



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

November 2007

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-- Deedee Jacobsohn

October seemed like a very long month this year. Maybe because the weather made it feel like we started in the summer and ended with a hint of winter. On the other hand, maybe it was because there was so much going on at the school!

We had five events in the past month. **Sally Foster** ended in the early part of the month, and it was another huge success. Thank you to Christine Shapiro and Cheryl Lopez for all their hard work this year and in the past. Christine and Cheryl have decided it is time to pass the chair to someone else; so, if you are interested, please contact one of them or me!

We had our first restaurant night at **Baja Fresh** and it was great to see so many families come out to eat and socialize. The restaurant was crowded! Thanks to Jacki Seley for bringing back this fun event. We look forward to another restaurant night somewhere else in the spring!

The weather was beautiful for **Carnival Day**, and there were loads of children enjoying the games and food and (especially) the cake walk! A big thank-you to Holli Jaffe; once again she did an incredible job arranging this family-fun day. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped bake cakes, run booths, and everything else that was needed to run the Carnival.

The **Scholastic Book Fair** is always popular and this year was no exception. Thanks to Lisa Tillman, Jen Oppenheim and Karin Wulf for all their hard work to bring books to our children, our classrooms, our sister school, and the One-for-Books program. Thanks also to all the teachers who read stories to our kids while we shopped! Finally, thanks to all the parents who volunteered in lots of different ways to help make the book fair a success.

Finally, we ended the month with the **Fall Festival**. Beth Anne Smith did a terrific job taking on this program at a late date, and Bob Nugent once again brought the pumpkins and the hay for the scarecrows. Thanks to both of them, and all the other volunteers who helped. We ended up enjoying a beautiful afternoon

making scarecrows, painting pumpkins and decorating cupcakes.

Dr. Stetson spoke at the November PTA meeting about the procedure for selecting a new principal. Look inside for a brief summary of his points. There were **interpreters** at the meeting and it was very helpful for those few parents who took advantage of it. We plan to try this at another PTA meeting, and at the next meeting with Dr. Stetson.

There are new traffic signs posted on the streets around the school. Please read the reminders inside and follow all the posted regulations.

The **Reflections Art Show** will be on Monday December 3 at 6pm (before the PTA meeting). Please come and see all the great work our children have done. If your child is interested in participating, there's still time...the deadline for submitting work is no later than November 21.

The next PTA meeting will be held on **MONDAY, December 3 at 7pm** in the All Purpose Room. It will be a regular business meeting. I hope to see you there!

UPCOMING EVENTS

November

21 Deadline for Reflections Art Show work
22, 23 NO SCHOOL, Thanksgiving

December

3 Reflections Art Show, 6 pm
PTA Meeting, 7pm

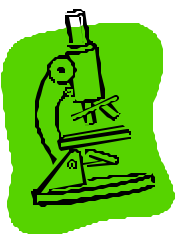


CHOOSING A NEW PRINCIPAL



Dr. Stetson talked about the general process for choosing a new principal at the November PTA meeting. The following is a brief summary of the points he made:

- In late February/early March, Dr. Stetson will meet with parents and staff to discuss what is most important to the community when choosing a new principal. Leadership surveys will be filled out at the meeting.
- Dr. Stetson will select three or four candidates from sitting principals, principal interns, and principals in other school districts. They are screened by Dr. Stetson's office before going before the interview team.
- The interview team will be formed. There will be about 15 or 16 people: five parents, five staff, Dr. Stetson, two Directors of School Performance, a Director of Elementary Instruction and a Human Resources Officer. Parents will volunteer to be on the interview team; the team must represent school demographics.
- Once the interview team is approved, members will send potential questions for the candidate to Dr. Stetson via email. Dr. Stetson will compile the questions; the same seven or eight questions will be asked of each candidate.
- The interview team will interview all of the candidates in 40-minute segments and then discuss them. The goal is to reach a consensus.
- After the interviews, the chosen candidate meets with the deputy superintendent of schools. The Board of Education will vote on filling our vacancy in late April. The appointment will have a start date of July 1.



SCIENCE FAIR NEWS

Mark your calendars for Farmland's 4th Annual Science Fair on **February 27, 2008** from 6:30 -8:00 PM. This exciting, non-competitive event is a

terrific way to introduce your child to the joys of scientific inquiry and investigation. More information regarding how to sign up to participate will be coming home in the backpacks after Thanksgiving.

To make this event another great success, we need a large number of scientists, engineers, health care professionals, mathematicians and other parents and friends with a background or interest in math or the sciences to act as science fair reviewers. The night of the science fair, reviewers meet with our budding young scientists, ask questions about their projects, and encourage interest in and enthusiasm for the process of scientific inquiry. The time commitment is small but all of your efforts will be hugely appreciated. No prior experience is necessary! If you are available to act as a reviewer at this fun-filled event or have any questions, please contact Kim Dettelbach at 301-231-7133 or kimdettelbach@comcast.net.

PTA CHAIRS NEEDED!



The PTA is actively seeking people to Chair or Co-Chair two committees. Please consider volunteering some of your time so these committees can continue. If you and a friend want to share any of these jobs, co-chairs are welcome!

Chess Club - This club needs someone to handle administrative duties for the winter and spring sessions. Duties include coordinating the club schedule, copying fliers, collecting registration fees and attending sessions to make sure they are running smoothly. The current Chess Club session ends in December. The winter session is scheduled to start in January; coordination starts in December. The club currently runs on 11 consecutive Thursday mornings from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

Farmland Follies - Get together with some friends to co-chair this exciting talent showcase! Many of the administrative details like fliers, spreadsheets of schedules, etc. are ready for you to use. The Farmland Follies is usually held on a Friday evening in late April. Planning starts several months in advance.

Questions or to volunteer: Please contact Peggy Ellett at elletts5@verizon.net or 301-881-8514 or Teri Brenits at teribmom@verizon.net or 301-231-9434.

NEW TRAFFIC SIGNS



Montgomery County has posted new traffic regulations around the school. Please take notice of these new restrictions; they are intended to keep our children (and all pedestrians) safe, and to make it safer for buses to turn out of the bus loop.

- **No U Turn** on Farmland Drive between Old Gate Road and Hitching Post Lane.
- **No Stopping Anytime** on Old Gate Road from the corner of Farmland Drive to the bus loop exit. This means no parking and no stopping, even if you are waiting in your car.
- **No Stopping Anytime** on Farmland Drive for about 30 feet past Old Gate Road.

STAFF PARKING LOT REMINDER



Please remember that during school hours, the school parking lot is reserved for *staff only*. Please do not park there during the school day. Sometimes teachers leave during their lunch hour to do an errand. They need to be able to park their cars when they return!

FARMLAND 2ND ANNUAL REFLECTIONS ART SHOW



Farmland's 2nd Annual Reflections Art Show is coming up on **Monday, December 3, 2007 at 6pm**. This year's theme is "I Can Make a Difference By..." and all entered artwork must follow this theme.

There are six categories for participation: choreography, moviemaking, literature, photography, visual arts and musical composition. Every student is encouraged to create an original piece of artwork from these categories and enter it into the Show. All entries must be turned in to Mrs. Rothman's art room between **November 19 and November 21, 2007**.

The Reflections Art Show will include an award show

and reception for all participants. Each participant will be recognized and receive a ribbon. All artwork will be on display in the school during the first week of December.

Our show is the first stage in a national Reflections Art Show and Competition sponsored by the national PTA; four winners from each category in our Show will go on to the County competition and hopefully further. Rules and conditions for the show are listed in the flyers that have been handed out. Additional copies of the flyers can be found in the main office or online at the Farmland PTA website.

If you have any questions or want to help with this event, please contact Becky Hutton at 301-946-0094 or linushutton@aol.com.

GROWING NATIVE POUNDS PER KIDS CONTEST



Many thanks to all who participated in the native tree seed collection at Farmland this fall. Farmland students collected **357 pounds** of seeds from a variety of local native hardwood trees including Oaks, Walnut, Hickory and Persimmon!

We will find out how we did in the "Pounds per Kids" contest after all schools' contributions have been weighed.

Regardless of how we did in the contest, we are winners. We are taking the first steps to help restore the hardwood forests along the Potomac, which will help improve our water quality, reduce air pollution and provide essential food and shelter for wildlife.

Our seeds have been sorted by species, packaged, tagged and delivered to a collection location. These seeds, along with those from other schools, will be planted and grown into young trees. Then these seedlings will be planted along the Potomac watershed.

Farmland's participation definitely helps make a difference in improving our environment. If your child participated in the activity but did not receive a certificate, please contact Rob Ellett at elletts5@verizon.net. Let us know the complete name of the student who participated, the student's grade and his/her teacher's name. We will prepare a certificate and send it to the school. Thanks again for participating!

FARMLAND SPIRIT WEAR



Farmland Spirit Wear will be available just in time for holiday ordering. We will be offering short- and long- sleeve tee shirts, sweatshirts, flannel pajama bottoms, ball caps and women's zip hoodies, all with our Farmland logo.

Many items will be available in adult sizes with a slightly higher cost. In addition, this year we have added the option of having ALUMNI screened underneath the logo for our many parent Farmland graduates.

toward the March 2008 payment. Happy spending!

The ID# for **Farmland Elementary** is **58128**. To register, log onto www.target.com, go to the bottom of the page and click on "community".

If you have any questions, contact Shari Campbell at scampbell@hrsa.gov



Box Tops for Education is another year-round program that can help the Farmland PTA raise money. Clip, save and send the box tops to the PTA mailbox.

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL



The **2007-2008 Giant Food's A+ Bonus Bucks program** runs through April 3, 2008. The program requires that you re-designate your choice of school each year. It is not too late to designate! As of November 7 Farmland only has 48

individuals designated. **We can do better!** So far, Farmland has only earned \$151.62. Let get the ball rolling!

All you have to do is log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus and re-designate **Farmland Elementary (ID #00720)** as your school of choice or dial 1-877-366-2668 to designate over the phone.



The **Safeway Club Card for Education program** is run by E-Scrip and now requires yearly renewal. You can earn up to 3% of your monthly Safeway purchases for Farmland and the money is

automatically deposited into the school's account. Please log on to www.escrip.com to renew or enroll. **Farmland Elementary's ID # is 6502808.**



Target's Take Charge of Education Program continues year round and donates 1% of REDcard (Target Visa and Target credit card) purchases made at Target and Target.com and 1/2% of Target Visa purchases made elsewhere, to the school of your choice.

Checks are mailed to the school twice a year, in March and September. Farmland has accumulated \$124.00

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
The Farmland Harvest is the monthly newsletter of The Farmland Elementary School PTA.

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You can find more information about the PTA on our website (www.farmland-pta.org) or by joining our listserv (farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.)

For Harvest submissions please send them via email to ruthieftm@aol.com

