

PTA Advocacy

PTA Advocates for Prudent Local Development:
 CLES Redistricting and Street Safety at Risk

The Howard County Zoning Commission is now considering proposals by the owners of Doughoregan Manor which could have a significant impact on two issues of critical concern to our CLES community – increased traffic on Centennial Lane and the possibility of overcrowding at the school which could result in redistricting.

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Through our **Redistricting Committee**, the PTA Executive Board, along with many members of the community, is currently advocating to ensure that new development in this area which sits behind CHS and BMMS does not negatively impact surrounding neighborhoods.

The Carroll family, owners of this historic farm, has petitioned to change both the zoning requirements to allow denser residential development and the designated Public Service Area that would be required to support this denser development with sewer and water utilities.

There are several ways that this may have a direct impact on our Centennial Lane community, the surrounding neighborhoods, and the very nature of Howard County development as well. Of key concern is the number of school children that would have to be absorbed by local schools as well as whether a road would have to be constructed connecting the new development to Burnside Drive, adding a significant amount of traffic on that local road as well as Centennial Lane.

As Christina Small, who Co-Chairs the Redistricting Committee with Kevin Allen, asserts, “We need to be an informed, proactive and a well organized community to ensure that the Zoning Commission addresses these proposals prudently with the comprehensive interests of the community as their priority.” Kevin Allen continues, “Everyone in the community needs to be involved – even if it’s just sending an e-mail. The county government needs to know that people are aware of what is going on.”

To ensure that the CLES PTA can effectively participate in this process the Redistricting Co-chairs have each mastered a great deal of information on the history and development of current county codes and regulations as well as procedural requirements that they must use to effectively further the community’s interests. They are regularly updating the Executive Board which is trying to share this information among the CLES community.

Concerned families are encouraged to contact Kevin Allen, kmallen111@gmail.com, or Christina Small, thesmallfamily@verizon.net for further information.



An aerial view: The letter “A” in the center of the picture highlights where the new development would connect to Burnside Drive, which heads east to Centennial Lane, shown here in yellow.

Background on Doughoregan Manor and Its Development

Doughoregan Manor holds a significant place in local, state and even our nation’s history. It is the ancestral home to the descendants of Charles Carroll the only Roman Catholic to sign the Declaration of Independence. It consists of the family home and an adjoining Roman Catholic Chapel on nearly nine hundred acres of land. The mansion was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1971.

The Carroll family has tried to work with the county to develop plans which would retain most of the estate under their ownership while providing for the necessary development that is required to fund the restoration and maintenance of the property. However, previous plans that would have had less impact on the community have fallen through. The current proposals would allow them to use less land to generate more income through increased residential density than is currently zoned, which allows them to retain more of the estate under the family’s ownership.

CLES Mascot Makes A Big “SPLASH”



The Wave was lucky enough to be granted an exclusive interview with SPLASH, the new mascot for the CLES Dolphins!

Splash, first of all, what a great name you have! Tell us how you got it.

There was a great contest for CLES Students in early December. Names were submitted by students and the three most common names were picked (Fin, Splash, and Dash) from a long list of suggestions. After that, students were asked in homerooms which of the three most common names they liked most. Every student's vote counted. The name "Splash" won the contest and I'm so happy. I really like my name a lot!

Can you share with us what made it possible for you to become a part of the CLES family?

During the November Market Day sale, gourmet pies were sold. Each pie sold

earned extra profit for the CLES PTA. Many families also donated pies to the Howard County Food Bank. Overall, CLES sold 426 pies! The funds earned from the pie sale helped to purchase me. Jennifer Graves and Amy Bandiere (**Market Day Committee** Co-Chairs) worked very hard to ensure that I became part of the CLES family. Jennifer Graves wanted to promote school spirit with a mascot and had a vision that became a reality.

Where and when can the CLES students hang out with you?

I like to attend school events such as the Beach Party Dance, the Book Fair, and other school spirit events. I hope everyone comes to the Spring Fair on June 5th this year. I might come to the fair if the aquarium lets me out of my tank. Also, I'm looking forward to my first Dolphin Dash next September. You never know when I might swim over to CLES.

Finally, what do feel is your greatest impact on the CLES students?

I think I bring extra school spirit to CLES. I love to High Five, wave, and see my fellow "dolphins". I'm glad we have such hard working students, teachers, and staff members. Of course, Dr. Hu and Mrs. White are two of my best friends. They feed me lots of fish when I visit CLES. I really enjoy being a part of the CLES community! Together, we can do great things..

PTA Activities

Terracycle “Upcycling” Program: Raising Funds While Saving The Environment



Terracycle is a US-based company which takes waste products that would otherwise end up in a landfill, and repurposes them to create new products. Some products include backpacks, totes, pencil cases, and bows for gift packages!

The CLES **Wellness Committee**, along with the Fifth Grade Green Team and G/T teacher Mr. Pellegrino has teamed up with Terracycle to create a program at CLES wherein students recycle their disposable drink pouches. For every pouch our school forwards to Terracycle, we receive 2 cents. Funds will be used for future Green Team projects.

After doing the research and making all the arrangements with Terracycle for CLES to participate, Wellness Committee members Bonnie Sorak and Karin Russ introduced students to the program on January 5th during lunch. Students who already bring reusable containers to school have been encouraged to continue doing so, but those children with drink pouches have been asked to put their empty containers (without straws) into the designated upcycling bin. The pouches are collected on Monday afternoons by Bonnie Sorak and Karin Russ. CLES Day Building Supervisor Rocky Bell helps maintain the collection bin. Mrs. Sorak and Mrs. Russ then sort, rinse and package the pouches to forward to Terracycle.

The program was received enthusiastically by the students, with 100 pouches collected on the very first day of implementation.

Visit www.terracycle.net to learn more about repurposing these and other products.



Left: Green team members in the front row are Dennis Howser-Doty, Kate Gordon, Shavanthi Gunwardane and Alexandra Seas. Back Row: Bonnie Sorak, Day Building Supervisor Rocky Bell and Karin Russ.

YOU HAD TO BE THERE WHEN.....



PTA Elves Deliver Smiles & Sugar

Thanks to many generous cooks in our CLES family, more than 2,000 holiday cookies were delivered to teachers and staff on December 14. Organized by the **Staff Appreciation Committee**, the cookies expressed gratitude for all that our teacher s and



staff do for CLES. Dr. Hu spoke on behalf of everyone when she offered many thanks, and stated how much these cookies are looked forward to every holiday season. *Pictured above:*

Jennifer Garner, Staff Appreciation Co-chair Julie Betler, Amy Bandiere, Jill Updike, Kristi Pistner holding future

kindergartener Matthew, and Megan Roth. Right: Cookies boxed for delivery.



Beach Blanket Bingo Warmed a Winter Eve

Bathing suits and flip flops, shorts and shades may have seemed a bit unusual for a mid-winter event, but CLES students became surfer dudes at the **Social Committee's** Beach Party this January, co-chaired by Michele Parisi and Michelle Jackson. Games, refreshments and plenty of dancing kept everyone busy, while mascot Splash made his first and much anticipated appearance at a school event.

Left: Jamie Cole during one of the heated games of Beach Blanket Bingo.



There Were Tears In Her Eyes...

When Katie Lyons of the Westport Academy in Baltimore City received more than 1,500 books donated to her school by CLES families, she was

greatly touched. A project of the **Community Outreach Committee**, co-chaired by the Book Drive provides books that will be used in classroom reading areas as well as given to children to take home. Ms. Lyons said this gesture means so much to the kids and it helps develop their enjoyment of reading as well as their skills.

Pictured: David Aylaian, Jack Keane, Natalie Keane, Lauren Aylaian, Lacey Gelfand and Hanley Yin showed up to help with the book collection.

The Auction Committee Started A Treasure Hunt

Building on last year's first ever silent auction, the PTA's **Spring Fair Auction Committee** headed by Jackie Cumello is hard at work to make this year's auction and raffle bigger and better. The committee is requesting CLES families as well as local and even national businesses to make donations of goods and services, vacation rentals, or anything of value, such as this Joe Flacco autographed jersey which will undoubtedly generate heated bidding. In addition, each team will be creating a themed basket to be raffled off. The potential for raising funds for our school is endless, so be ready to pitch-in! The Fair will be on June 5. Happy Bidding!





They Really Dug That Snow

Everyone has a story about how they dealt with the avalanche of snow that paralyzed our area and closed our schools for more than a week in February. But the herculean task of getting CLES sufficiently cleared to open fell to **our custodial staff**. They worked grueling hours in miserable conditions and got the job done. This

dedicated staff not only keeps our school running in so many ways, but they know our children, watch them grow, and make daily contributions to their CLES experience. *Pictured left: Roz Pumphy, George Foerstch and Day Building Supervisor Rocky Bell show their triumph over the snow.*



They Made Sweet Music

This “keyboard cake” was a sweet way for students to celebrate their musical triumphs during participation in the PTA **After School Activity Piano Pals**. After recitals had to be cancelled twice due to snowfall, PTA volunteer coordinator Liz Brock gathered a few of the young pianists together for a musical munch. Piano Pals

offers both private and semi-private lessons given by veteran piano teacher Ye Sung Lee. *Pictured Left: Christopher Lidard, Tommy Lee, Lucy Belcher and Kevin Brock.*

PTA Activities



Cultural Arts

In January students rocked out to high octane morning assemblies by Thaddeus-Rex which are designed to excite students about reading! With songs inspired by Alice in Wonderland, Captain Underpants, Green Eggs & Ham, and more, Thaddeus made it clear that he couldn't become a rock star without first learning to 'Read Like a Rock Star!' He then spent the afternoon with Team Five

where they created a rock anthem called "Flying Doughnuts". **Check out the blog dated January 9th at www.thaddeusrex.com to hear the Fifth Graders singing their song!** Grade specific programs such as this, the popular Team Two "Bug Lady," and the upcoming Team Four presentation on electricity and magnetism by "Amazing Science" are an important part of the curriculum enhancements provided by PTA **Cultural Arts Committee** dollars. "Each year we try to provide a variety of programs that entertain, teach our children more about their world, and reinforce the value of what is taught in school," explains Kristi Pistner, Cultural Arts Co-Chair. "We know that this is part of the inspiration that helps our children discover who they are and what they may want to do in their lives – both now and as adults," her Co-Chair, Kate Reynolds, concludes.

Coming May 6th
Robert Kikuchi
Asian Storyteller
(Gr. 3-5 9AM; K-2 10AM)



Tommy Hitt (T-2) and Isabella Bockman (T-4) in the hugely popular "Peace Shirt" from the Fall 2009 CLES Spirit Wear Collection.

COMING IN MARCH...

NEWEST SELECTION OF

CLES Spirit Wear

Hot Styles Cool Designs

Something for Everyone!

Look for information coming home soon.

The Wave is a quarterly online publication of the CLES PTA, and is co-written by Kelley Addison and Joanne Jackson. Its purpose is to provide CLES families with a broader understanding of all that our school and the PTA have to offer.

Please direct any comments to Kelley Addison at kelley.22@verizon.net.

