



# The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

February/ March 2012

## PTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*-Dori Morper*

What can parents, schools and communities do together to support student success? Strong family-school partnerships are key to a thriving and vibrant educational environment. Regardless of ethnicity, class or parents' level of education, when parents are involved in their children's learning both at home and at school, their children do better.



Here at Farmland, we have a wide array of opportunities for parents to engage in student success. We have a diverse school community and a

thriving volunteer base that continually supports the school and PTA programs. We are fortunate to have a staff of talented teachers and administrators who welcome communication and collaboration when it comes to supporting student learning. Within our "cluster" and district, PTA volunteers routinely advocate on behalf of students before our local and state governments on issues that affect education, whether it is school funding, capital improvement planning or new curriculum implementation.

We sometimes forget to notice the "big picture" when we attend an event like PTA's Science Fair or Farmland's Literacy Night. Yes, I know it's hard to drag the kids out when you'd really rather stay home... but when you bring your child and encourage them to participate in school events, you are saying to them, "Learning is important. I support what you are working on. Your future is bright and - look! Your opportunities are endless."

When you read through this edition of the *Harvest*, I invite you to look for ways you and your family can join in our partnership.

Why not start with the next PTA membership meeting on [Tuesday, March 6 at 7 PM in the Farmland Media Center?](#) Shelley Lipton of Montgomery County Police Dept. will be joining us for a discussion on Internet Safety. KAH will once again provide drop-in care for school-age children so that parents may attend this important program.

### 2012-13 PTA Leadership

Hmmm... you want to become more involved in your child's school and their education. You want to make a difference in the enrichment of the lives of all families at Farmland. You want to work with other amazing parents with similar interests-- Come join our team! Serving as a PTA officer or volunteer is rewarding and valuable... we know that children are more successful when their parents are engaged in their school!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Thursday, February 23 6:30 – 8:30 PM	PTA Science Fair
Thursday, March 1 6:30- 8:30 PM	Family Literacy Night
Tuesday, March 6 7:00 PM	PTA Membership Meeting Program: Online Safety
Thursday, March 8 7:00 – 8:00 PM	Planning Meeting- International Night
Friday, March 9 6:30-8:30 PM	Family Bingo Night at Tilden MS <i>**note date change**</i>
Monday, March 19	Geography Bowl Packets due to school office
Friday, March 23	Scarecrow's Corner submission deadline
Wednesday, April 11 Thursday, April 12	Geography Bowl Quizzes for 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> graders
Friday, April 13	Career Day for Students
Tuesday, April 17 6:00 – 8:00 PM	International Night <i>**note date change**</i>

Training is provided for volunteers with little or no experience, so don't be afraid to step forward if you have not been involved before. We welcome a diverse group of moms, dads and teachers to join us in our mission to support and speak on behalf of children and youth, to assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children, and to encourage parent involvement in our schools.

Please take a minute to fill out the Volunteer Interest form enclosed and return it to the school office. It will help us to gauge interest in our various committees and start making plans for next year's programs and events.

### Don't Miss the PTA Science Fair!

#### Thursday, February 23 6:30- 8:30 PM



Nearly 200 student scientists and inventors from Farmland Elementary will have their projects on display for all to see from 6:30- 8pm. Whether your child has prepared a project or not, your family will want to attend - prepare to be impressed! Dinner will be sold in the all-purpose room to support the 5th Grade end-of-year celebration plans. Come see what our future scientists, engineers, "techies" and creators have in store for us! Parents, you can drop off your child's display board between the hours of 3:15pm and 4:15pm or between 5:00pm and 6:00pm in the multi-purpose room.

## Congratulations Reflections Contest Winners!



Farmland was well represented in the 2011-2012 PTA Reflections program. We had entries from the Visual Arts, Literature, Musical Composition, and Photography categories supporting the theme, "Diversity Means...". It was amazing to see how the children took the theme and created such unique and beautiful projects. We truly have a talented group of kids.

Thank you to all of this year's participants and a special thank you to Sonya Karpishpan who judged the visual arts category. Grades K-2 Participants: Jessica Kim, Alex Morper, Carolyn Lee, Navya Shukla, Sakash Khanna, Tong-tong Ye, Shani Barad, Mridvika Sahni. Grades 3-5 Participants: Donna Mbulaiteye, Alexander Constantino, Chloe Levenson, Jessica Lee, Erin Forsythe, Emilia Ochoa.

The Montgomery County Council of PTAs recognized four students from Farmland: Awards of Merit were announced for 4<sup>th</sup> grader Alexander Constantino (Literature) and 5<sup>th</sup> graders Emilia Ochoa (Photography) and Chloe Levenson (Musical Composition). An Award of Excellence was announced for 1<sup>st</sup> grader Tong-Tong Ye whose visual arts entry will be moving on to the Maryland state competition. We wish her luck! The County will be announcing the date for their awards ceremony soon and all participants will be recognized at Farmland at a future date.



## Bingo Night is Friday, March 9 at Tilden MS! (Note date change!)

This event includes Bingo fun (emceed by Farmland parent, Bobby Epstein), pizza, calzones, and salads available for purchase from Flippin' Pizza, and a raffle with more than \$2,000 worth of prizes up for grabs! **PTA relies on this event as a significant fundraiser to support our many programs**, plus it is an opportunity to spend a fun evening with your Farmland Community. Your support by participating will make this a successful event!

We are asking for **donations of new or "like-new" toys or games** to give away as Bingo prizes. Donations can be dropped off effective immediately:

\*Robin – 27 Lily Pond Court, 301-881-7530,  
[robinblackman@yahoo.com](mailto:robinblackman@yahoo.com)

\*Jodi – 1003 Farm Haven Drive, 301-881-0369,  
[jodijrose@gmail.com](mailto:jodijrose@gmail.com)

Also, we are looking for volunteers for to help with various tasks: coordination of pizza pre-purchases, set-up/clean-up, selling raffle tickets or bingo cards that night, etc. C'mon, we know there are some dedicated volunteers out there!! Contact Robin or Jodi if you can help with anything between now and March 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Ni Hao Ma! Bonjour! Shalom! Jambo! Konichiwa! Salaam! Guten Tag!

We are in full swing preparing for the **Farmland International Night 2012!** This year's theme will be "Unite Our World"! The annual Farmland event's *date has been changed to Tuesday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-8:30 pm* at Farmland ES. There will many opportunities for the participating countries to teach us all about what makes them extraordinary and unique. An information planning meeting is scheduled for **March 8** for those countries who have signed up to participate...more details to come when all participants have signed up. We are also looking for volunteers to assist with planning and coordination (pizza/drinks) for the event, and during the event, leading a table or two of guided geography type games, cultural crafts, etc. Orit Greenberg has graciously agreed to assist with passport design!

**Many thanks to those countries who have already signed up: China, England, India, Israel, and Japan!!!**

Please send the completed (attached) participant information sheet to me, Eleni Jernell ([ejernell@verizon.net](mailto:ejernell@verizon.net)), **by no later than February 27, 2012** if you plan to participate in this wonderful event, or if you would like to volunteer. We are looking forward to another fantastic travel experience!

## Where in the world is... Mrs. Smith?



Soon, students will have an opportunity to use their geography and detective skills to figure out "Where in the World is Mrs. Smith?" during morning announcements. In addition third, fourth and fifth grade students are encouraged to participate in Farmland PTA's Geography Bowl 2012. Packets will be available online and distributed to students at the end of February. Completed packets are due to the school office March 19 and will then be reviewed by parent volunteers. All students who complete the packet receive a certificate. Quizzes will be held April 11 & 12 to see which "map masters" will represent their class in the Geography Bowl on May 1-2. The Bowl promotes class pride, teamwork, and academic fun! The winning class from each grade level will win bragging rights and a special prize.

## Free Kid's Meal at California Tortilla



Our friends at California Tortilla at Rockville Town Square would like to celebrate Farmland's hardworking students. Have your child bring their current Farmland report card and receive one free kid's meal through March 1. California Tortilla is generously supporting Farmland PTA's Bingo Night and for that we say Thank You!

## Thank you to our Family Dance Volunteers!



Over 200 Farmland kids and their families rocked out at the 2012 Family Dance sponsored by PTA and it was a huge success thanks to our amazing volunteers. Special thanks to Lizzy Menard and Shannon Buskirk for planning this fun social event and leading our team of parent and student volunteers: Kristen Parker, Katherine Walsh, Rintaro Kato, Caroline Cooksey, Sam Cooksey, Andrea Nadelman, Liz Levenson, Andrea Leff, Denise Chambers, Dori Morper, Chris Menard, and Bill Buskirk. A big "Thank You" to Matt and Courtney from KAH who provided temporary tattoos!

Did we catch you doing the Electric Slide or the Cuban Shuffle? Check out the poster of photos from the event in the breezeway of the school.

## What has PTA supported so far this year?

Can you imagine our school without these programs and resources? PTA provides the volunteer manpower and is the sole or significant funding source for the following programs at Farmland Elementary:

Student Assemblies (Chinese Acrobats, Antonio Rocha-Storyteller, The Amazing Bully-Free Wonder Show)  
 Chorus  
 Opera  
 Reflections Arts Program  
 Safety Patrol  
 Grade-Level Social Events  
 Family Dance Party  
 PTA Directory  
 Farmland Spirit Wear  
 Staff Reimbursement of Classroom Supplies and Instructional Funds  
 Staff Appreciation luncheons  
 New media center books  
 -- More than \$16,000 so far this year!

## What is still to come?

Family Bingo Night  
 Career Day for Students  
 Science Fair  
 Geography Bowl  
 Fun Run  
 Artist in Residence  
 International Night  
 Scarecrow Literary and Arts Magazine  
 Parent Programs: Online Safety, Nutrition  
 Student Yearbooks  
 -- and much more!

## The Thank You Corner:

Thanks to Sonya Karpishpan for serving as our Reflections volunteer judge!

Thanks to Natalia Grishina and Lesley O'Malley for keeping our families informed about FLES, Hands on Science and Big Learning classes!

Thank you to all parents and teachers who have shown their support by joining PTA. We have grown our membership by nearly 100 this year!

Thanks to KAH for continually supporting Farmland PTA and our efforts to build a strong school community!

## Don't miss any PTA news!

Have you logged on to [www.farmland-pta.org](http://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](mailto:farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).

"Like" us on Facebook! [www.facebook.com/farmlandpta](http://www.facebook.com/farmlandpta)

*Please note that the Farmland PTA Harvest is available electronically to help save printing costs.*

*If you have chosen to receive a printed version of "Principally Speaking" PTA 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.*

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

**Farmland Elementary School**  
 7000 Old Gate Road  
 Rockville, MD 20852  
 301-230-5919  
[www.farmland-pta.org](http://www.farmland-pta.org)

**PTA President: Dori Morper**  
[president@farmland-pta.org](mailto:president@farmland-pta.org)  
**Principal: Mrs. Diane Smith**  
[Katherine\\_D\\_Smith@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Katherine_D_Smith@mcpsmd.org)

## Farmland PTA 2012-13 Volunteer Interest Form

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Email</b>	
<b>Phone</b>	
Current or past PTA positions?	

**I would consider the following Elected Officer Positions:**

	<b>President</b>
	<b>First Vice President (Programs)</b>
	<b>Second Vice President (Ways and Means)</b>
	<b>Treasurer</b>
	<b>Recording Secretary</b>
	<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>
	<b>MCCPTA Delegate</b>
	<b>Cluster Representative</b>

**I would consider the following appointed Chairperson Positions or Committees: (Please circle specific areas of interest.)**

	<b>Community Outreach:</b> <i>Sister School, Socials, New Family Welcome, Parent Education, etc.</i>
	<b>Communications:</b> <i>PTA Directory, Harvest Newsletter, Website, etc.</i>
	<b>Fundraising Events and Programs:</b> <i>Bingo Night, Book Fair, Carnival, Family Dance, Restaurant Nights, Spirit Wear, Yearbook, etc.</i>
	<b>Health/Wellness:</b> <i>Fun Run, Walk to School Day, etc.</i>
	<b>Hospitality:</b> <i>Staff Appreciation, Kindergarten Orientation, Career Day, etc.</i>
	<b>PTA Liaison to:</b> <i>Enrichment Classes, Gifted and Talented Students, Multi-Cultural Awareness, School Improvement, Students with Accommodations, NAACP, etc.</i>
	<b>Membership:</b> <i>Member recruitment and reporting, Bylaws Review, Nominating Committee, etc.</i>
	<b>Student Programs:</b> <i>Career Day, Cultural Arts Programs, Geography Bowl, International Night, Reflections Arts Program, Science Fair, Scarecrow Gazette, etc.</i>
	<b>Other?</b>

**President** presides at all meetings of the PTA and of the executive board. Coordinates the work of the officers and committees of the PTA, assigns specific duties to the first and second vice-presidents, and is a member ex officio of all committees except the nominating committee.

**First and Second Vice Presidents** share responsibility for monitoring the work of the Committee Chairs and Special Committees as designated by the Board. The Vice Presidents maintain contact throughout the school year with Committee Chairs and provide guidance and input as needed. The primary distinction between the two Vice Presidents is that the First Vice President oversees Programs and the Second Vice President oversees Ways and Means. The First VP will assume the role of President should the President be unable or unwilling to complete his or her term.

**Treasurer** manages all funds of the local PTA; keeps full and accurate account of receipts and expenditures; makes disbursements as authorized, reports financial data to officers and membership.

**Recording Secretary** is responsible for attending and recording the minutes of all meetings of Farmland PTA and the Executive Committee of the Farmland PTA and distributes those minutes to appropriate Farmland PTA members.

**Corresponding Secretary** is responsible for signing any official correspondence for the PTA. He/she is also responsible for overseeing distribution of the incoming mail to the various Board and Committee members as well as posting messages to the community via the school sign.

**MCCPTA Delegates (2)** attend the monthly meeting of MCCPTA. Delegates are responsible for representing the Farmland PTA on issues brought forward to the MCCPTA for votes. Delegates are expected to report on proposed resolutions from MCCPTA meetings and obtain input from the Farmland community on how they should vote at the subsequent MCCPTA meetings.

**Cluster Representatives (2)** attend Walter Johnson cluster meetings once a month and report cluster news and issues to the PTA membership.

**Please return to the school office by March 5 and THANK YOU for your support of Farmland PTA!**

# Farmland PTA International Night

Tuesday- April 17, 2012

6:00 - 8:30 PM



Name of Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Is your country performing? YES \_\_\_\_\_

NO \_\_\_\_\_

**Country Representative Information (points of contact):**

*\*\*\*For each, please provide full name, email address and 1 phone number\*\*\**

Primary/Lead Rep \_\_\_\_\_

Other Rep (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Rep (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Rep (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Other Rep (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions:

**Please submit completed form to Eleni Jernell ([ejernell@verizon.net](mailto:ejernell@verizon.net)) by no later than Feb 22, 2012.**

## SCARECROW'S CORNER

Calling all young writers and artists!

We want your stories, your poems, or your drawings for the

"Scarecrow's Corner",

Farmland's annual arts magazine

All entries will be published

Please follow these guidelines:

- All entries should be on a single piece of unlined 8 1/2 x 11 white paper.
- Stories or poems should be typed and no longer than one page. ü Please use pen and ink in your artwork - this is not a color publication.
- Please include your name, grade, and your teacher's name as well as your title on the work.
- Please have an adult proofread and spell-check your work before submission.
- NEW this year! Digital submission - Scan your artwork and send as .jpg file, stories and poems can be send as .pdf or .doc file.
- Turn your entries into the Scarecrow's Box in the main office, or send via email, beginning on Tuesday, February 21 through no later than Friday, March 23, 2012. If you have any questions, please email Natalia Grishina at [ntl.ntl@gmail.com](mailto:ntl.ntl@gmail.com)