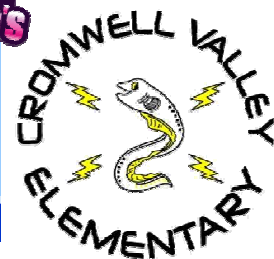


The Gig@byte Gazette

FEBRUARY 2010

825 Providence Road • Towson • Maryland • 21286 • PH:410-887-4888 • <http://cromwellvalleyeyes.bcps.org>



CVE PTA President's Message

Wow! What a fantastic turnout for the PTA annual Movie night. *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs* was a hit with the kids and parents. Thanks to all who joined us. A big thanks to Danielle Gayle, Debbie Gill, Joan McKinley, Michele Calderon and all the other parents and volunteers who helped that night run smoothly. The Bake Table raised on \$160 towards the Digital Dash technology fund. Thank you to all the bakers and those who donation treats and beverages. Your generosity helped make the table a huge success.

Next time you are in school, and you see a student welcoming you to CVE, or making an executive call in the hallways, you may have encountered the Student Principal of the Day! This was one of the many prizes for the 2010 PTA Gigabyte Giveaway. Due to the generosity of the teachers, staff, and PTA board members, students received chances to win wonderful prizes such as lunch with a favorite teacher, pizza or ice cream party, a gift card or webkinz, and many others. Students love this program and really try to do extra well in class to earn additional chances. Of course, the gigabyte prize tables were set up throughout the week to sell & collect chances. Thanks to the many volunteers for giving their time at the GG tables during lunch periods to help fill out chances or assist the students. It took a team effort to make this happen! Finally, a huge thanks goes out to Joan McKinley & Debbie Gill for

organizing this whole event, and to the students, staff, teachers, and of course parents for the support of this program. Over \$600 was raised to support the PTA programs and activities. Congrats to all the winners!

Still want to help out in the PTA and not sure how? Please stop by a meeting or contact an officer. We have events and activities still to come, and help is always needed! The Spring Fair with a Multicultural Flair planning committee has met, and planning is in the works. Volunteers are still needed to assist with planning, getting supplies and helping with preparations on the day of the event. The Silent Auction chairs have started soliciting donations and help is needed with organizing and prepping the items for the big day. Next month, we will be looking for volunteers for the PTA Nominating Committee to recruit nominees for the PTA Board of Directors for the next school year. Whether you have a little time or extra time to give, your input, effort and energy are always welcomed! Contact a PTA officer for more details or log onto www.cvepta.org for more information.

Thanks for your continued support, because CVE PTA is only as great as its best volunteer!

Jennifer Descoteau

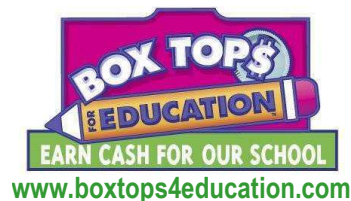


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We need your support, it is not too late to join. Click on the link below. <http://cvepta.org/membership/>



Log on to the box top web site and order from your favorite stores!

From the Desk of the assistant principal, Christian S. Gromek



As we are now in the middle of the cold and often snowy winter, the following article may provide ideas for indoor family fun.

A B Cs Of Student Success

Y is for YESTERDAY.

How can you nurture your child's interest in the past?

- You and your child can learn about your family's history by creating a family tree.
- Share what life was like when you were a child. Interview grandparents about what life was like when they were children.
- Create a scrapbook or photo album and fill it with old family pictures and mementos.
- Preserve tomorrow's memories by journaling or creating a time capsule of the present. Your grandchildren will thank you!

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Last Chance to Join the PTA

Do you keep thinking you will join the PTA this year?

Well this is your chance, in fact, your last chance, to join this year.

Just fill in the form in this newsletter and send it to Membership at CVE.

If you joined the PTA and have not received your CVE magnet and directory, please email Karen Harrop at kharrop@jhu.edu.

Thank you!

PTA MEETING

Our next monthly PTA meeting is Tuesday February 23 at 6:30pm in the Library. Please register at www.cvepta.org for childcare. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Ann Groth, CVE's librarian.

A huge thank you to Mr. Kjer, our January guest speaker, for taking the time to share information about his program and the musical productions.

Hope to see you on the 23rd!



Earn money for the school by supporting the escrip partnership with Safeway. Please see attached flyer for additional information.

To find out more visit <http://www.escrip.com/>.



It's time to register your Giant card for the 2009-2010 school year. By linking your card to CVE, our school will earn cash rewards every time you shop at Giant beginning October 9, 2009.

For more information, and to register your Giant card, visit

www.giantfood.com/aplus.

Announcements

Pastries for Parents

Pastries for Parents is coming next week! Flyers have been sent home. Please return the RSVP ASAP. We will have Pastries for Parents during National PTA Bring your Family to school week. On Tues Feb 9th from 8:30-9am all families with last names from A-J will be welcomed to visit for breakfast and allowed 2 visitors. Thurs Feb 11th 8:30-9am all families with last names K-Z will be welcomed to visit for breakfast and can have 2 visitors per family. Because of space limitations, we can only allow a limited number of guests. This is a change from the announcement made at Movie night. Hopefully this way will allow those with siblings to make one visit instead of splitting the grades. Hope you can join us!



100th Day of school!

Yes, the day is almost here. It's February 10th! To congratulate the students for a job well done so far this year, the PTA will be distributing Scooper Star certificate from Baskin Robbins. The offer is good for a free kids cone at participating locations. So look for the coupon in their folders starting on February 10th.



Do you have extra space?

Due to new fire restrictions, additional space is needed to store scenery, props and other items from musical productions. CVE is lucky to have such great items and we don't want to lose any of them due to lack of space. If you have spare attic, basement or storage room space and are willing to house some items (they vary in size), please contact Mr. Kjer at tkjer@bcps.org. Thanks!



CVE Spring Fair with a Multicultural Flair

Date: April 16th 6pm to 8pm

We will be meeting to discuss the plans for the Spring Flair in early February. Date to be announced. All are welcome to come and share ideas. We will need many volunteers.

Recycle a few things for the fair: We are now collecting wrapping paper rolls and juice bag boxes (i.e.- Capri Sun or Kool Aid Jammers). If you send them in labeled for the Spring Fair we will store them.

Please contact Joan McKinley mark.mckinleydds@verizon.net or Debbie Gill debbiegill129@msn.com if you have any questions.



PTA Board Email Communication

Recently some parents have received emails claiming to be from the CVE PTA. If you receive an email from any email address @cvepta.org, please disregard. The PTA board uses their personal email addresses for all communication.



AIM: Articulated Instruction Module

[BCPS Budget Vote FEB 9!](#)

The Baltimore County School Board will vote on the proposed FY 2011 budget on Tuesday February 9. One item highlighted by the Board is "A decrease of 40.0 mentor teacher FTEs (Full Time Equivalent), 6.9 resource teacher FTEs and 37.2 magnet teacher FTEs redirected to curriculum offices to create specialist and supervisor positions." (p.94, FY11 Proposed Operating Budget). Please stay informed and let the Board of Education and Superintendent know your views.

Also please read the information attached at the end of the newsletter regarding the controversial AIM program and note contacts provided for School Board Members, the Superintendent and other County Officials. Thanks for supporting our schools!

February 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 Bring Family to Work Week	9 Family to Work Week 8:30-9 am Pastries for Parents (last names A-J)	10 Family to Work Week	11 Family to Work Week 8:30-9 am Pastries for Parents (last names K-Z)	12 Family to Work Week	13
14	15 President's Day-schools closed	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 PTA Meeting 6:30 pm in Library	24	25	26	27
28						

Upcoming Events ...

- March 19 Family Fun Game Night-More details to come
- March 26 Spring Break Begins at end of day (ends April 6)

CVE PTA Officers

President Jennifer Descoteau
VP, Advocacy & AdminMike Beegan
VP, Finance Ashley Brown
VP, Programming Michele Calderon
Treasurer..... Chris Descoteau
Recording Secretary Margaret Cellucci
Corresponding Secretary Stacey Parson
Faculty Representative, Primary Clarence Jones
Faculty Representative, Intermediate Sara Cuomo
Resource Faculty Rep..... Trish Ryan-Thiel

Get Involved with PTA ►► <http://cvepta.org>



Cromwell Valley's Adventure Gym Lives On!!!



The Adventure Gym will be held for the entire month of February. This unit will consist of the ever so fun and challenging Whittle equipment (Climbing Equipment), Cargo Net, Tire Swings, Rope Climbing, Rock Wall... Participating in these challenging movement experiences through guided discovery allows for meaningful learning opportunities that can provide physical, social, emotional, and intellectual benefit. These experiences give the students the opportunity to find their own way to accomplish a task, gain self confidence, to improve their fitness and share in teamwork experiences.

All grade levels are included in the Adventure Education program appropriate for their respective levels of development. Mrs. Sherman is requesting and would appreciate parent volunteers (who have the CVES Volunteer Training) to dedicate some time to help supervise the students during the Adventure Gym for kindergarten, first grade and second grade classes. Your responsibility would be to walk around and help and encourage students who are in need of assistance. If interested then please sign up at:

http://www1.mysignup.com/adventure_gym

Any questions, please contact: Mrs. Sherman rsherman@bcps.org

Thanks Again



**Cromwell Valley Elementary School
PTA Membership 2009-2010**

Cromwell Valley Elementary is one of the finest schools in Maryland and a National Magnet School of Excellence.

Excellence requires hard work and dedication, not only by our teachers and staff, but by our parents. That's why it is so important that you join with us as members of the PTA.

The CVE PTA proudly sponsors Family Fun events, the Back to School Picnic, Chess Club, Picture Parent, Reflections, Teacher Appreciation Week, and much more!

Membership includes the School Directory (\$5 for non-members), a PTA membership card, and a small gift of appreciation. If you prefer to limit your participation in PTA fundraisers, but would like to support the PTA, you may include your donation below.

Show your support--join the PTA today!

CHILD(REN)'S last name: _____

Child(ren)'s teacher(s): _____

Primary Member's name: _____

Additional Member's Name(s): _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

Membership Dues: \$10.00 (per adult)

Number of Adults: _____ x \$10.00 = _____

Suggested Family Donation: \$25.00 = _____

Additional Donation: \$ 20.00
\$ 50.00
\$100.00
\$ Other amount = _____

Total Enclosed: = _____

To limit paper waste, we would like to increase our use of e-mail for the PTA newsletter. Would you like to be contacted by e-mail? Yes _____ No _____

Other email addresses for notifications: _____

*Please make checks payable to: **CVE PTA***
Return to: CVE, 825 Providence Road, Towson, MD 21286
Attn: PTA Membership
Forward Questions to Membership Chair: Karen Harrop, kharrop@jhu.edu

Thank You for Supporting Our Children!

AIM: Articulated Instruction Module FYI, by Mike Beegan, concerned parent mikebeegan@gmail.com

I wanted to provide a little background on this new program of BCPS. It is meant to provide very detailed reports on student progress in each subject (Math, reading, Social Studies, Phys Ed....). I printed out the report for the above subjects and got 14 pages. This is the crux of teacher objections to AIM- the volume of paper work and time taken away from classroom to create these reports for each student. AIM appears to originally been intended to target specific students/districts but was expanded to be used by all schools in December 2009. Teachers feel they have not been included in its creation or proposed implementation. The program is very controversial. At the last BCPS Board hearing many teachers spoke out against AIM in the strongest terms. In the time I was there no one spoke for it. The teacher's union representative (TABCO) presented a petition signed by 5,000 teachers, more than half of all teachers, she stated. Several teachers stated AIM would use four days of time (away from classrooms) amounting to \$35 million as well as using 5,000 sheets of paper per teacher. Those teachers I have heard believe AIM is redundant and wasteful.

Below are some comments taken from a brief Google search:

“...AIM is an alignment and articulation tool that documents as well as enhances communication related to student academic progress for students, parents, educators, school, and central office staff. The module provides reports that reinforce alignment with the Voluntary State Curriculum and other standards as well as affirm the relationship between written, taught, and assessed curriculum throughout the school system. In addition to the above, the module includes a component for reporting of student academic progress in specific content, knowledge, and skill areas. Overall, (AIM) is intended to enhance the education of all students throughout Balt County Schools.”—Board of Ed Exhibit R, Sept 5, 2007: Report on (AIM)

“The Aim progress report is simply a way for teachers, for students and for parents to get information back about students—about their strengths and weaknesses. It’s a report we can give to folks that we can highlight strong areas that students have and where we need to make improvements..”—Charles Herndon, BCPS Spokesman

“We finally can tell students and parents what they know and what they don’t know...” Students will continue to receive their report cards every quarter, but the AIM report will provide precise information on what skills each student either has not learned, is in the process of learning, or has not learned. Teachers must give students as A (needs Acceleration, or remedial help), I (needs further Instruction) or M (has Mastered) for each category.—Balt Sun report, quoting Barbara Dezmon Asst to superintendent for Equity and Assurance, credited w/ creating AIM, according to the Balt Sun, after she saw that some minority students were not receiving the same education in southwestern area schools as they were in the northern part of the County.

This is to gather input from parents, teachers, others interested. The Board is to vote on the budget Feb 9 and you are encouraged to find out what you can and voice your opinion. Thank you, feel free to email comments to me (mikebeegan@gmail.com). I don’t claim to be expert, these are my personal observations and research but I’d welcome your comments/information for the PTA to consider. Please inform yourselves and contact the Board of Education and Dr Hairston. BCPS.org

Here are links for more information about the AIM controversy:

Article and Comments from Sunpaper, 12/27/09

<http://www.baltimoresun.com/news/education/bal-md.co.aim27dec27,0,802633.story>

WBAL News Story Comments and Poll

Created 12/31/09

<http://www.wbaltv.com/news/22092126/detail.html>

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