



# The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

December 2007

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## ***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***

**-- Deedee Jacobsohn**

Thank you to the dedicated PTA members who attended the December meeting. Unfortunately, we did not have a quorum, so we could not vote to approve the minutes. I would truly like to see more parents at our meetings. A regular business meeting typically lasts about an hour—an hour well spent hearing about PTA programs, political issues related to the school system, and the report by the principal. If you have an idea to help make the meetings more appealing, please let me know. This is your PTA and we want to see you at the meetings!

There is no regular meeting in January (although we will put out a Harvest); our next meeting will be on **Tuesday February 5**. Please make an effort to attend. We will be voting on a **budget amendment** to add a budget line for the Marci Fineman Memorial (otherwise, we cannot write a check to purchase materials for the stained glass window project).

Thank you to the families who have already sent in their contributions to one or both of the **memorial funds** for Dr. Fineman. Contributions payable to the **Farmland PTA** will help us provide materials and a plaque for a memorial stained glass window. If you are considering a donation, we would appreciate receiving the money by the end of January. The artist is coming to Farmland in February to work with our children, and we need to tell Mrs. Rothman how much money is available for materials.

Contributions to the **Dr. Marci Fineman Memorial Foundation** will enhance the professional development opportunities at Farmland. Checks should be made out to the Foundation itself; send the checks in to the school office and they will be forwarded to Dr. Fineman's family.

Congratulations to the many students who participated in the **Reflections** art show. There were entries in five of the six categories, and eighteen students have had their work selected for the county competition. Thank you to Becky Hutton for her hard work organizing this event; thanks also to the parents who helped Becky by baking or doing other jobs, and to the many parents who encouraged their children to participate!

The staff has expressed its appreciation for the pre-Thanksgiving lunch provided by the **Staff Appreciation Committee**; I would like to thank Marissa Shenkan and Suzanne Eichner for the outstanding job they are doing; thanks for making all of the Farmland parents look good!

Connie Jacobson deserves a big round of applause, too, for her untiring efforts on behalf of our **Sister School**. Our coat and food drive filled the hallway with donations, and Farmland families adopted all the "snowmen" we received with gift requests for children at Harmony Hills. Thank you to all the parents who made these drives so successful.

I know that my son Ben cannot wait to get his **Spirit Wear** and start wearing Farmland clothes all over the place! Thanks to Kate Heald for putting together such a nice variety of items and arranging for the sale. Kate will continue to collect orders throughout the school year. Once she has a minimum number of pieces, she will submit the order. Contact her directly for more information at 301-881-1389 or email, [kate.heald@netzero.net](mailto:kate.heald@netzero.net).

Margaret Maring and the Guidance Committee have planned an informative evening for us in January. Amy Kines, a specialist at the Center for Skillful Teaching, will be giving a talk on "**The Importance of Effort**". We will learn how praising the effort our children put into schoolwork is more important than praising good grades. The tentative date for this talk is **Thursday January 24**. When we have confirmed the time and date, we will send out another announcement.

Have a wonderful winter break. I hope to see you at the January parenting meeting, and on **Tuesday February 5** at 7pm for the next PTA meeting.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- Dec. 24 – Jan. 1 NO SCHOOL (Winter break)
- Mon. Jan. 21 NO SCHOOL (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- Tues. Jan 22 NO SCHOOL (Professional Day)
- Thurs. Jan 24 Parenting Program, “Importance of Effort”
- Tues. Feb. 5 PTA Meeting, 7pm**
- Tues Feb. 12 NO SCHOOL (Primary election)
- Mon. Feb 18 NO SCHOOL (Presidents’ Day)
- Wed. Feb. 27 Early Release  
Science Fair, 6:30-8pm

- 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 superintendant 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.

**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.

**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.

**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!



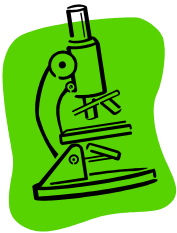
## NOTICE FOR KAH PARENTS



The PTA Childcare Committee is collecting contributions for holiday gifts for the KAH staff. Please watch your children's backpacks for the full announcement. All

contributions must be placed in the PTA mailbox by **December 17, 2007**. Please make checks payable to "Joseph Piff" and provide your child's name and directions for applying your gift (e.g., AM-Care, PM-Care, or both). If you have questions, please call Joe Piff at 240-292-4083.

## SCIENCE FAIR NEWS



Mark your calendars for Farmland's Fourth 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. The deadline for

registration is **January 7**, but the sooner your child registers, the sooner we can provide a display board. Extra copies of the green registration flier are available in the school office.

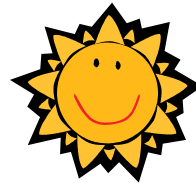
We are still looking for scientists, engineers, health care professionals, mathematicians and other parents and friends with a background or interest in math or the sciences to act as science fair reviewers. The night of the science fair, reviewers meet with our budding young scientists, ask questions 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. If you are available to act as a reviewer, please contact Kim Dettelbach at [kimdettelbach@comcast.net](mailto:kimdettelbach@comcast.net). If you have any questions about the science fair, please contact Deborah Bray at [deb@broun.org](mailto:deb@broun.org)

## THE STAFF APPRECIATION COMMITTEE



The Staff Appreciation Committee, Marissa Shenkan and Suzanne Eichner Sandberg, would like to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for the Teacher's Pre-Thanksgiving lunch. They really liked the soup

and salad buffet, but your pies were the highlight of the event! We have received many compliments. Thank you to Jill Gendelman, Kellyann Dorfman, Karen Belt, Caroline Cooksey, Ilene Reid, Kim Dettelbach, Lisa Bonato, Liz Brinker, Diane Cordray, Lisa Tillman, and Monique Anderson for your delicious pies!



## THANKS FOR THE SUNSHINE!

The Sunshine committee would like to thank Connie Jacobson, mother of 5th-grader Sam and 3rd-grader Jackie, for providing the beautiful caramel-corn-covered birthday cake for November staff birthdays. It looked yummy!

## GIRLS ON THE RUN: A HUGE SUCCESS!



Twenty-one 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders from Farmland's Girls on the Run (GOTR) team successfully completed nine weeks of training and ran in the Montgomery County GOTR Fall Frolic 5K early Saturday morning, November 17. The GOTR Montgomery County served 195 girls in 14 locations, and it was exciting to be a part of this non-profit program that promotes training for a 5K through a curriculum that encourages the girls to develop self-respect, increase their self-esteem and make healthy choices. The girls also participated in a community service project where they collected food for Manna's Smart Sack program. Together with the other GOTR teams, we donated 257 pounds of food! Special thanks go to our incredible volunteer coaches, including two of our very own teachers: Traci Maturro, Ashley Weissenburger, Susan Beach, Angie Bosse, Nadine Findeisen, Ginnie Hartman, Heather Hochberg, and Cheryl Morris. We look forward to doing the program again in the spring!



**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 December 11

Farmland only has 54 individuals designated. **We are getting better!** So far, Farmland has earned \$300.30.

All you have to do is log on to [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://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](http://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 \$206.27 toward the March 2008 payment. Happy spending!

The ID# for **Farmland Elementary is 58128**. To register, log onto [www.target.com](http://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](mailto: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.

**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](http://www.farmland-pta.org)) or by joining our listserv ([farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com).)**

**For Harvest submissions please send them via email to [ruthieftm@aol.com](mailto:ruthieftm@aol.com)**