/she is being successful at school, as well as to come up with a plan to improve in areas which aren't what you would like to see. Working together with your child shows that you are committed to helping make a successful school year, which is what we want for all of our

students. If you need information about how your child can improve, please contact his or her teacher at school. Thank you for being our partners in education.

*Kimberly Seidel,
Principal*

It is BoxTops time again! Some of you have been saving Box-Tops all summer, which is great news! Let's start off the year with a little friendly competition. The contest will run from October 12th to October 27th. The class that brings in the most BoxTops in those two short weeks will get an extra recess. In each classroom you'll find a small container where you can put your Box Tops. Remember to tell your friends, family, and neighbors to save those Box Tops for you! If each student brings in 10 BoxTops, our school will earn over \$500!

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- **October 13– FAST Reading Test Day 1– Grades 3-6**
- **October 15– FAST Reading Test Day 2– Grades 3-6**
- **October 15– School Picture Day**
- **October 16– Schools and Offices closed for MSEA Convention**
- **October 19– Washington Capitols visit GES!**
- **October 20– FAST Testing Math Test Day 1– Grades 3-6**
- **October 22– FAST Testing, Science– Grade 5 only**
- **October 30– Schools closed for students**
- **November 3– PTA Meeting**

Pause for Families

Have you heard about the Greenbelt Pumpkin Walk? This is a free event where kids of all ages and the young at heart can carve a pumpkin while listening to music at Roosevelt Center. Your carved pumpkins will be placed on a forest trail the very next night and one and all can come out at night to find their pumpkin on the trail among the many hundreds. This is a great way to combine fun, outdoor exercise, and an alternative Halloween adventure this year.

On Friday, October 23, 2009, come to the Roosevelt Center to carve between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.. Parental supervision is requested for carving. The following night, Saturday, October 24, 2009, between 6:00 pm and 9:00 p.m., come walk the trail on Northway Fields. Bring walking shoes and a flashlight!

Check out the website: <http://www.GreenbeltPumpkinWalk.com>

- On Friday, October 16, 2009, when schools are closed, consider taking your child on a field trip to a kid-friendly museum. Being this close to Washington D.C. is a real treasure because there are so many great places to explore! Here are just a few (more will be published in later issues):

The National Zoo– This is a free museum with over 400 species of animals, located in Rock Creek Park.

The National Museum of Natural History—This is an awesome place for kids where they can feel the skin of a crocodile, examine jaws and teeth from many different animals, and try on clothes from around the world.

For more information, check out this website:

<http://dc.about.com/od/childrensactivities/tp/15BestforKids.htm>

How Parents and Community Members Make the Difference at Greenbelt Elementary School– and How You Can Help

“Parents are our partners.” These words were first uttered by Dr. John Deasy, former Superintendent of Prince George’s County Public Schools over two years ago.

Here at Greenbelt, we are truly excited by the number of parents who are involved in their children’s education. Here are just some of the parents who help out, and some opportunities that you might consider:

- Mr. Mangino– Mr. Mangino comes to help with traffic management every afternoon.
- Ms. Baravechia– Ms. Baravechia made a very generous donation to the PBIS School Store.
- Ms. Turnbull– She made a very generous donation to the Arts Integration Program at GES.
- Ms. Miller– She made a very gener-

ous donation to the PBIS School Store.

- Ms. Ehrenreich– She wrote a grant that helped us get funding for the Artist in Residency Programs that are in the school this year.
- Ms. Hamm– Ms. Hamm does so many things it is hard to pick just one! She volunteers in the PBIS School Store and adds extra hands in the classroom.
- Mr. Lange– Mr. Lange works to place volunteers in classrooms and for other activities.
- Ms. Brothers– Ms. Brothers made a generous donation to the PBIS School Store.
- Ms. Bernier– Ms. Bernier made a generous donation to the PBIS School Store.
- Ms. Debelko– Ms. Debelko made a

generous donation to the PBIS School Store.

So how can you help? There are always things like copies to be made, class tasks that need to be done, laminating, cutting things out, reading with students, playing alphabet games, chaperoning field trips, working on a PTA Committee, and many more!

If you find yourself with a day off, call your child’s teacher to see what you can do to help. If you have time, please consider getting a background screening completed and come up and pitch in. As we’ve said many times this year, many hands make for light work, and the best payment you can receive is a smile given from a child you’ve helped.

Thank you to everyone in our community – you help make our school a great place to learn!