



# The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

February 2009

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

--Joe Piff

What do you think I find to be the biggest issue at Farmland at this time? If you guessed the Modernization and move to the North Lake holding school, you are correct. At the February PTA meeting we discussed how Farmland PTA is going to operate over the next two years.

*Diane Smith* gave the Principal's report. She stated that Reading Assessment was extended two days because of the snow days. She wants the move to North Lake to be a positive experience – we are going for 1½ to 2 years and that will be our school for that period. Instead of spreading rumors, if you hear something that does not go along with your impressions, please ask Diane for clarification. I forwarded all emails that were sent to me concerning the summer versus winter move to Diane. She consolidated and sent our parent and teacher responses to Mr. James Song, Director, Division of MCPS Construction, for review. Diane stated that the responses fell into three categories: (1) those who were against the Modernization and did not want to move at all, (2) those who were concerned about the fact that their children will be getting home so much later (Farmland's start time will remain the same), and (3) those concerned about access to the Farmland playground equipment during the construction. Diane will be able to arrange for activity buses after school, but not before school. She asked Craig Shuman, Project Manager, Division of Construction, about the fencing. He agreed to look into the possibility of retaining access to that equipment for as long as possible.

Other information shared concerning the holding school is that it does not have a gym, so PE and lunch will have to share a space (the All Purpose Room) and it will have temporary classrooms (trailers). We are going to North Lake because it is the largest holding school in this part of the county.

Career Day is being rescheduled.

*Annie Moore* gave the **Teacher's Report**. She said that the Fifth Grade Poetry Slam was a success. Her concern about the move is the availability of Kindergarten room volunteers. Some of our volunteers walk from

Congressional. Will they be able to get to North Lake?

*Matt Hamill's Treasurer's Report* highlighted the areas of the budget where activity had taken place. We received a check for \$225 from Ledo Pizza. (Diane added that it was very good that the event went on for two days, including lunch, and that some Farmland staff participated more than once.) Matt feels that the financial situation is satisfactory.

The meeting then went into an open discussion on how to operate the PTA while we are at the North Lake location. One suggestion was to have events that include both students and parents at the holding school and allow events that involve only adults to be scheduled at the "best" location.

We discussed fund raising. We suggested looking at the overall philosophy to determine if fewer, but larger, events would be more acceptable than more, smaller events. Events need to be designed to strengthen our community bonds.

We were told that PTA is a "mystery," especially to many of the parents of our foreign students. We may want to hold some PTA meetings at Congressional. In the past, we paired foreign parents who wanted to participate in PTA activities with a "buddy," but the pairing process took a dedicated volunteer effort and it was abandoned. Also, many people do not know how the funds raised by the PTA were being applied. Let me state here that it helps to attend PTA meetings to gain an understanding of how our efforts positively affect the school, but, for example, we provide funds for learning experiences that are outside the resources of MCPS, like our Cultural Arts and Opera funding.

In all, I found it to be an enlightening discussion with positive results that your current and future PTA boards can use in planning the next two years.

Finally, we started staffing our annual nominating committee to recruit a slate of officers for next year. If you are interested in participating on the nominating committee, please let me know.

Please stay informed about what is going on at Farmland and Farmland PTA by visiting the Farmland PTA website ([www.farmland-pta.org](http://www.farmland-pta.org)) and by joining

the Farmland list serve ([farmlandpta\\_subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:farmlandpta_subscribe@yahoo.com)). I will see you at the next PTA meeting on **March 3, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.** where a slate of officers for the 2009 – 2010 school year will be presented.



### RESTAURANT NIGHT

Don't miss the next Restaurant Night on **Thursday, February 19** at Hamburger Hamlet, 10400 Old Georgetown Road, Bethesda, from 5 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Fifteen percent of the proceeds go to Farmland. **Please make sure to bring the attached flyer** so Farmland gets credit. See you there!

-- Lisa Garson

### CULTURAL ARTS UPDATE



Due to the support of our PTA and the Maryland State Arts Council, the students at Farmland have enjoyed several assemblies and a poet in residence.

In November the students attended an assembly by an a cappella group called "Snowday". By listening to a large variety of genres and styles, such as chapel, spiritual, barber-shop, Doo Wop and contemporary, the students gained a new appreciation for the human voice. A surprise performance by "Hannah Montana" was a big hit!

In December, professional poet Elizabeth Rees, worked with our 5th grade students. She was able to meet with each class for five workshop days and concluded with the Poetry Slam – a public "coffee-house" style reading of their work. Students generally produced one poem per session and were exposed to free-verse form, odes, homages, family portraits and others. She was well received by the faculty, students and parents. We look forward to her return to the 4th grade in April.

In January, The Friends of Sironka African Dance Troupe performed for our school. Through traditional songs and dance of the Maasai and Luo people, the Kenyan dance troupe sheds light on their central values and cultural expressions. Their performance was enhanced by the dancers' colorful handcrafted

traditional clothing, percussion instruments and shields. This was a special experience for all of us. Upcoming events include Antonio Rocha, a Brazilian storyteller and mime, and our beloved Reptile Man.

-- Cheryl Lopez

### SCIENCE FAIR JUST AROUND THE CORNER



Time is running out to register your child for Farmland's Fifth Annual Science Fair, which will be held in the Gym and All Purpose Room from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 5.

The fair is open to everyone, from kindergartners to fifth graders! We charge \$5 to register each project, which covers the cost of a white board. Team up your kid with a partner (or even a group of friends) and let them discover the magic of science.

If your child doesn't want to make a project, please come to the science fair anyway! We'll have a hands-on table this year and there will be plenty of projects to interest everyone.

If you're an engineer or scientist and would like to volunteer at the fair this year, please email Lisa Peterson at [gettpeterson@yahoo.com](mailto:gettpeterson@yahoo.com). The "real" scientists give our children feedback on their projects. Everyone who enters gets a ribbon; there are no prizes.

Finally, if you have older kids who need community service hours, we are looking for help setting up on Thursday March 5 right after school. Make it a family affair!

-- Lisa Peterson

### BUY YOUR YEARBOOK TODAY



The deadline to purchase 2008-2009 Farmland Yearbooks is March 1, 2009.

Yearbooks are only \$20 per book this year!

No form is needed to order a yearbook. Please give your child's teacher cash or check, made payable to

Farmland PTA, along with your child's name and the number of books you are ordering. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

--Dana Hirsch

**MANY THANKS**



Farmland PTA is VERY grateful to Jen Oppenheim and Lisa Garson for some last-minute copying of The Harvest last month. It is so nice to see that we are part of a community that

pitches in and helps when needed.

If you have considered helping the PTA, but aren't quite sure how, this is one great way to start! Please let us know if you can copy a future edition of The Harvest. Send an email to editor *Peggy Ellett* at [elletts5@verizon.net](mailto:elletts5@verizon.net) to volunteer.

**GIRLS ON THE RUN – SIGN UP TODAY!!**



There are still spaces available in the Spring session of Girls on the Run (GOTR). We would love to have your 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grade girl join us.

We meet twice per week on Wednesdays and Fridays after school until 5 p.m. It is a nine-week session, starting on Wednesday, March 11, and culminating with a 5K fun run scheduled for Saturday, May 16.

Go to [www.girlsontherunofmoco.org](http://www.girlsontherunofmoco.org) for online registration and to learn more! The \$150 fee (there is a sliding scale and scholarships are available) covers program costs, snacks, t-shirt, water bottle and the 5K fun run entrance fee.

We are so excited to have 3<sup>rd</sup> grade teachers Ashley Weissenburger and Rachel Dinkin, and Kindergarten teacher Lori Feldman join us for Friday practices!! We had a great fall season and look forward to another wonderful spring season. For questions, please contact *Cheryl Morris* at [cgmorris@att.net](mailto:cgmorris@att.net).

--Cheryl Morris

**SISTER SCHOOL NEWS**

Thank you for your donations to our Sister School. Currently, there are lots of sales as the local grocery stores compete for our business. *If you see bargains, please get them.* We are likely to have another drive for food soon. Please store them for the (near) future. We'll let you know when we resume another food collection. Your help is greatly appreciated.

--Connie Jacobson

**BOX TOPS REMINDER**



Keep cutting those General Mills Box Tops for Education labels! Please send in your labels by **February 20th** so they can be

mailed in this month.

Just drop them off in the box in the lobby of the school. The labels will be redeemed for additional classroom needs.

Thanks for your participation!

--Bob Nugent

| MARK YOUR CALENDARS:              |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Feb. 3, 2009, 7 p.m.              | <b>PTA Meeting</b>                       |
| Feb. 18, 2009, 4 p.m.             | <b>SIP Meeting</b>                       |
| Feb. 19, 2009                     | <b>Hamburger Hamlet Restaurant Night</b> |
| March 5, 2009<br>6:30 – 8:00 p.m. | <b>Science Fair</b>                      |
| May 1, 2009                       | <b>Farmland Follies</b>                  |

**HELP FARMLAND WHILE YOU SHOP**



The **2008-2009 Giant Food's A+ Bonus Bucks program** 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! **We have raised \$566.06 so far...let's keep going!!**

You can enroll on-line at [www.giantfood.com/aplus](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus) Farmland Elementary's ID # is 00720.



The **Safeway Club Card for Education** program run by E-Scrip 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.

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."



**Bloom's Breeze School Rebate Program** will donate 1% of your total purchase amount to Farmland after you spend \$100 during each 3 month promotional period.

Purchases of alcohol, tobacco, gift cards, prepaid Mastercards and rental equipment do not apply toward the 1% contribution.

The ID# for **Farmland Elementary is 00973**. To register, log onto [www.shopbloom.com](http://www.shopbloom.com) or fill out a Breeze Card form at your local Bloom grocery store.



**Harris Teeter's Together in Education Program** will

donate 5% of customers' Private Label purchases once an account number is linked to their Harris Teeter VIC card. To link your card, simply tell the cashier (during check-out) that you want **Farmland's account number (7599)** linked to your Harris Teeter VIC card.

You can apply for a Harris Teeter VIC card at your local Harris Teeter grocery store or at [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com) Go to the bottom of the page under QUICK LINKS.

If you have any questions, contact Shari Campbell at [scampbell@hrsa.gov](mailto:scampbell@hrsa.gov) or 301-231-5346 (h).

--Shari Campbell



## GOT BOOKS?

Please consider donating used books now through February 27 to the **Walter Johnson High School 5th Annual Used Book Sale**. The sale is Saturday, March 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

You can drop off boxed items at the WJHS Main Office weekdays from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at 6400 Rock Spring Drive in Bethesda. They accept books for all reading levels, music CDs, movies and audio books, but NOT software, games, textbooks, manuals, encyclopedias or magazines.

Donations are tax deductible. Email [Booksale@walterjohnson.com](mailto:Booksale@walterjohnson.com) with questions.

## TIME TO REGISTER FOR THE FOLLIES



The Farmland Follies, the showcase of fabulous talent here at Farmland, is back by popular demand! Mark your calendars for Friday, May 1, 2009.

See the attached Registration Form to sign up and return the form to school by February 20

--Kate Heald

## THE HARVEST IS 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](http://www.farmland-pta.org)) or by joining our listserve ([farmlandpta-subscribe@vahogroups.com](mailto:farmlandpta-subscribe@vahogroups.com).)

For Harvest submissions please send them via email to [elletts5@verizon.net](mailto:elletts5@verizon.net) and indicate HARVEST in the subject line.



# Farmland Follies Registration Form 2009

Friday, May 1, 2009

Farmland Follies 2009

Farmland Follies 2009

Farmland Follies 2009

|                            |                       |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>*Name of Act:</b> _____ | <b>Grade/s:</b> _____ |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|

Description of Act: \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Name of Music, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Talent Leader/s (Parent / teacher): \_\_\_\_\_

Length of act (approximation) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

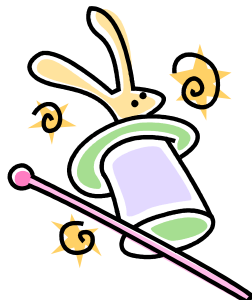
| Cast Names:   | Name  | Grade | Teacher |
|---|-------|-------|---------|
| List additional cast members on the back of this form | _____ | _____ | _____   |
|   | _____ | _____ | _____   |
|   | _____ | _____ | _____   |
|   | _____ | _____ | _____   |
|   | _____ | _____ | _____   |
|   | _____ | _____ | _____   |

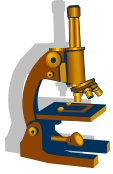
Volunteering interests: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Solo acts may only be performed by fifth grade students, all other acts must be performed in groups. If duplicate acts are submitted, groups may be combined.

\*\*All music must be provided on tape or cd one week prior to event date to Follies Committee

Please return form via your child to their teacher by February 20th. Thank you! Please direct all questions to [Kate.heald@netzero.com](mailto:Kate.heald@netzero.com)





## Science Fair Sign-Up

It's time to start thinking about science! Farmland's Science Fair will be held on THURSDAY **March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm- 8pm**. The Science Fair gives children the opportunity to explore the world around them using science, and then display their project at the Science Fair to share what they learned. Projects at the fair will not be judged; instead, every child who participates will receive a ribbon!

The deadline to sign up for the Science Fair has been extended to **Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>**. Your child will then choose a project.

If your child is interested in doing a project (alone, with a partner, or in a group), please fill out the form below. There is a **\$5 fee/project** to help cover the cost of the display board and other materials. When we receive the sign-up form and \$5 we will give your child a display board and a packet of information. The packet contains guidelines, project ideas and resources, and the title form to submit once the project has been chosen. Let your child's curiosity lead the way!

\* \* \* \* \*

**Science Fair Sign-Up Form      Due: Friday February 13<sup>th</sup>**

(Please return form, marked PTA Science Fair, to PTA mailbox or to your child's teacher)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email and phone number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

If you want to work with a partner please provide:

Partner Name(s)/Teacher(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The display board is 36"x48". Please let us know how you would like your child to bring it home.

- Please send the display board home with my child. (The board will be delivered to your child's classroom).
- I would like to pick up the display board in the school office. (A note or email will notify you that the board is in the office).

If you are paying the \$5 fee by check, please make it payable to "Farmland PTA."

*The PTA has scholarships available if you cannot pay the fee.*

If you have any questions, please contact:

Lisa Getter Peterson (gettpeterson@yahoo.com)



**Hamlet Bethesda**  
10400 Old Georgetown Rd.  
Bethesda, MD 20814

Come dine at Hamlet Restaurant & Bar and 15%  
of all food and non-alcoholic beverage sales  
(when accompanied with this flyer) will be  
donated to the

**Farmland Elementary  
School**

**Thursday February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

From 5 pm-9 pm

**COME JOIN THE FUN!!!!**

**(Don't forget to bring this flyer with you!)**

Remember: Flyers must be distributed prior to your fundraiser and may  
not be distributed at the restaurant during the event.