



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

December 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Joe Piff

If you missed the December 2008 PTA meeting, you missed an opportunity to get a whole lot of information! I will try to summarize it for you in this month's President's column. However, if you were there in person, you would have been able to participate in the discussions. Farmland PTA is not a dictatorship, but rather is a full democracy and your monthly participation is desired and encouraged!

We started the meeting with a *presentation by the architects for the Farmland Modernization*, followed by a question and answer period. In my opinion, the school is going to look very modern and will be a wonderful place of learning and fun for our children. The remodeled school will have a maximum capacity of 740 students, the limit for elementary schools in Montgomery County (MC). If greater enrollment is likely in the future, the boundaries defining Farmland attendance will be adjusted to lower the number of students to this limit. Additionally, MCPS is negotiating with the MC personnel who control the parkland behind the school to allow the school to establish outside playgrounds partially on the park property. That is a MAJOR enhancement to our property plan that will improve playground safety. At this point, everyone is encouraged that this will happen and we will let you know if any change occurs.

Our *Treasurer, Matt Hamill*, requested a modification to the budget that was discussed and approved, adding \$1200 to pay the expenses of a poet-in-residence.

Our *Principal's and Teacher's Reports* included information concerning a successful meeting of the School Improvement Plan committee, the date and time of the next meeting of that committee (Feb. 18 at 4:00 PM), the fact that a successful Code Blue and Code Red drill was performed on December 2, the Fifth Grade Chorus performance

“Go West,” scheduled for Friday, December 12 at 10:00 a.m. (one performance), and the request for volunteers for Career Day (Feb. 24, with a snow day of Feb. 25). *Ms. Smith* congratulated *Ms. Annie Moore* and *Ms. Pamela Strauss* on their selection as National Board Certified Teachers – wonderful accomplishments! Speaking for the teachers, *Ms. Moore* thanked the PTA Staff Appreciation committee for the luncheon provided on November 24. (See the PTA website for copies of the thank you notes.)

We proceeded into *Committee Reports*:

- We passed a new version of the Farmland PTA Bylaws, expertly prepared by *Bob Nugent*. The major change was a reduction of the required number of members in attendance to establish a quorum from 20 to 15.
- Cluster Rep. *Shari Campbell* reported that the primary issue in our cluster (the Walter Johnson cluster), is possible need for a new elementary school because of recent housing development in White Flint. A letter has been drafted to the Montgomery County Planning Board and the Montgomery County Council that concludes that the cluster schools “DO NOT SUPPORT adoption of the Sector Plan unless adequate property is reserved for a future elementary school within the sector ...”
- The Directory was distributed on December 4 thanks to the efforts of our chair, *Kate Heald*, who contacted the printer often to get it printed.
- The grocery store bonus programs are disappointing to date. **We need more parents to register their store cards for points for Farmland.** We discussed joining the programs of other stores in the area. Our chair, *Shari Campbell*, will pursue that idea. Target is doing well. *Bob Nugent* added that our PTA will earn money when you begin your on-line purchases by going to the Box Tops for Education website and registering yourself as a Farmland parent.
- Chair *Cheryl Morris* reported that Girls on the Run (GOTR) had a successful race and will resume in the Spring.

- *Andrea Nadelman* reported that the last meeting of MCCPTA was dominated by a two-hour discussion concerning closing schools for Inauguration Day 2009. The proposal failed.
- Chair *Caroline Cooksey* reported that the potluck dinners are going well, are lots of fun, and that all grades' dinners are either completed or scheduled.
- *Vice President Lisa Miller* recruited a new Chair for Restaurant Nights – *Robin Blackman*, with *Lisa Garson* acting as co-Chair. They are attempting to schedule one of these fund raising events monthly to both raise funds and to encourage families to mingle and get to know each other better, especially considering the separation from Farmland that we will begin to experience next school year (as a result of the Modernization project).
- I have been selling last year's leftover Spirit Wear at Potluck Dinners. I have many adult short-sleeve T-shirts in Small, Medium, Large and 2X sizes for \$5.00 each.
- *Michele Wisniewski* reminded everyone, especially committee chairs, that they must send her husband, Josh, information to be posted to the Farmland PTA website (www.farmland-pta.org). I added that the information also needs to be sent to *Peggy Ellett*, Harvest Editor, to further share information within our community.

Under **New Business**, *Niki Artman* asked about installing seat belts on the school buses which will transport our children the greater distance to North Lake holding school next year during the Modernization construction here at Farmland. We will pursue this issue with MCPS personnel. I believe a decision to install seat belts on our school buses will be made based on the results of research conducted by the County's staff since the buses are used for many schools with children ranging from pre-school size to high school size.

To stay up to date with happenings by and to the Farmland PTA, please ensure that you are a member of our list serve by sending an email to farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. This is very easy to do from the Farmland PTA website. Our **next PTA meeting will begin at 7:00 p.m. on**

January 6, 2009. After our business meeting, we will welcome social worker *Mark Gallagher*. He plans to discuss **Positive Discipline** (how to use consequences properly) and **Responsibility** (how to foster this in children and what we can do when a child show strong resistance). Other topics can be addressed too – just let me know what you would like to hear. And, **PLEASE ATTEND!!!**

OBJECTIVES OF PTA

- To promote the welfare of children and youth in home, school, community and place of worship.
- To raise the standards of home life.
- To secure adequate laws for the care and protection of children and youth.
- To bring into closer relation the home and the school that parents and teachers may cooperate intelligently in the education of children and youth.
- To develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and spiritual education.

Taken from the Montgomery County Council of PTAs Handbook

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Dec. 12, 10 a.m.	5th Grade Chorus “Go West” Performance
Dec. 14	Sister School Snowman Gift Deadline
Dec. 17, 7-9 p.m.	4th Grade Potluck
Dec. 31	PTA membership drive deadline...Please join PTA! See attached flyer.
Jan. 6, 2009, 7 p.m.	PTA Meeting
Feb. 2, 2009 (tentative)	1st Grade Potluck
Feb. 18, 2009, 4 p.m.	SIP Meeting
Feb. 24, 2009	Career Day

UPCOMING GRADE LEVEL POTLUCKS



**4th Grade: Dec 17,
7-9 p.m.**

Attention all 4th grade parents - Save the date for the fabulous Fourth

Grade Holiday Potluck! It's a great way to get into the holiday spirit! We hope you'll join us. Look for more information on the attached flyer.

--Jill Gendelman and Meg Gold, 4th grade event chairs

1st Grade: tentatively scheduled for Feb 2 (but permit not approved yet).

2nd and 3rd Grades: will wait for warmer weather. Look for information in the Spring.

Kindergarten and 5th Grade potlucks were a hit and very well attended in November. A special thanks to Stephanie Vordick, Lauren Greenberg, Honey Konicoff, and Liz Brinker for coordinating.

GIRLS ON THE RUN (GOTR)



We had a truly wonderful and successful season with 30 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade girls participating. On Saturday, November 22nd the girls ran the Montgomery County GOTR 5K fun run with over 800 others!

Jacquie Tolan and Traci Matturro came out and cheered us on and Ashley Weissenburger and Rachel Dinkin ran in the 5K with us. It was fabulous.

The girls also participated in a GOTR community service project called Soles4Souls where they collected gently used shoes which are being provided to those in need worldwide.

Thanks again to all of our wonderful volunteer

coaches. We will offer GOTR again in the Spring and new girls are welcome to join!

ADOPT A SNOWMAN FOR CHRISTMAS

Christmas time is here again and our Sister School is counting on our Farmland Santas to help provide (likely the only) gifts to some children.



If you would like a "Snowman" I'll try to match you up to the child you prefer—or as close as possible.

Please send an email to Connie Jacobson at

conniej23@yahoo.com stating the preferred adopted age/gender, and the name of your child's Farmland teacher. I'll send a snowman home via your child.

Example: "I would like to adopt a 7 year old Male. My child, Jane, is in Ms. Kindly's class."

All new, un-wrapped gifts are to be left in the Farmland Lobby **BEFORE DECEMBER 14th** with the Snowman attached.

Gifts: \$20 each, and range from Gift Cards, to Hannah Montana movies, to men's shirts, to CD Players, cars and Sponge Bob.

Please contact Sister School Chair Connie Jacobson at conniej23@yahoo.com for more information.

FARMLAND PTA CAN EARN MONEY WHEN YOU SHOP AT GIANT, SAFEWAY, TARGET AND MORE!!

NO COST TO YOU...REGISTER TODAY!



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 to register your card! So far we only have 41 individuals registered...we can do better!! You can enroll on-line at www.giantfood.com/aplus Farmland Elementary's ID # is 00720

AND

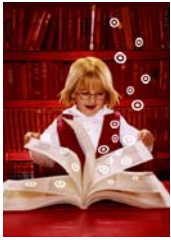


The **Safeway Club Card for Education program** is run by E-Scrip and now requires yearly renewal. You can earn up to 3% of your monthly Safeway purchases for

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.

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".

AND

I have submitted paperwork so that Farmland can participate with **Harris Teeter**. I am awaiting the confirmation and enrollment information. Upon request, I am also exploring participation with **Bloom**. Once I have further details, I will let you know. Thanks!!

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

JOIN THE PTA – HELP OUR SCHOOL

**JOIN
PTA**

Thank you all who have joined the PTA this year and to those who have made additional donations.

As the largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation, National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of every child and the best tools to help their children be safe, healthy, and successful - in school and in life.

Even though our membership fee has increased from \$10 to \$15 this year (\$5 for teachers), *we have collected less in dues than last year.*

Without PTA support, programs such as Opera, Safety Patrol, Staff Appreciation and Cultural Arts are in jeopardy. Also, the dues pay for our school directory. Without the dues, we will either have to discontinue the printing or charge for the directory.

In addition to being the PTA membership chair, I am also the Directory Chair. There are well over 300 families at Farmland, and less than half of these families have joined the PTA. I know money is tight these days, but what is more important than your child's education?

It is my goal to increase membership by 33% by December 31st. Please help me reach my goal. **We currently have 153 families and staff that have joined the PTA this year. I would like to reach 200 by the end of the year.** Please join.

ONE MORE REASON TO JOIN PTA TODAY:

During the second half of this school year, **PTAs will have an opportunity to win a Dell laptop computer** for their unit through a special membership promotion from the national office.

To qualify for this contest, PTA units must register their total membership as of December 31, 2008 with the national office.

The 12 units which post the largest percentage

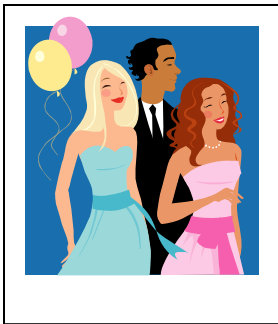
increase in membership (over their registered number) as of March 31, 2009 will be awarded a laptop computer in mid-May. Winners will be chosen from five pre-determined categories (based on unit size).

Please see the attached PTA membership application and consider joining this very worthwhile organization.

Remember, dues paid to Farmland PTA are fully tax deductible. Get your check in before January 1, 2009!

-- *Membership Chair Kate Heald*

WALTER JOHNSON'S AFTER PROM REQUESTS OUR HELP



Farmland PTA annually provides a \$100 donation to Walter Johnson High School for the After Prom Breakfast.

If you would like to make a personal donation to this event that is scheduled to provide a safe after-prom

alternative activity, please see the flyer attached to this issue of Harvest.

A HUGE THANK YOU!



Many thanks to *Gila Kama* for copying and distributing this issue of The Harvest. Without her help, this issue of The Harvest could not have been published.

Thank you, Gila!

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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

**Farmland Elementary School
7000 Old Gate Road
Rockville, MD20852
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@yahoogroups.com.)

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



Fourth Grade Family Holiday Dessert Potluck

Please Join Us!
Wed., December 17
From 7:00 – 8:30pm
All Purpose room

Please bring the following
(each family be sure to bring
a serving for at least 10-12 people):

Ms. Peters' Class: a favorite Holiday Dessert (Be creative)

Mr. Thomas' Class: A favorite Holiday Dessert (Be creative)

Mrs. Fischer's class: Drinks (Individual servings only – Plastic bottles or boxes)

Mrs. Goldberg's class: Fruit or fruit salad

Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

Any questions, please contact Jill Gendelman (Jill@Gendelman.us) or Meg Gold (Meg1037@verizon.net). Thanks!



Walter Johnson High School

After Prom Breakfast Committee
6400 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814

December 5, 2008



Walter Johnson After Prom Breakfast 2009

Dear Walter Johnson High School Cluster Community,

The Walter Johnson High School PTSA will host its **Annual WJ After Prom Breakfast on May 16, 2009** immediately following the Prom. This parent and teacher chaperoned event which is held at WJ provides a **safe venue** for WJ seniors and their guests to extend the fun of the Prom all night and into the early morning hours. It is free of charge to all WJ seniors and their guests regardless of whether they attend the Prom. Last year's event was attended by a majority of the seniors.

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORTING THIS IMPORTANT EVENT. Since it is free to those attending **we need your support** so that we can provide the transportation, food, t-shirts, entertainment and prizes that are necessary to make this an appealing and memorable event for our seniors. This event is funded entirely by contributions.

Each and every donation, no matter how large or small, is critical to the success of this important event. If you can make a donation, please complete the form below and return it with your check. Your contribution to the Walter Johnson High School Prom Breakfast is greatly appreciated.

We sincerely hope that you can assist us with a donation to make this event a success.

Thank you for your support. If you have questions, please contact:

Shirley Johnson, coneyjohnsons@mail.nih.gov
Committee Chairperson

Stacy Benjamin, slou612@aol.com
Fundraiser Co-Chairperson

Terri Romani, rr52@earthlink.net
Fundraiser Co-Chairperson

Yes, I would like to support the WJ After Prom Breakfast, which provides a safe venue for WJ seniors and their guests after the prom.

Please make check payable to
WJHS Prom Breakfast.

Return this form with your check to:
**After Prom Breakfast Committee
Walter Johnson High School
6400 Rock Spring Drive
Bethesda, MD 20814**

Name(s) _____ Donation Amount _____

Address _____

Feeder School _____

KAH HOLIDAY GIFTS!!!!

Parents of KAH Kids:

The PTA Childcare Committee is coordinating the collection of donations for holiday gifts for the KAH staff. By pooling our resources in joint gifts, we are hoping to be able to provide each staff member with a significant amount of cash that they can use to purchase something really nice as a holiday token of our appreciation.

If you are interested in making a contribution, please send your donation to school in an **envelope marked "PTA Childcare Committee,"** take it to the school office, and place it in the PTA mailbox. Please **enclose a note with your child's name** indicating whether the donation is for the Morning Care staff (Jose, Ms Mely, Nicole, Maria and Sean), and/or the After Care staff (Jose (5), Ms Mely (5), Sean (5), Karen (5), Nick (3), Alex (3), Ashley (2), Lisa (2), and Dekel (2), and Nicole (1)). The morning staff works daily, the afternoon staff works on the days indicated (if (5), they work daily).

The amount that you give is totally up to you. Truly, any amount would be appreciated, but as an example, if the donation is split evenly, \$10 for the before school staff would mean that each staffer would receive \$2.50, \$10 for the after school staff would mean that each staffer would receive \$1.00.*

Either cash or check is fine. **Again, please enclose a note with your child's name so that we can include it on the gift cards.** For a number of reasons, we cannot pass this payment through Farmland PTA. **Please make checks payable to "Michele Wisniewski."**

December 19th is our deadline for contributions to allow time for the committee to assemble and deliver the gifts before the beginning of the holiday break.

Thank you very much!

If you have any questions, call Michele Wisniewski at 301-881-3315 or
wisniewskimichele@yahoo.com

*If you want to designate particular staffers to receive your donation, please feel free to enclose this information with your cash or check. We will gladly honor any such requests. Otherwise, we will split your donation evenly as described above.

Parent Speaker Evening

"School Age Anxiety" *Coping with School and Social Pressures*



Mark Gallagher (Psychologist)

(Expressive Therapy Center)

will be speaking at:

Farmland Elementary School

7000 Old Gate Road

Rockville Maryland 20852

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

(PTA meeting at 7:00 p.m.)

Please join us!

(Unfortunately there will not be any babysitting services.)

The Farmland Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Needs Your Support!

Dear Farmland Families,

The PTA has a significant impact on the way Farmland functions. Joining the PTA shows support for our school. You can show your support by attending PTA meetings, working on an activity or event, and of course by paying your annual membership dues. For just **\$15.00** (\$5.00 for teachers) a year your membership gives you a vote at PTA meetings and also includes dues for the state and national PTA organizations, strengthening our advocacy for all children.

Your dues and your involvement help support the following PTA functions:

- Communication between parents, teachers, and administration
- School assemblies and cultural arts programs
- Social and fund raising events including: Fall Festival, Carnival, Farmland Follies, Bingo, Book Fair, and Gift Wrap Sale
- Literary magazine and the Science Fair
- Sponsorship of special classes including our foreign language program (FLES), class piano, Mad Science and Chess Club
- Grants to the Opera, Chorus, and Artist in Residence programs

The PTA provides parents and families with a powerful voice to speak on behalf of each child while providing the best tools for parents to help their children be successful students. Together we can make a difference.

It's easy to join the PTA. Please complete the form below and return it to the PTA mailbox located in the school office in an envelope marked PTA Membership, along with a check for your dues and any extra donation you would like to make. Please make checks payable to **Farmland PTA**. Your **\$15** dues entitle you to a single membership and one vote. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Heald at 301-881-1389, kate.heald@netzero.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Dues enclosed (**\$15**) \$_____ Check #_____

Donation Amount \$_____

Total Enclosed \$_____ Thank you!!!