



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

February, 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-- Deedee Jacobsohn

We had a nice turnout at our February PTA meeting, and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to attend. In addition to taking care of some business, we heard a presentation by Njeri Williams, our GT staff liaison, about Gifted & Talented testing, GT experiences, and some of the ways the curriculum at Farmland is extended/accelerated for all students. There was a spirited discussion about extension and acceleration, and I hope to find ways to provide more information to parents about some of the curriculum opportunities at Farmland. Thank you, Njeri, for an informative evening!

Also at the PTA meeting, Diane Smith gave an update on two committees at Farmland. The Dr. Fineman Memorial Fund Committee approved a proposal to purchase books for a spelling curriculum that a group of Farmland teachers has been exploring. The Discipline Committee (composed of parents and teachers) is revising Farmland's discipline policy; when completed, the policy will be distributed for comments.

On **Tuesday March 4**, Dr. Stetson will conduct a "Leadership Skills Survey" after the PTA meeting. This survey is our opportunity to let Dr. Stetson know what qualities are important to us in a principal. This is the first step in the search for a new principal for Farmland, and I hope we will have an outstanding turnout! We have requested Chinese, Korean, and Japanese translators for the meeting.

The PTA sponsored a wonderful speaker this month. I would like to thank Mrs. Maring and our Guidance Committee for organizing the talk by Amy Kines about "The Importance of Effort." The media center was full of parents interested in learning about a better way to motivate our children to succeed, and the discussion of how and why to reward effort over ability was eye opening.

Our science fair is coming and I hope you will join us to look at all the projects our children will display. There are over one hundred children participating! The science fair will be **Wednesday February 27** from 6:30 until 8:30.

Spring is just around the corner...which means it is already time to start planning for next year! The PTA Board will be electing a nominating committee and the nominating committee will present a slate of officers for 2008/2009 at the April meeting. If you are interested in being on the board, or a committee chair, or simply in finding out more about any of these positions, please contact me (deedee@jacobsohn.org), Peggy Ellett (elletts5@verizon.net) or Teri Brenits (teribmom@verizon.net).

I hope to see you at the March 4 PTA meeting at 7pm, to be followed by Dr. Stetson's "Leadership Skills Survey"!

UPCOMING EVENTS

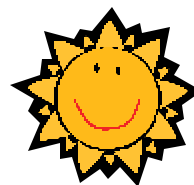
February:

18 No school, Presidents' Day
27 Early Release;
Science Fair, 6:30-8:30pm
29 Tilden Charity Basketball game, doors open 6:30, game starts 7:30

March:

4 **PTA Meeting, 7pm; Dr. Stetson,
Leadership Skills Survey**
21-28 Spring Break

THANKS FOR THE SUNSHINE!



Thanks go out to Maria Diaz, mother of 5th-grader Michael McDonnell-Diaz, for providing the staff birthday cake for January. It looked delicious!

The Sunshine Committee

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Thank you to all of the parents who have already volunteered their time this year to help with our many wonderful PTA activities!

At this time, we are looking for a few more volunteers to help the Sunshine Committee by baking a birthday cake in March, May or June. This cake is presented by the PTA once a month to help celebrate the birthdays of all of the teachers and staff whose big day falls in that month. If you would like to help us show our appreciation by baking a cake, please contact Liz Brinker at alsobrinker@hotmail.com.

Additionally, we need help with copying the Harvest during the months of May and June. Copying can be done before, during or after school (though before and after school hours may be easier) and should take about 2 hours to complete. This is an easy one time volunteer commitment, but is of huge help to the PTA. Please contact Deedee Jacobsohn (deedee@jacobsohn.org) or Teri Brenits (teribmom@verizon.net) if you can help.

MCCPTA REFLECTIONS ART SHOW AND COMPETITION

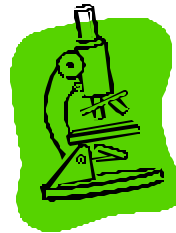
Congratulations to all of Farmland's students who participated in the MCCPTA Reflections Art Show:

- Second grader Hannah Seley received Awards of Merit for her visual and literary artwork entitled "I Can Make a Difference".
- Anna Yvonne Kim received an Award of Excellence for her visual artwork, "Trees Like Clean".
- Samson Seley received an Award of Excellence for his literary artwork, "The Little Engine that Couldn't".
- Samuel Oh received an Award of Excellence for his musical artwork "The Solar System" and his film artwork, "Four Seasons".
- Yuri Terunuma received an Award of Excellence for his photographic artwork, "I Can Make a Difference By Turning Cars Into Sneakers".
- Jonah Loeb received an Award of Excellence for his photographic artwork, "Friendship."

Students who received an Award of Excellence for their artwork will go on to compete in the State-level

Reflections Art competition. Good luck to all of these students in the next level of competition.

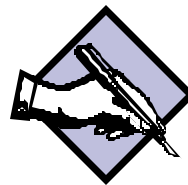
SCIENCE FAIR NEWS



Save the date! Farmland's fourth annual science fair is happening **Wednesday, February 27** from 6:30 until 8:30. More than 130 students are doing projects on subjects ranging from aerodynamics to zoology. In addition, the Fifth Grade will be holding a bake sale during the fair. Bring your family and friends and support our young scientists!

A reminder to students participating in the fair: you should bring your completed display boards to the all-purpose room when you come to school on the morning of the 27th. If you have a model or any other materials, bring those with you in the evening. Plan to arrive for the fair by 6:15, so you can find your spot and set up your materials.

FARMLAND ARTS MAGAZINE



Calling all young writers and artists! We want your stories, your poems, or your artwork for the "**Scarecrow's Corner**," Farmland's annual arts magazine. All entries will be published as long as you follow these

guidelines:

- All work should be on a white 8½ x 11 piece of paper (without lines, please).
- Stories or poems should be typed, double spaced, and no longer than one page.
- Do not forget to include the title, your name, grade, and teacher's name (original artwork will be returned).
- Please have an adult proofread and spell-check before submitting.
- Turn in your entry to the main office (look for the "Scarecrow's Corner" box) no later than **Friday, February 29**.

Questions? Please contact Lauren Greenberg at labbeyg@yahoo.com. We look forward to seeing your work in print!

BINGO NIGHT (APRIL 25)



We need your help to make Bingo Night the fun, family event that it has been in the past. Here is how you can help:

Donate Prizes (we mostly need prizes geared towards children, but some adult gifts would be great as well):

- Re-gift a **new** toy, game, stationery, book, CD, or DVD that you already have in your home;
- Donate money (\$5 to \$10) for the committee to make purchases; or
- Donate gift certificates (toy, book or sporting goods stores; eateries or restaurants; movies or sporting event tickets; or video store rentals).

Solicit Prizes (again, mostly prizes appropriate for children, but some adult gifts are needed too):

- From local businesses for merchandise or gift certificates. I have already written the letter and have plenty of copies. Ideally, several different people can commit to canvassing one shopping center each, e.g., Cabin John Mall, Congressional Plaza or Montrose Crossing. This should be a coordinated effort, so we do not ask the same establishment twice for a donation.

Staff the Event:

- Distribute pre-purchased bingo cards and markers, and sell cards and markers at the door;
- Set up the tables and put out the prizes;
- Staff the prize table;
- Purchase, set up and sell food; or
- Clean up after the fun is over.

Please contact Holli Beckerman Jaffe at (301) 984-7809 or mahobela@comcast.net if you can help in any (or all!) of the above ways.

BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION



Please send in our Box Tops for Education coupons **in the next two weeks** so we can submit

them for this year's cycle.

Do you shop online? If you do, you can earn money for Farmland's PTA by logging on through the Box Tops marketplace before you go shopping. Register once and designate your school, and then simply go to the usual sites where you shop. A percentage of what you spend will come back to Farmland at no extra cost to you. Go to

<https://www.boxtops4education.com/Login.aspx?redirectUrl=%2fMarketplace%2fDefault.aspx>

Alternatively, just Google Box Tops shopping and find the link there to sign up today.

PLEASE SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

Throughout the year, many businesses donate merchandise and services to the PTA. Without their support, our events would not be nearly as successful, and in some cases, would not take place at all. Please keep this in mind, return the favor and frequent these establishments.



- A.C. Moore (Mid Pike Plaza)
- Advanced Martial Arts
- Armand's Pizzeria (Congressional)
- Baja Fresh (Congressional)
- Baskin Robbins (Cabin John)
- Bethesda North Marriott Hotel & Conference Center
- Bloom (Wintergreen)
- Carnival Day/KAH
- Fitness First (Wintergreen)
- Giant Food (Montrose Crossing)
- Jacob's Autorama
- Kia Kianni, DDS & Associates
- Rogan C. Schneider, DDS
- Let's Dish (Rockville)
- Mama Lucia's (Federal Plaza)
- PJ's Soccer/Lacrosse
- Roni Rosenthal-Gazit
- Silver Diner (Mid Pike Plaza)
- Trader Joe's (Federal Plaza)
- Whole Foods (Congressional)

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 February 8, Farmland only has 56 individuals designated and has earned \$564.61. We can do better!

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 \$300.23 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

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

