



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

October, 2008

■ Joe Piff

Our October PTA meeting covered a lot of material, but very quickly! My thanks to each presenter. We had to cover two months of business because of the local, state and national election that takes place on Tuesday, November 4. (Farmland PTA will not have a meeting on that day as we are not allowed to have ANY school functions on Election Day.) However, I hope all of you who are registered voters and use Farmland as your polling place will briefly visit the school that day to exercise your right to select your government leaders and representatives.

Matt Hamill, our **Treasurer**, reported what he described as “normal” financial activity for this time of year. Teachers are properly submitting requests for reimbursement for supplies for their classrooms and the checks are going out. Other expenses to date include such activities as Staff Appreciation, Opera, Insurance, and Miscellaneous Operating Expenses (e.g., bank fees). On the income side, we have PTA dues and Voluntary Contributions to the PTA. Finally, Spirit-wear sales were highly successful, but this is a minor fund raiser wherein we price each item just slightly above our purchase price and hope to make a small profit by the end of the year.

Josh Wisniewski, our webmaster, has done an excellent job of renewing the look of the **Farmland PTA website** (www.farmland-pta.org), even pulling at least one all-nighter to get things up and running. We will try to keep him busy with updates and announcements. Please visit often!

In her **Principal’s Report**, Ms Smith talked about the modernization progress and general interest items about the school. Everyone has settled into the “routine” and teaching and learning are being pursued. Parent-Teacher conferences happen November 11 and 12. If you have not signed up

for one of these conferences and wish to participate, please contact your child’s teacher.

Our **Teacher’s Representative** will alternate between Ms Moore (Kindergarten) and Ms Fincher (5th Grade). Ms Fincher gave her first report at the October 7 meeting. She thanked the PTA for our support and provided information on her situation and general teacher information. I suggested that a future report might include a presentation on the training that our teachers receive. With all of the new technology that is available in the classroom, I would be interested in knowing what support our county and state governments (i.e., our tax dollars) provide to the teachers for incorporating this option into their teaching techniques.

Walk and Bike to School Day was October 8, the day after the PTA meeting. My son, who is one of Farmland’s safety patrols, told me that one crossing guard helped about 270 students cross the street. That makes me believe the day was quite successful.

The **Sally Foster Gift Wrap** fundraiser will have officially ended as you read this letter, but orders will still be accepted at SallyFoster.com. Enter the Farmland account number 501390 during the checkout process. If you have questions, please contact Ilene Reid at 301-230-1864 or Lisa Garson at 301-468-8043. Remember that Farmland gets a full 50 cents of every dollar of sales.

This sale is a crucial source of funding for PTA sponsored activities, including cultural arts assemblies, gift to the school and special projects.

Another great fundraiser is the annual **PTA Book Fair**. This year’s “Jungle Book Fair” will be held in the gym October 20 – 24th. Please see the article that begins on the next page for more information.

The **Fall Carnival** is scheduled for Sunday, October 26, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM, rain or shine.

You may want to use this event to make your final preparations for Halloween by decorating a pumpkin or making a scarecrow. Fun outdoor activities are planned. See page three and watch the PTA website for additional information.

After the PTA business meeting, Linda Bart, Farmland's Counselor, gave a presentation on her program. Some of her topics were Character Education, the "Thoughtful Treasures Program," the Welcome Buddies Program, Classroom Guidance, and Peacemaking Skills. Ms Bart is coordinating other informative speakers who will follow our regular PTA meetings. Watch our website for announcements concerning these adult learning opportunities.

One of my privileges as PTA President is to receive many announcements concerning PTA contests, some of which result in cash awards to the PTA. However, each of these contests starts with membership and membership involvement. We all know that Farmland PTA is the best PTA in the country! So, let's prove it, first by joining the PTA by paying your dues (only \$15.00 per member per year), and then by participating in one of our many events. Our committee chairs will report the names of all of the participants on their committees and we will build a database to honor and demonstrate our wide and strong group of participating parents. Please visit the PTA website (www.farmland-pta.org), fill out the membership form and turn it in to your classroom teacher or the PTA mailbox in the main office. Then, GET INVOLVED!!!

Finally, I would like to encourage you to join the **Farmland List Serve**. This is an email notification of important items of interest to the Farmland community. The announcements are reviewed prior to sending, so only the most appropriate information is released. If an emergency of any type should occur at Farmland, this is one method of communication that we would employ to inform our parents. Therefore, please join the Farmland List Serve by sending an email to farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoo.com and write "subscribe" in the subject line.

Have a great two months, participate in the many PTA and school activities planned during that time, join PTA, and ***come to our next meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008.***

MISSION OF PTA

- To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in our schools, in our community and before governmental agencies and other organizations that make decisions affection children;
- To assist parents in developing the skills they need to raise and protect their children; and
- To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of this nation.

Taken from the Montgomery County Council of PTAs Handbook



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you are able to help the PTA photocopy The Harvest, please contact editor Peggy Ellett at elletts5@verion.net. It involves a couple of hours photocopying at Farmland the second Monday of each month.

Many thanks to Mike O'Donnell and Holli Beckerman Jaffe for copying and distributing the September and October issues of The Harvest, respectively. Without their help, The Harvest couldn't have been published. THANK YOU!

FARMLAND'S JUNGLE BOOK FAIR



This year's Book Fair will operate in the gym between October 21 and 24. This is a huge fundraiser for the PTA, as well as a great way to get books for your child—and don't forget your child's classroom, the school library, and our sister school.

Teacher Read Night will be Wednesday the 22nd, so mark your calendars now! Your children will have an opportunity to preview the books during school, so you may see a few wish lists come home in their back packs. Parents are welcome any time during book fair hours:

BOOK FAIR HOURS:

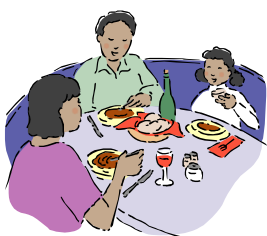
Tuesday, October 21, 8:00am – 6:00pm
 Wednesday, October 22, 8:00am – 8:30pm
 (Family Night 6:30 – 8:30)
 Thursday, October 23, 8:00am – 6:00pm
 Friday, October 24, 9:00am – 11:00am

RESTAURANT NIGHT!

Date: Thursday, November 6th

Time: 5:00pm-10:00pm

Where: Baja Fresh Rockville
 1607 Rockville Pike,
 Congressional Plaza
 (301) 770-4339



Earn money for Farmland by coming to **Baja Fresh** for a fun night with family and friends. 15% of the proceeds from that night will go to our school! This year, you do not need

to bring in a flyer for Farmland to get credit for your purchase. Just come, eat, and enjoy!

FARMLAND PTA CARNIVAL

The PTA Carnival will be held at Farmland Elementary School on Sunday, October 26, 2008 from 1-4 pm, rain or shine. There will be many fun moon bounces, terrific games, and exciting activities.

You will be able to take a chance at the ever-popular cake walk. **NEW THIS YEAR:** The Rock

Climbing Wall! In addition, there will be all your favorite carnival foods: popcorn, pucker powder and cotton candy. Armand's will be on hand with their wonderful pizza, salads and subs, and a big supply of cold drinks. Mark the carnival on your calendar and get ready for a fun afternoon.



We will again offer two payment options: all-inclusive pay-one-price wristbands (\$13 pre-sale, \$15 on the day of the carnival); or pay-as-you-go individual tickets (\$10 pre-sale, \$12 on the day of the carnival for a sheet of 24). The wristbands will give you:

unlimited access to all rides and games; one serving of cotton candy, popcorn and pucker powder; one chance at the lollipop tree; and one turn on the Rock Climbing Wall. (The cake walk and Armand's food and drink will be additional charges.) Or, buy tickets and pay for each ride, game or food item you enjoy. (Generally, games will be 1 ticket, and rides, food and activities will cost between 2 and 4 tickets.)

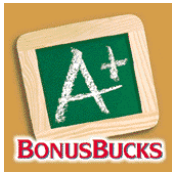
Many volunteers are needed to make this event a success. Adult volunteers and Tilden and WJ students (student service learning credit is available) are needed for all time slots (1-2pm; 2-3pm; 3-4pm; and 4-5pm (clean up)), as well as bakers for the cake walk.

Please see attached pre-sale and volunteer sign-up forms. Questions? Please contact Holli Beckerman Jaffe at 301-984-7809 or mahobela@comcast.net.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

DATE	EVENT
Oct. 21 – 24	Book Fair
Oct. 26	Fall Carnival
Nov. 4	Election Day: NO PTA Meeting
Nov. 6	Baja Fresh Restaurant Night
Nov. 11-12	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Nov. 22	GOTR 5K Fun Run
Dec. 2	Next PTA Meeting

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL



The **2008-2009 Giant Food's A+ Bonus Bucks program** began on **October 3, 2008** and runs through April 2, 2009. The program requires that you re-designate your choice of school each year. It's not too late!

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.

AND



For Safeway fans, there is the **Safeway Club Card for Education program**. This 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.**

AND



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.

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".

Thanks to you Farmland received \$394.68 in September! Happy Shopping!

If you have any questions, contact Shari Campbell at (301) 231-5346 (home) or scampbell@hrsa.gov

GIRLS ON THE RUN (GOTR)



Just a quick update to let you know that 30 girls (3rd, 4th, and 5th graders) are participating in Farmland's GOTR this fall.

We meet twice a week and train for a 5K through a curriculum that promotes friendship, confidence, and healthy choices. There are over 450 girls participating in GOTR throughout and we will all be together on Saturday, November 22nd at 7:45am at the South Germantown Recreational Park to end our season with a 5K fun run (please come out and join us).

Special thanks goes to our wonderful teacher volunteer coaches – Ashley Weissenburger, Rachel Dinkin, and Traci Maturro, our parent coaches – Susan Beach, Rebecca Maranville, Cheryl Morris, Ilene Reid, Mary Jo Speier, and to our student volunteer coaches – Sarah Scalet, Annie Scalet, Marisa Gilman, and Tali Reiss.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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

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301-230-5919

PTA President: Joe Piff
Principal: Mrs. Diane Smith
Harvest Editor: Peggy Ellett

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

For Harvest submissions please send them via email to elletts5@verizon.net and indicate HARVEST in the subject line.

Hey, Carnival Go-ers!

Save Money! Save Time! Take Advantage of Two Pre-Pay Options:

All-Inclusive Carnival Wristbands or a Sheet of Individual Tickets

Wristbands: For one low price, the wristband gives your child: unlimited access to all rides and games; one serving of cotton candy, popcorn and pucker powder; one chance at the lollipop tree; and one turn on the Rock Climbing Wall. (The cake walk and Armand's food and drink will be additional charges.)

Tickets: Or, buy tickets and pay for each ride, game or food item you enjoy. (Generally, games will be 1 ticket, and rides, food and activities will cost between 2 and 4 tickets.)

Prices: The all-inclusive pay-one-price wristbands are \$13 pre-sale (before Oct. 24) or \$15 on the day of the carnival. Pay-as-you-go individual tickets are \$10 pre-sale (before Oct. 24) for a sheet of 24 or \$12 per sheet on the day of the carnival.

Important: You will be contacted by e-mail or phone to confirm your order, so please be sure to include both below. We hope that this process will avoid any lost wristband or ticket orders. We want your Carnival experience to be a great one, so please provide the requested information.

Questions: Please contact Holli Beckerman Jaffe at mahobela@comcast.net or (301) 984-7809.

Farmland PTA Carnival Pre-Sale Order Form

Yes! I want to save \$2.00 for each wristband or sheet of tickets I order. Please reserve the number of wristbands or ticket sheets I indicated below.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail Address: _____

Pre-sale Wristbands:

\$13 x ____ (number of wristbands ordered) = \$ ____

Pre-sale Ticket Sheets:

\$10 x ____ (number of ticket sheets ordered) = \$ ____

Checks (payable to Farmland PTA) or cash accepted. Please return your order in an envelope marked PTA Carnival Pre-sale by Friday by October 24, 2008.

Volunteers Needed

Farmland Carnival

Sunday, October 26, 2008 1-4 pm

WILL YOU PLEASE HELP?

Parents: We need your help. We're looking for volunteers to bake for the Cake Walk, sell tickets, and monitor the rides.
(Also, our alums from Tilden and WJ are welcome to help and receive student service learning credit.)

Please contact:

Holli Beckerman Jaffe at 301-984-7809 or mahobela@comcast.net,
or complete the form below and
return to the Farmland office by Friday, October 24.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

YES! I will help with the Carnival. I can (check as many as you like):

Bake for the cake walk

Work at the Carnival:

Work a shift: 1-2 pm 2-3 pm 3-4 pm

Clean Up (4-5pm)

Name: _____

Phone number: _____ E-mail: _____

Child(ren)'s name and teacher/grade: _____

Please respond by e-mailing, calling the number listed above or
returning this form to Farmland's Office by Friday, Oct. 24, 2008. Thanks!