

# The Grapevine

Greenbrier Elementary School

SEPTEMBER 2010

Back to School!

## From the Principal's Desk:

Mrs. Beth Allshouse

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*Welcome back to school!*

*We are so excited to begin another school year with your children. We are approximately 70 students smaller this year and already the building seems quieter and very calm. As we begin this year I encourage you to*

*communicate problems and concerns to the classroom teachers as soon as they arise. We are here to work with you and help your children be as successful as they can be.*

*I want to extend my thanks to the Greenbrier PTA for purchasing*

*agenda books and take home folders for all our students. The PTA has also purchased subscriptions to Time for Kids and National Geographic for Kids magazines for every student at Greenbrier.*

*Sincerely,  
Mrs. Beth Allshouse*

## Greenbrier Elementary School Fundraiser

We will kick off our school Fundraiser on September 2, 2010. We chose a magazine sale this year rather than candy in an effort to stop promoting sweets and start promoting reading in your homes. A flyer with hundreds of magazines at up to 85% off the newsstand prices will come to you. You can also gift magazines to others through this fundraiser. I know that times are tight so if you can participate we will greatly appreciate it but if you cannot then we certainly understand. All fundraiser money is due to the classroom teachers on Thursday, September 16, 2010.

### Important Dates In September

- 2nd Greenbrier Fundraiser Kick-off  
PTA Ice Cream Social  
6:30 pm
- 6th Labor Day - No School
- 7th PTA Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- 14th Election Day - No School
- 15th Book Mobile Visits  
Greenbrier
- 30th PTA Walk-a-thon @  
1:00pm



### Important Dates in October

- 1st 2 ½ hour Early Dismissal
- 15th No School
- 19th Vision Screening (K,1,3,5)
- 20th School Picture Day  
Book Mobile @ Greenbrier
- 29th 2 ½ hr. Early Dismissal  
Fall Celebration  
End of the 1st Marking  
Period

## Music Notes

Technology abounds in music classes! Last year, Greenbrier students benefited from an InterWrite Computer Board and a laptop/document camera/projector technology package. This year, students will also have access to two more classroom computers, a digital recording device and more technology still to come! It is my goal to help

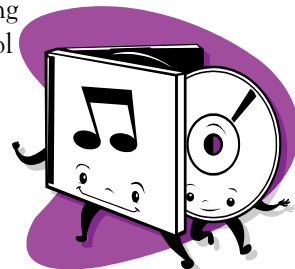
every music student integrate technology into their music classes like never before!

Come in and check out our “new” larger music room which will be shared by Mrs. Sarageno (General Music), and Mr. Pastina, who will fill in for Mrs. Pompa (Band) until she returns from her maternity leave on October 1st.

Orchestra lessons will held in the art room on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Here’s to a great beginning to a wonderful new school year!

-Mrs. Sarageno



## Media News

Be sure to checkout my webpage <http://sites.google.com/site/gbmedia/>

5<sup>th</sup> grade is learning about Online Safety

4<sup>th</sup> grade is being introduced to Type to Learn

3<sup>rd</sup> grade is working on Sequencing Events

2<sup>nd</sup> grade is using Kidspiration

1<sup>st</sup> grade is learning through BrainPOPjr

Kindergarten is practicing skills with starfall.com and Building Blocks

In this everchanging Information Age, it is more important than ever keep your children READING!



## Front Office News

Study Island is coming! Study Island is a web-based computer program that helps students acquire, reinforce, and enrich their reading and math skills. Every student at Greenbrier will have their own Study Island account which they will be able to access both at school and at home. For students who do not have access to computers at home we will have open lab nights monthly at Greenbrier for families to come and use our computer lab. Study Island is being funded through money raised last spring during our Wolfgang candy fundraiser. It costs approximately \$3000. Teachers and parents at other WCPS schools have given great reviews of the Study Island program.

As a part of our library media program at Greenbrier Mrs. Russell will be focusing on internet safety. This is a county wide effort aimed at keeping our students safe while they are on-line. Please monitor your students’ use of the internet carefully. Last spring we had several incidents involving students bullying one another on Facebook or through email. Even though these activities occur in the home they then spill over into the school day and must be dealt with in order minimize the disruption they cause to classroom instruction.

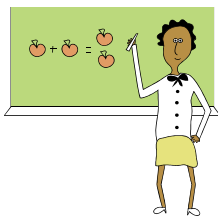
I need to remind all parents that we have a new computerized check in system in the main office at Greenbrier that requires the use of a Driver’s License to gain entry to the school during school hours. Visitors must swipe their license to volunteer, drop off students, pick up students, or to obtain entry to any area of the building other than the main office. Mary Byers, our main office secretary, is here to help you get started. Please be patient with as we learn the new system with you.

## Kindergarten News

We would like to thank all of our parents that came to Back -to-School night. We enjoyed meeting all of you. Thank you for taking an apple and sending in the needed supplies.

Here are just a few reminders for the school year:

1. Please check your child's folder daily for papers.
2. Please complete and return important forms promptly.
3. Remove student work. If it is unfinished, please complete it at home.
4. Please empty the smiley bag and return it daily in your child's folder.



## Third Grade News

School has only just begun and the third graders have already been working very hard this year in all of their subjects!

In math, we are currently in our first unit which is on place value, money, time, temperature and adding and subtracting. This can be a very challenging unit. We appreciate all of the time you have spent working with your children on their addition and subtraction facts. Please continue working

## First Grade News

Thank you to all of the parents who attended Back to School Night. Overall first grade is an outstanding bunch. They are very well-mannered and well-behaved. It was nice to see many of them already knew their bus numbers. Also, thank you very much for all of the supplies. Remember to only send in supplies for your child that are on the First Grade Supply List. This excludes pencil sharpeners and bracelets (bands).

Some helpful skills to practice at home are:

- \*Learning to tie their shoes.
- \*Writing their first and last names.

at home on math facts! Currently in science, third grade is working on our first unit *The Physics of Sound*. The students are having a blast conducting hands on experiments! They especially love all of the time we get to spend listening to different sounds and exploring vibrations.

In social studies, our first unit is called *Community and Geography*. It will include suburban, urban, and rural communities, map skills and atlas

\*Only using capitals for proper nouns and beginning of sentences.

\*Using proper punctuation at the end of a sentence.

\*Read 15 minutes per day.

Please make sure to return papers the next day and homework papers by the due date. The Washington County Book Mobile will be at Greenbrier the third Wednesday of every month. The first date will be September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to a great year!

First Grade Team  
Mrs. Shriver &  
Miss Brown

work. The students will enjoy learning about unique landforms in our Country's geography as well as our country's various natural resources.

So far the third graders are having a great year and we look forward to more learning and fun in the future months!

-Mrs. McHenry  
-Mrs. Zayas

## Second Grade News

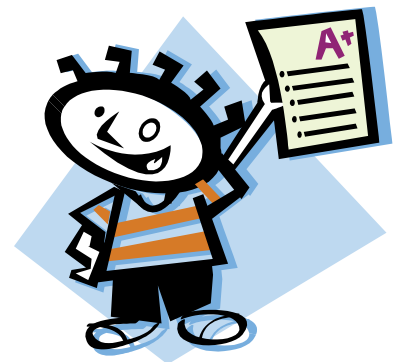
Welcome to second grade! Mrs. Plasterer and Mrs. McCray would like to thank all of you for coming to back to school night and for sending in all of the supplies your children need to get the year off to a good start! We would also like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers. We are grateful to have so many people willing to help.

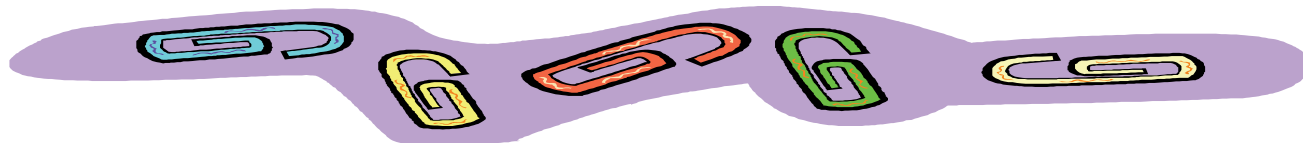
Hopefully you are becoming familiar with the routines of second grade. If you have any questions about anything please write a note in your child's planner. We know there is a lot to remember and sometimes our children don't always communicate clearly!

We will be going on a field trip to Children's Village in September. Please look for that permission slip to be coming home soon!

Your children are off to a great start and we are excited to see how far they can go this year!

Mrs. Plasterer and  
Mrs. McCray





## Fourth Grade News

Welcome back to a new school year! We are very excited to welcome many new friends among our students. Please encourage your child to reach out and show these new friends what a warm and friendly place Greenbrier is.

### What We Are Learning...

**Language Arts** – Our first theme is entitled, Journeys. The students will go on many journeys to far away places including Japan and Alaska. Ask your child about these exciting adventures.

**Math** – Our first unit includes several topics including algebra, patterns,

and statistics. We will also be reviewing basic computational skills. Help your child get a jump start on their school year by helping them memorize all their basic facts. We will be checking their knowledge of these facts during the first few weeks.

**Science** – We will be gazing at the skies as we discover the wonders of the sun, moon, and stars. We also will be looking at weather, erosion and weathering, and fossils. This is a great unit that the students really enjoy.

**Social Studies** – We began the year looking at

where in the universe we live. This is a great time to double check that you child knows his/her address and phone number. Next we will be looking at landforms and important parts of maps. Then we take all these skills and apply them to our great, Maryland.

### Reminders...

- Please sign your child's planner each night.
- Make sure that your child reads each evening and then sign your child's reading log.

- Homework should be coming home for you to see.
- Corrected papers and important information will be coming home in a Friday Folder.

The folder needs to be read, signed and emptied each weekend

and then returned each Monday.

We are very excited to begin a positive and productive year!

- The Grade 4 Team

## Fifth Grade News

The fifth graders are off to a great year. They are working hard to stay on top of all assignments. Please continue checking their homework planner and asking to see each completed assignment.

In Language Arts the classes are working on a unit called "Nature's Fury". It ties in really well with the weather in the United States this time of year. We are also working on identifying 4 types of sentences, subject/

predicate, as well as, parts of speech.

Our math unit focuses on basic operations, algebra, patterns, function tables, multiples and factors. Please make sure that your son or daughter knows their multiplication facts. It will really help them master these topics.

In science the classes are studying matter and energy. They are observing various forms of

energy, such as; light, heat and solar. They will be doing many experiments using flashlights and mirrors to see how light travels.

The students have completed a geography mini-unit and currently are studying Native Americans. They are comparing the various lifestyles caused by the regions in which the tribes live.



# Character Counts! at Greenbrier

**We are excited to implement the Character Counts! Program at Greenbrier again this year! The Character Counts Program is a framework we will be using to teach and model the six pillars of character for our students which are Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. We will be focusing on and teaching a pillar each month through activities and incentives. Our goal is for our students to display examples of good character in their everyday school and home life.**

*"Character is defined by the decisions you make when no one is looking."*

A person of character is a good person, someone to look up to and admire. A person of character knows the difference between right and wrong, always tries to do what is right, sets a good example for everyone, makes the world a better place and lives by the six pillars of character.

## One Pillar a Month

### Character Kids of the Month

**Each month we will focus students on what it means to be a Character Kid of the Month by focusing on each individual pillar.**

**September: Trustworthiness**

**October: Respect**

**November/December: Responsibility**

**January/February: Fairness**

**March: Caring**

**April: citizenship**

**May: All**

Students can use the following acronym to help them remember that people with good character are *terrific*.

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Citizenship

## 10 Good Reasons for Character Education

- Purpose: The purpose for education is to positively impact the life of a child.
- Focus on children
- Safe Schools: People Caring about People
- Achievement: When teachers have more time to teach in a civil, respectful environment and children feel safe and respected, real achievement and learning takes place.
- Diversity: Knowing and understanding the things we all have in common and treating others the way we would like to be treated (Golden Rule)
- "At Risk" Students: "We've got to reach them before we can teach them"
- Work Force Readiness: Employers crave people with a strong sense of character.
- Transition: K-12 process, common language, high expectations and high regard for relationships throughout the school life of a child.
- It's a process not a program.
- Gift for teachers & students: Improved classroom climate and student motivation

*Alison Cannon*  
School Counselor



**GREENBRIER  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

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We're on the Web!  
www.wcboe.k12.md.us

## Enrichment News

*Welcome back to our super students and fabulous families!*

Enrichment classes are focused on third, fourth and fifth grade with full-time math classes in fourth and fifth grades for the 2010-2011 school year. Fifth and fourth graders are attending a reading group every day. Third graders are having 2 days of math and 3 days of reading each week.

The selection for enrichment uses a rubric that is applied to a student's assessments. For Language Arts, the scores from MSA, average of county benchmarks, reading level, report card grades and teacher nomination. MSA scores, Math Unit grades, report card grades and teacher nomination are used for Math enrichment selection. Each student receives a rubric score. Based on this information, the students are identified for the classes.

Have great year at Greenbrier!

Mrs. Forrest

### PTA Board Members:

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*PJ Peersen*  
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*Cory Rohrer*  
Secretary

*Kristin Gaver*  
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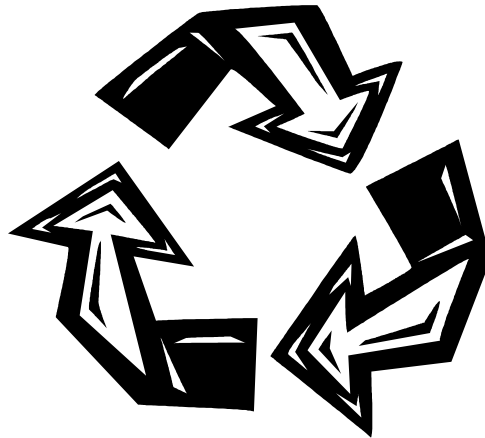
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*Jen Holobinko*  
Hospitality Committee

*Sherry Goetz*  
Fundraising Committee

*Karen Seabright*  
Website Administrator

*Pam Sarageno*  
PTA Faculty Representative/  
Newsletter Editor



## Going Green!

We are trying to be GREEN at Greenbrier. If you are reading a paper copy of the Grapevine right now then we didn't get your email address on Back to School Night. In an effort to reduce our paper use I will be sending the monthly Grapevine Newsletter to as many parents as possible via email. If you would like to be added to our email list please fill out the bottom of this form and return it to the classroom teacher. And ...if you think of other ways we could be a little more earth friendly please let us know.

Student Name	Teacher Name
Parent Email Address	