



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

January 2012

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-- *Dori Morper*

On behalf of the Farmland PTA I'd like to wish all of our families and staff a very happy and safe kick-off to 2012! PTA has many upcoming programs and events for students and families, so be sure to mark your calendars. Several of our events do rely upon the manpower of parent volunteers, so please contact the event chairpersons and let them know how you can lend a hand. No experience is necessary, and volunteering is a great way to meet other parents and support Farmland! Whether you can help for an hour or two at an event or can serve on a planning committee...your time and help is truly appreciated!

Our principal, Mrs. Smith is hosting a coffee on Wednesday, January 18 from 9:00-10:00 AM. I encourage all parents to attend to learn about Farmland's School Improvement Plan and the school's goals for the remainder of the year. I had the opportunity to sit in on the last SIP meeting and it was very exciting to hear the multitude of strategies being used not only by classroom teachers, but by our ESOL, Special Education, and Para-Education staff members here at Farmland to ensure every child meets or exceeds the rigorous academic goals set forth by MCPS. As a parent, it is reassuring to know that children are being supported in the classroom, in small groups and even individually to address their needs for success. Want to learn more? Come to the coffee!



Family Dance Night... Boogie Down!

Put on your dancin' shoes and join us for a fun family event sponsored by PTA on Friday, January 27 in the All-Purpose Room. Check your child's backpack for an upcoming flyer with more details and information how to pre-order dinner for your family. New this year, an instructor will be on hand to teach kids and parents all the fun party dances like the Electric Slide, Cotton Eye Joe, the Cha-Cha Slide and more! Come out for a night with friends and show us your moves! We are also looking for parents and older students wanting to earn SSL hours to volunteer for a time slot that evening. Please contact Lizzy Menard (lizzynelson@hotmail.com) or Shannon Buskirk (buskirksf@yahoo.com), if you are interested.

(Remember, this is not a drop-off event. All students must have a parent chaperone to attend the dance.)

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

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| Wednesday, January 18 | Principal's Coffee for Parents 9:00 - 10:00 AM |
| Friday, January 27 | Family Dance 6:30-8:30 PM Science Fair Sign-up Deadline |
| Thursday, February 23 | Science Fair 6:30-8:30 PM |
| Thursday, March 1 | Family Literacy Night |
| Tuesday, March 6 | PTA Member Meeting 6:30-8:30 PM Internet Safety Program |
| Thursday, March 8 | International Night Planning Meeting 7:00 PM |
| Friday, March 13 | Bingo Night (at Tilden MS) |
| Wednesday, April 18 | International Night |
| May TBA | Geography Bowl |
| Tuesday, May 1 | PTA Member Meeting 7:00 PM Election of Officers & Nutrition Program |
| May 7-11 | Staff Appreciation Week |

2011-2012 Farmland Yearbook Orders

Ordering information will be sent home soon with your child... be sure to take advantage of the \$5 discount by placing your order before March 1. Yearbooks ordered before March 1 will be \$28, after March 1 the cost goes up to \$33. No orders will be accepted after April 1, so don't miss out!

Encourage the Scientist in your Child – Science Fair Sign Up Due by January 27.

Hypothesis: Children who participate in school science fairs think more critically and gain more confidence in their ability to solve problems? **Conclusion:** Join us and find out for yourself!

The Farmland PTA is pleased to announce the 2012 Farmland Science Fair – a hands-on and fun approach to science in a non-competitive setting. Students become star scientists to better understand the world around them. They gain confidence, learn about creating a display, and can gain valuable team and resource skills. All projects and participants are winners!!

Last year, we had a tremendous response – over 165 students from kindergartners to 5th graders showcased over 100 science projects. Their experiments tested dominant paws of

Science Fair continued...

cats, whether boys see optical illusions differently from girls, the pull of gravity and the effect of sunlight on plants and more. They also researched household detergents, examined lung capacity, melted ice, launched balloon rockets and had fun with slime, breads, molds, ice cream, avocados, pickles, rock candy and more.

As parents and teachers, we can do our part in three ways: 1) encourage our kids to sign up and don't worry if they don't have an idea yet. We'll send out materials that will help them get started 2) help your child with their project but please remember to let your child take the lead 3) volunteer as a Scientist Reviewer or help out at the fair.

The Science Fair will be held at 6:30pm on Thursday, February 23 at the Farmland ES where your budding scientist will get the chance to show off their experiment/project. Scientist Reviewers from our community will review their projects, ask questions, and present a ribbon for their outstanding efforts. Sign up today!!

Lisa Peterson (gettpeterson@yahoo.com), Amy Chang (amykchang@yahoo.com) and Caroline Cooksey (carolinecooksey@yahoo.com)-- Science Fair Chairs

Bingo Night - Save the Date!

Back by popular demand is Farmland's Bingo Family Night and Fundraiser, Friday March 23rd. Please save the date! The night will include Bingo fun all night long and a raffle to give away gift cards for local hot spots such as Shadowland, Bach to Rock, Amazing Art Studios, River Running Company, The Bottle Shop, and restaurants galore! To help make this fundraiser a huge success, we are looking for a few parents to volunteer for our planning committee, organize advertising for the event, oversee collection of Bingo Prizes (usually gently used kids' games donated by Farmland Parents), etc.

Please contact Robin Blackman or Jodi Rose if you can volunteer for Bingo Night (robinblackman@yahoo.com or jodijrose@gmail.com).

International Night Planning Begins

Now that we have celebrated the New Year all around the world, it's time to begin preparing for Farmland's very own International Night 2012! This year's event, "Uniting Our World," is scheduled for Wednesday, April 18 (rain date Wednesday, April 25). We look forward to our Farmland families' participation for this annual event. There is much to prepare for this special evening of learning about our global neighbors. If you are interested in participating or volunteering for this event as a "Country Coordinator" or to help out with the planning, please contact Eleni Jernell (ejernell@verizon.net) soon. A planning meeting for parent volunteers will be held Thursday, March 8 at 7:00 PM.

A Very Special Thank You to our Staff Appreciation Volunteers!!!!

Honey Konikoff and Lauren Greenburg led a team of amazing parent volunteers to host a delicious luncheon including soups, chili, salads, and scrumptious desserts for our Farmland staff to kick-off the holiday season. It was a small way to show our BIG appreciation for the incredible work we know gets done every day with our children at Farmland! Thank you to all who shared your time or prepared food for this special event!

Thanks to the many helpers: Dave Kildy, Mary Jo Speier, Wiltrud Niedner, Robin Blackman, Michal Lavie, Kathleen Nardella, Dori Morper, Muneeza Kidwai, Jodi Rose, Susan Lawrence, Andrea Leff, Ella Kanner, Marissa Shenkan, Julie Merberg, Carol Lang, Andrea Nadelman, Lisa Garson, Caroline Cooksey, Kim Hannon, Christine Berkman, and Dori Silverman.

The Thank You Corner:

Thanks to Karen Belt, Kim Hannon and Beth Ann Smith for organizing our very successful Restaurant Nights!

Thank you to Shannon Buskirk for coordinating our Spirit Wear sale!

Thank you to Andrea Leff for serving as our Cluster Rep alternate and to Lynne Agoston who has graciously offered to fill-in when Andrea soon moves out of state... Andrea, we'll miss you and wish you and your family all the best!

Thanks to Liz Levenson for leading our Reflections program this year!

Thanks to Jodi Rose, Robin Blackman and the many volunteers who are helping to secure prize donations for our upcoming Bingo Night!

Thank you to Michele Wisniewski, our Treasurer. It takes many hours to keep track of our PTA finances and we appreciate you!

Thank you to all parents who supported the "Bricks for Farmland" fundraiser and to Yvonne Levine for overseeing the installation on the playground.

Help Wanted! No Experience Necessary!

PTA is currently seeking parent volunteers interested in serving on the Executive Council for the 2012/13 school-year. The Executive Council is an elected board of individuals who oversee and plan the PTA programs throughout the year. Jobs include President, Vice President of Programs, Vice President of Ways and Means, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, (2) MCCPTA Delegates, and (2) Walter Johnson Cluster Representatives.

At the March 6 Membership meeting, PTA will elect a Nominating Committee that will then create a slate of officers to be voted on by the membership at the May meeting. If you would like more information about serving on the Executive Council or would consider serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact Dori Morper at president@farmland-pta.org.

Don't miss any PTA News!

Have you logged on to www.farmland-pta.org?

**Be sure to sign up to receive our PTA eNews by entering your email address on any page of the site. It is available to be translated into 35 languages!

Have you subscribed to our Yahoo Group? Simply send an email to: farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

“Like” us on Facebook! www.facebook.com/farmlandpta

The Farmland Harvest is the newsletter of Farmland Elementary School PTA.

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Principal: Mrs. Diane Smith
[Katherine D. Smith@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_D_Smith@mcpsmd.org)**

Please note that editions of the Farmland PTA Harvest will be available electronically to help save printing costs.

If you have chosen to receive a printed version of “Principally Speaking” we will provide you with a printed version of the Harvest. In addition, we will have a limited number of printed copies available at the school office.



Farmland Science Fair is Back!

It's time to start thinking about science! Farmland PTA's Science Fair will be held on **Thursday, 23rd from 6:30 pm- 8pm at Farmland ES.**

The Science Fair gives children in every grade the opportunity to explore the world around them using science, and then display their project at the Science Fair to share what they learned - and it's also fun! Projects at the fair will not be judged; instead, every child who participates will receive a ribbon.

The deadline to sign up for the Science Fair is **Friday, Jan. 27.** Your child will then choose a project.

If your child is interested in doing a project (alone, with a partner, or in a group), please fill out the form below. There is a **\$6 fee (or \$8 for two or more participants)** to help cover the costs (room rental, the display board and other materials, volunteer expenses etc).

We are also looking for **parents with scientific background** to don their lab coats and judge the young scientists' work during the fair. If you are willing to serve as a judge, please mark that on the sign-up form.

Science Fair Sign-Up Form Due: Friday January 27th

(Please return form, marked PTA Science Fair, to PTA mailbox or to your child's teacher)

Name _____

Teacher's Name/grade _____

Parent Email and phone number _____

If you want to work with a partner please provide:

Partner Name(s)/ _____

Parent email/Teacher(s) _____

The display board is 36"x48". We will notify you when the display board is available for pick up at the school office. Please contact us if you need to make alternate arrangements for pick up.

If you would like to **volunteer as a judge in the science fair**, please provide your email and your area of specialty:

We encourage you to pay the science fair fee by cash to ease the burden on our Treasurer.

The PTA has scholarships available for anyone who asks.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Getter Peterson (gettpeterson@yahoo.com), Amy Chang (amykchang@gmail.com),

Caroline Cooksey (carolinecooksey@yahoo.com)

