



# The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

March 2009

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*--Joe Piff*

The February PTA meeting went by quickly, in less than 45 minutes. In my President's report, I identified a service provided by MCPS to parents of students who are both bright and struggling. This information is available on the MCPS website at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/gtld/> or by contacting Marisa Stemple at 301-309-6272 or [Marisa\\_R\\_Stemple@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Marisa_R_Stemple@mcpsmd.org). I will ask Josh Wisniewski, our webmaster, to post this information on our website.

In his Treasurer's report, Matt Hamill presented the financial status in a new format, separating the report into three sections: School Support, Fundraising Activities, and Pass-through Activities. He requested a budget amendment to add \$50 to the Cultural Arts budget and that motion passed.

Our Principal, Diane Smith, had a lot to report. MCPS has decided to operate Farmland from its current location until Winter Break 2009. Classroom materials will be moved to the North Lake holding school during Winter Break and classes will be at North Lake for the remainder of the 2009 – 2010 school year and all of the 2010 – 2011 school year, with classes resuming at the current Farmland location in August 2011. Unfortunately, our request for two portable classrooms to be located at the current Farmland site for the first half of the 2009 – 2010 school year was denied. If student population estimates for that year are accurate, we will be crammed into our current space for that period. There will be sufficient classroom space at North Lake, but it will require 17 portable classrooms.

Previously presented plans stated that the part of the building from the library to the All Purpose Room would be torn down. New plans call for ALL of the original building to be taken down and completely rebuilt. The only remaining structure will be the addition that was constructed a few years ago.

Your PTA Board is meeting with Dr. Stetson on Monday, March 9, and Diane and I are attending the MC Board of Education meeting on March 10 to witness, and possibly participate in, the discussion of the Farmland modernization.

By next week, Diane should receive her approved staffing plan for next school year. She is hoping for two additional teachers – necessary to accommodate the expected additional students. Advertising to fill these positions will start shortly thereafter.

Farmland was recognized among 96 other schools in Maryland for showing significant improvement in our results of MSA testing. MSA testing for this year will begin shortly. Please ensure your students are in their classrooms on the mornings of MSA testing days.

Our Teacher's Representative was Annie Moore. She stated that some teachers are taking the Junior Great Books training. Farmland is celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday. And the Kindergarten teachers observed a Kindergarten program at another school.

The Nominating Committee gave its report. Members are Stacy Jungreis, Lisa Bonato, Michele Wisniewski and Lisa Garson. The PTA members who have volunteered to serve as officers next year are: President – Carol Lange, Vice Presidents – Lisa Miller, Caroline Cooksey, Treasurer – Matt Hamill, Recording Secretary – Lisa Garson, Corresponding Secretary – Lisa Bonato, Cluster Representative – Stacey Jungreis, Alternate Cluster Representative – Alan Hairston, and MCCPTA Representatives – Andrea Nadelman, Michele Wisniewski. The election will be held at the May 5, 2009, PTA meeting. Nominations from the floor for any position will be accepted prior to the election.

MCCPTA delegate Alan Hairston presented a summary of two motions that will come before the delegates at their next meeting. The first concerned the duties and responsibilities of MCCPTA delegates and the second was about accelerated and enriched instruction. Both motions were straightforward, within expectations, and were approved by the PTA members in attendance.

The status of Science Fair planning was reported. The Science Fair was conducted on Thursday, March 5, with approximately 200 students participating. The PTA operated a membership table to talk to all parents about the purpose of PTA, but especially those who do not frequently visit Farmland. The Fair was a huge success with many interesting and innovative displays.

Finally, Shari Campbell gave a status report on the special fundraising programs operated by the businesses in our community. We will receive a check from Target soon. Giant Food's program ends April 2. We have started a program with Harris Teeter, but have not earned much from it yet, because it applies only to its house brand. Bloom results are difficult to check.

After the meeting, we were honored by Ms. Maura Lynch who gave a very informative presentation on Cyber Bullying.

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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)). I will see you at the **next PTA meeting on May 5, 2009, at 7:00 p.m.**, where election of officers for the 2009 – 2010 school year will be conducted.

**PROPOSED SLATE OF PTA OFFICERS FOR 2009 – 2010**

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of candidates to serve as PTA officers for the 2009 – 2010 school year. Voting will take place at the PTA meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2009, at which time nominations will be accepted from the floor.

President	Carol Lange
Vice President	Lisa Miller
Vice President	Caroline Cooksey
Treasurer	Matt Hamill
Recording Secretary	Lisa Garson
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa Bonato
Cluster Representative	Stacey Jungreis
Alternate	Alan Hairston
MCCPTA	Andrea Nadelman
	Michelle Wisniewski

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (SIP) UPDATE**

The SIP team met in February to discuss how staff is doing with reaching **goals** of eliminating the number of all students scoring at basic level on MSA and increasing the percentage of students scoring advanced in the Math MSA with specific

emphasis on African American, Hispanic, Free and Reduced Meals Students, Special Education and Limited English Proficient students.

Staff shared test scores that show **growth across the board**. Teachers are working hard to ensure that all of our students are doing their very best. Extra help is provided in a variety of ways when needed. Teachers expressed the need for all students to work on **basic math facts** every day, at home. This is an area that all grade levels see as needing improvement. Please work with your child every night. Just as reading is part of homework, integrate practicing math facts as well. Njeri Williams has some great websites that help with math facts practice. Email her at [Njeri\\_D\\_Williams@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Njeri_D_Williams@mcpsmd.org) or ask your child's math teacher.

**Parents are encouraged to attend the SIP meetings.** If you are interested, our next meeting will be **April 24th at 8:00 a.m.** in the media center. If you plan to attend please email Diane Smith. If you have any questions about the parent role please feel free to contact me via email at [mskeller2000@verizon.net](mailto:mskeller2000@verizon.net).

-- *Melissa Keller, SIP Committee Chair*

**SISTER SCHOOL SENDS THANKS**



Our Sister School, Harmony Hills, is very appreciative of all of the contributions toward rent money for a jobless Harmony Hills parent. We were able to secure their home for another month.

Harmony Hills also needs our help providing monthly snacks for their Homework Club through May. The Sister School Committee will send out a plea for contributions once a month. Please consider buying healthy snack food items when you see them on sale. Our first collection will start **RIGHT AWAY!** Thanks so much for your generosity.

-- *Your PTA Sister School Committee*

**GEOGRAPHY BOWL COMING TO FARMLAND**



Get your 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> graders ready for Farmland's first annual Geography Bowl to be held during the school day the week of May 11<sup>th</sup> (dates/times will be announced). The focus of this

year's Geography Bowl will be on the United States. US Geography packets will be given to each student before Spring Break. A flyer explaining how the Geography Bowl will work is attached. Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in this educational and fun event!!

-- Cheryl Morris

**STORIES, POEMS AND ARTWORK NEEDED FOR ARTS MAGAZINE**



Calling all young writers and artists!

We want your stories, your poems, or your drawings for "Scarecrow's Corner," Farmland's annual arts magazine.

Your entry will be published if you follow these guidelines:

- Submit your work on a single piece of 8½ x 11 unlined paper.
- Type your stories or poems and keep them to no longer than one page.
- Don't forget to include the title, your name, grade and teacher's name.
- Submit entries to the main office. **Extended Deadline: March 13th.**

Questions? Contact Lauren Greenberg at [labbeyg@yahoo.com](mailto:labbeyg@yahoo.com).

**DON'T MISS THIS RESTAURANT NIGHT!**



The next restaurant night is **Tuesday, March 31 at California Tortilla** in Cabin John Shopping Center.

Join classmates, their families and Farmland staff for good food and conversation. Farmland receives a portion of sales during our restaurant night, so come on out for a great night and a great cause.

Look for more information in a flyer to come home in your child's backpack.

-- Lisa Garson

**STILL TIME TO ORDER 2008-2009 FARMLAND YEARBOOKS!**

The final deadline to order yearbooks has been extended to **Monday, March 16, 2009.**

Please send a \$20 check to school, made payable to Farmland Elementary School PTA with your child's name, teacher's name and grade.

Yearbooks will be distributed in June. Please contact Dana Hirsch at [danahirsch@comcast.net](mailto:danahirsch@comcast.net) with any questions.

--Dana Hirsch

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:	
Tuesday, March 31, 2009	<b>California Tortilla Restaurant Night</b>
April 24, 2009 8:00 a.m.	<b>SIP Meeting</b>
May 1, 2009	<b>Farmland Follies</b>
May 5, 2009 7:00 p.m.	<b>PTA Meeting – Election of 2009-10 Officers</b>
Week of May 11, 2009	<b>Geography Bowl</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! **As of March 6<sup>th</sup> we have raised \$713.57...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. **Farmland's March contribution will be \$397.47. YEAH!**

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 a customer's 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. As of March 6<sup>th</sup> we have only raised \$8.79. I know this

is a new program for Farmland but let's do better!

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)



**MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF CONSUMER PROTECTION IS HERE TO HELP**

The Montgomery County Office of Consumer Protection wants to make sure we know that it is here to help county residents with issues including:

- Identity Theft Problems
- Unlicensed Home Improvement Contractors
- Auto Repairs and Sales
- Deceptive Advertising
- Mortgage & Foreclosure Issues
- Retail Sales
- Complaint Information for Pre-Purchase Decisions

Its webpage provides links to valuable information: [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/consumer) Please contact [consumerprotection@montgomerycountymd.gov](mailto:consumerprotection@montgomerycountymd.gov) if they can be of assistance.

**THE HARVEST IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:**

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

**Farmland Elementary School  
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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@yahoogroups.com](mailto:farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoogroups.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's First Annual Geography Bowl

We are so excited to be holding a Geography Bowl for 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. This year, each grade will be focused on US geography and each student will be receiving a US geography packet from their teacher the week before Spring break. Here is how it works:

1. Students receive US geography packets the week before Spring Break (either March 27<sup>th</sup> or March 31<sup>st</sup>)
2. Students voluntarily complete the geography packet (or as much of it as they can) and turn it into their teacher **by April 15<sup>th</sup>** (a few days after Spring Break). Students are welcome to have help from parents and can work together with friends, but each student should turn in their own packet.
3. Geography packets will be corrected by the Geography Bowl committee and returned to students in class. Every student who turns in a geography packet will receive a certificate at the Geography Bowl.
4. Students receive corrected packets so that they can review the material.
5. **April 30<sup>th</sup>** students try out to be in the Geography Bowl by taking a short US geography quiz during recess. The top 4 students from each class will represent their class in the Geography Bowl.
6. **Week of May 11<sup>th</sup>** there will be 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade Geography Bowls (3 separate bowls) where classes (the 4 representatives from each class) will compete against each other. Students watching will cheer for their class.
7. The winning class from each Geography Bowl will win a special prize for their class.

Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in our first ever Geography Bowl. If you have any questions, please contact the co-chairs of the Geography Bowl, Cheryl Morris ([cgmorris@att.net](mailto:cgmorris@att.net)), Jacki Seley ([jipseley@hotmail.com](mailto:jipseley@hotmail.com)) and Grace Karmioli ([gkarmioli@gmail.com](mailto:gkarmioli@gmail.com))