

OCTOBER  
CALENDAR

- October 6– First Quarter Progress Reports released
- October 6- PTA Meeting
- October 7– Walk to School Day
- October 12- “Men Make a Difference Day” see article
- October 14– Field Trip to the Green Meadow Farm– Grades 1, 2 and 4
- October 15– Individual pictures
- October 16– State Teaching Convention– Schools closed

**Pause with Ms. Seidel**

Please take a moment to look at the back of the Gazette, where you will see a photograph of a professional development activity that we were able to do through the support of the PTA. Interact Story Theatre is working with our school as an “Artist in Residence” this year, and our faculty really enjoyed the opportunity to see drama and create characters, voices, and bodies from the story of the Great Kapok Tree. Thank you so much for supporting the arts at our school!

I need to also bring to your attention that students are being dropped off out front too early in the morning. Students should not be dropped off, or if walking, arrive before 8:50 a.m. This is when teachers go on duty out front. We will begin calling parents of children who are arriving before the start of the day. We need to keep all of our children safe, and that means making sure they are supervised. Thank you for your help with this.

*Kimberly Seidel, Principal*

# Greenbelt Gazette

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



**PTA MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT**

All are invited to the PTA meeting on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Items to discuss are funding opportunities, the Dishebaum Artist Residency, upcoming activities such as the Scholastic Book Fair, and the new suspension and expulsion policy of Prince George’s County Public Schools.

We will also be discussing committees, so come with ideas of what you would like to do this year. Remember, many hands make for light work!

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting tomorrow night

**A Moment for Our Health**

As the weather changes, flu season is approaching. One of the best things that you can do is reinforce good hand washing strategies with your family. Using warm soapy water and about twenty seconds is a great way to help keep everyone healthy! To help your child learn an appropriate amount of time for washing, practice counting, or for a change of pace, try singing one verse of “Happy Birthday,” “Twinkle Twinkle Little Star,” or our school song! At school, we are keeping paper towels and soap stocked in all bathrooms and encouraging students to use hand sanitizer when needed. Let’s all work together to keep healthy this year!

## *Have You Heard?*

Wednesday is National Walk to School Day! For the past two years, Greenbelt Elementary School has observed this day with local officials, teachers, parents and students joining together to use one of the many safe routes to school.

Meeting points this year are the same as last year, and they are:

**Roosevelt Center**– Group will meet at 8:15 a.m. and leave at 8:30 a.m.

**Greenbelt East**– Parking Lot to Spellman Overpass– Group will meet at 8:15 a.m. and leave at 8:30 a.m.

**Plateau Place Playground**– Group will meet at 8:30 a.m. and leave at 8:45 a.m.

**Corner of Listener Lane and Julian Court**– Group will meet at 8:15 a.m. and leave at 8:30 a.m.

Bikers are welcome! Please make sure you follow safe biking rules and leave room for the walkers.

Donuts for Dads— Dads Make a Difference Day  
Come to school with your child!

**Monday, October 12, 2009**

**9:00 AM Refreshments in the Media Center**

**9:30 AM “Making a Difference in Your Child’s Life”** With our guest speakers: Mr. Jacob Novick, previous Parent Liaison and Mr. Anthony Boyd, Pupil Personnel Worker

Then visit your child’s classroom to observe! (You are invited to read a book to the class)

**We hope to see you at school!**

Questions: Call Annie Haber, Parent Liaison at 301-513- 5911 or email [annie.haber@pgcps.org](mailto:annie.haber@pgcps.org).

On Friday, September 25, the teachers participated in one of the professional development sessions offered by Lenore Blankner of InterAct Story Theatre. Using the text The Great Kapok Tree, Ms. Blankner led the teachers through a series of activities designed to enhance reading comprehension while teaching the principles of drama. This example of arts integration, teaching two subjects at the same time, is just a portion of what our teachers will be incorporating into classes this year. Thank you PTA for allocating funds to pay for this great experience!



Ms. Estepa and Ms. Ewalt create a scene from The Great Kapok Tree during professional development on September 25.