



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

April 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

--*Joe Piff*

Your PTA was busy this month even though we did not have a formal PTA meeting in April. (Our regularly scheduled date fell during Spring Break.)

I had the rare privilege of attending a Montgomery County School Board meeting, sitting at the "round table," and briefly testifying before the Board as they considered and approved Farmland's modernization. The whole thing took about 15 minutes. The Board strongly recommended that we consider moving over the summer rather than waiting for Winter Break. That is why we re-canvassed our parent community.

On March 31, 2009, I attended a meeting of the Farmland Modernization Committee (FMC). The main output of this meeting was the fact that the Farmland community must stay aware of the exact plans for the building as the final drawings are prepared and executed. For example, the current stage in the All Purpose Room is 650 square feet, so the architect made the new stage 650 square feet. However, the standard Montgomery County specification for elementary school stages is 450 square feet, so the stage size was reduced to the specified area. A 10% variance is allowed in any room or on any specific item. The PTA Board is researching forming a charitable foundation to receive contributions to supplement MCPS funding and will report back to the PTA our findings. Please let me know if you would like to be a member of the FMC.

We have many exciting events planned for the remainder of the school year. Chess Club started its spring semester session on March 26 and will continue until June 11. The First Grade Potluck dinner is April 27 from 5:45 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. The Second Grade Potluck dinner is May 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. And the Third Grade Potluck dinner is May 18 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. These potlucks are scheduled outdoors. Farmland Follies, our

annual showcase of student talent, will be held on May 1 at 7 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. We still have International Night, Opera, Field Day, Fifth Grade Celebration and other events for you and your children to participate in and enjoy.

Have your third- through fifth-graders signed up to participate in the new Geography Bowl? The deadline for submissions has been extended to April 21.

I have been asked by MCCPTA to remind you that MCPS has a new way of collecting information about the race and ethnicity of students. If you did not totally complete the form earlier in the year, you will receive another copy to complete. Please fill in and return this form to your classroom teacher quickly.

Information about what is going on at Farmland and Farmland PTA can be obtained by visiting the Farmland PTA website (www.farmland-pta.org) and by joining the Farmland list serve (farmlandpta-subscribe@yahoo.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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:	
April 23, 2009 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Chuck E. Cheese Restaurant Night
April 24, 2009 8:00 a.m.	SIP Meeting
April 27, 2009 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m.	First Grade Potluck
May 1, 2009 7:00 p.m.	Farmland Follies
Week of May 4	Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week
May 5, 2009 7:00 p.m.	PTA Meeting – Election of 2009-10 Officers
Week of May 11, 2009	Geography Bowl begins

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

HELP FARMLAND WHILE YOU SHOP



The **2008-2009 Giant Food's A+ Bonus Bucks program** ended on April 2, 2009. Farmland earned \$868.02. Thank you to everyone who participated!



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 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 has earned \$124.82 toward the September contribution.** 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."



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 contribution.

The ID# for **Farmland Elementary is 00973.** To register, log onto 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 April 17th we have raised \$22.50.

You can apply for a Harris Teeter VIC card at your local Harris Teeter grocery store or at 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 or 301-231-5346 (h).

MANY THANKS

A huge THANK YOU goes out to Marc Hershkowitz for copying and distributing the February edition of The Harvest. We greatly appreciate his help.

If anyone else would like to volunteer an hour or two once a month, please contact editor Peggy Ellett at elletts5@verizon.net. Thanks!

SIGN UP TODAY FOR GEOGRAPHY BOWL



Third, fourth and fifth graders each should have brought home a U.S. geography packet. The First Annual Geography Bowl is completely voluntary, but we hope you

encourage your child to participate. Students can work with friends or parents to complete the packet. Packets are due (return to your teacher) **April 15th** (NOW EXTENDED UNTIL APRIL 21st) and will be corrected and returned to your child so that they can use it to study.

A U.S. geography quiz will be given during recess on Thursday, **April 30th** to those who would like to try out to represent their class for the Geography

Bowl. (Four students per class will be selected to work as a team to compete against other classes in their same grade for the Geography Bowl the week of May 11th). Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in this educational and fun event! If you have any questions, please email the Geography Bowl Co-Chairs, Cheryl Morris cgmorris@att.net; Jacki Seley jipseley@hotmail.com; and Grace Karmioli gkarmioli@gmail.com.

-- Cheryl Morris

LET'S SHOW TEACHERS/STAFF HOW MUCH WE APPRECIATE THEM!



The week of May 4 is Teacher and Staff Appreciation Week.

Please see the attached flyer for suggestions that will help us all show Farmland's terrific staff how grateful we are for all they do for our children.

-- Marissa Shenkan

PLAN TO ATTEND THE CHUCK E CHEESE RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER



When: Thursday April 23, 2009
4pm until 9pm
Where: Chuck E. Cheese, 5270 Randolph Rd, Rockville

Join classmates and staff at Chuck E. Cheese for dinner and fun on Thursday, April 23. Don't forget that 15% of your purchase at Chuck E. Cheese during this time is donated to Farmland.

There will be reminder tickets on the day of the event redeemable for 10 free tokens. Teachers in attendance receive free meals. Don't miss this fun event!!

-- Michele Wisniewski

CALLING ALL FIRST GRADE FAMILIES...

Take note of the new date for the First Grade Potluck! Mark your calendar for April 27, 2009. Join classmates on the regular playground from 5:45 p.m. – 7:45 p.m. for loads of fun and fantastic food!

Each family will bring:
Ms. McGrady's Class: Dessert
Ms. Bardin's Class: Main dish
Ms. Stimely's Class: Drinks
Ms. Nwoye's Class: Side dish
Ms. Douglass' Class: Fruits

-- Caroline Cooksey

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. Nominations also 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

THE HARVEST IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

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

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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 listserve (farmlandpta-subscribe@yahogroups.com.)

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