



The Farmland Harvest

The Newsletter of the Farmland Elementary PTA

June 2009

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

--*Caroline Cooksey*

There are certain moments in your life when you can be truly proud of your hard work and accomplishments. I can honestly say becoming PTA president was not one of those moments. I just happened to be the last one to say "no."

All kidding aside, I said "yes" because I am inspired. I am inspired by my kids' genuine pride and love for their school. I am inspired by the multitude of teachers and staff who give 110% every day. I am inspired by the selfless commitment of so many of our parent volunteers who make Farmland so great. I said "yes" because when it comes to your kids, how do you say "no?"

Everyone tells me that the upcoming year will be very tough. Yes, we have some challenges. But then I think about our fabulous community and I know a temporary displacement is a small obstacle. The new PTA board is already hard at work. Our primary objectives are to 1) help smoothly transition our kids to North Lake so they can continue to excel, 2) maintain our PTA programs and their funding and 3) improve involvement, increase membership and strengthen our community.

Activities Survey. In the upcoming pages, you'll see a very important Activities Survey. Please complete it so we can begin to assess student demand and prepare for fall. We are reviewing transportation options to make logistics easier to and from North Lake.

PTA Budget and Membership. We will likely end the year with about a \$1,000 shortfall, as expenses exceeded our memberships and fundraising. You'll also see the membership form for 2009-2010. It's not too soon to join.

Open PTA Positions. While we have some chair people lined up for the fall, we still have some

important vacancies. Follies (talent show), Reflections (art showcase), 5th Grade Celebration, and FLES are currently without chairs. If you'd like to see these programs continue, please volunteer. You can team up with people you know, or we'll partner you with others, and provide you with guidance and support. Lisa Miller and Andrea Nadelman will be providing a full list of openings. Volunteering is a great way to help the school, make new friends, and make your kids proud all at the same time. There is also interest and excitement in some new activities like a dance and a fun run in this next school year.

The Month in Review. May was a tremendously busy month...here's a recap if you missed these events supported by the PTA.



Follies: AMAZING. From dancers, to singers, to comedians, Farmland's got talent. It was a fun-filled night packed with exciting and very original acts. Proceeds from the event went to Harmony Hills, our sister school, and the Farmland School Discretionary Fund.



Geography Bowl: AWESOME. The first-ever Farmland Geography Bowl was nail-bitingly close and produced some intense rivalry over capitals, mountain ranges and rivers. The kids were so competitive that they uttered such surprising statements as, "We should have studied more."



Opera. SENSATIONAL. This year's production of "Deep Ocean Distress" had a production quality equal to some high schools. Can you imagine 2nd and 4th graders writing, producing and starring in their own production? The kids had jobs that included public relations, set designers, costume designers, make-up artists, carpenters, electricians, and composers.



2nd and 3rd Grade Potlucks. FABULOUS. Both events were held

outdoors in the playground area and it was a wonderful opportunity for the parents, kids and teachers to get together.



International Night. TREMENDOUS. You can only describe International Night as Farmland's own little EPCOT Center. Thirteen different nations introduced delectable foods and crafts. Later, there was a cultural arts presentation. Despite the threat of rain, record numbers attended and the Gazette was on hand to take pictures.



Kindergarten Orientation. WOW. Our largest kindergarten class in Farmland's history had their orientation in May. Nearly 75% of the families are new to Farmland and we welcomed them in the PTA hospitality room. Our volunteers answered many, many questions.



Reptile Man. In June, the PTA was able to bring back a Farmland favorite...Reptile Man came with his snakes, alligators, and other creatures. If your kids didn't come home and tell you all about it, be sure to ask about Banana Boy's brother.

Upcoming Dates.

- Baja Fresh/Baskin Robbins Night: June 10
- School ends: June 15 after lunch (half day)
- Report cards mailed home: June 23
- OPEN HOUSE: TBD
- FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL: August 31
- BACK TO SCHOOL NIGHT: September 9
- The next PTA meeting is Tuesday, September 1, 2009 (PTA Social and budget approval)

I really look forward to meeting and working with all of you this upcoming school year. I hope you have a wonderful summer and I hope to see you at our next PTA meeting on September 1. It will be held in a meeting room near Congressional and we're planning on a social so we can welcome new and returning families to Farmland.

Sincerely,
Caroline Cooksey
carolinecooksey@yahoo.com

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!

Thank you to our members whose contributions and additional donations helped fund the PTA programs listed below. We would also like to recognize the volunteers who made these programs possible. It's an extraordinary feat involving over 50 chairpersons and hundreds of volunteers who donated countless hours, expertise and energy. Some of you made a Herculean effort to make your programs so successful and some of you gave whatever bit of time you had available. There are so many unsung heroes and many more names that should be on the list below. In our community of 480 families, a little effort from each of us goes a long way to getting the job done. Thank you.

Our PTA Board

Joe Piff, President
Carol Lange and Lisa Miller, VPs
Matt Hamill, Treasurer
Lisa Garson, Recording Secretary
Liz Brinker, Corresponding Secretary
Alan Hairston and Andrea Nadelman, MCCPTA
Shari Campbell and Stacey Jungreis, Cluster Reps

Teacher Reps: Annie Moore and Audrey Fincher

Major Events and Social Programs

Science Fair

Chair: Lisa Peterson

Volunteers: Caroline Cooksey, Amy Chang, Sari Tublin, Don Graves, Audrey Fincher

Scientist Volunteers: Jill Gendelman, Joe Piff, Denise Chambers, Ola Landgren, Sara Schonfeld, Yaron Rotman, Daniel Gebreselassie, Heather Watts, Kai Ge, Marc Gold, Larry Washington, Lene H.S. Veiga, Harris Bernstein, Annelie Landgren, Yaniv Barad,, Frances Calderon, Jeff Rabin, Hanah Gancz

Farmland Follies

Chair: Kate Heald

Volunteers: Connie Jacobson, Magda Sobalvarro-Ochoa, Christina Aungst, Guillermo Lopez, Dwight Lakner, Deon Schaffer, Jacob Carlin, Liam Levine, Eileen Heffernan, Marisa Irvine, Karen Belt, Tyler Belt, Teri Kinsella, Sam Jacobson, Jennifer Oppenheim, Ethan Holland, John Ohlrich, Erin Malloy, Monique Logie, Sam Haner, Mike O'Donnell, Tal Azulay, Jackson Lange, Jung Ju Lee, Leo Blumberg Wall, Kim Hannon, Yvonne Levine, Christin Berkman, Ty Huber, Tatyana Matiyasevich.

International Night

Chairs: Meg Gold and Kinneret Rand

Brazil - Angelica Ansarah

USA - Kim Dettelbach and Liz Sadal

Japan - Hiromi Hamada, Kanako Nakata, and Kazuko Okugawa

South Korea - Jung Kim, Young Soon Kim, Mee Ryong Cho

Sweden - Annelie Landgren, Ola Landgren, Emma Landgren, Elisabeth Landgren

Great Britain - Yvonne Levine

Uruguay - Maria Rouco and Family

Chile - Family Cáceres and Family Fuenzalida

Romania - Adina Milac, Cornelia Milac, Elvira Stanescu, Georgeta Latrau, Gabriela Riscuta

China - Manette Niu, Julie Yang, Cindy Wang, Xiaohui Ma

Israel - Tami Pinto

Bolivia - Ana Maria Renjel Gonzales

India - Sasikala Venkataraman

Staff Appreciation

Chairs: Marissa Shenkan and Debbie Labonski

Volunteers: Honey Konicoff, Angela Michelin, Beth Anne Smith, Caroline Cooksey, Ilene Reid, Eric Tublin, Izumi Horikawa, Jacki Seley, Lisa Bonato, Lisa Tillman, Kinneret Rand, Mary Bittle Koenick, Meg Sommerfeld, Stephanie Vordick

Potlucks

Chair: Caroline Cooksey

Kindergarten: Stephanie Vordick and Lauren Greenberg

1st Grade: Cara Schorr, Michele Wisniewski, and Orit Greenberg

2nd Grade: Yvonne Levine and Kim Hannon

3rd Grade: Melissa Keller and Cheryl Hughes

4th Grade: Meg Gold and Jill Gendelman

5th Grade: Honey Konicoff and Liz Brinker

Activities

Chess

Chair: Uma Shivapuram

Group Piano

Chair: Jacki Seley

FLES

Spanish Chair: Magda Ochoa

Chinese Chair: Manette Niu

French Chair: Eliza McLeod

Girls on the Run

Chair: Cheryl Morris

Parent Volunteers: Susan Beach, Connie Jacobson, Ilene Reid, Mary Jo Speier

Teacher Volunteers: Ashley Weissenburger, Rachel Dinkin, Tracy Bubser, Lori Feldman, and Liz Santer

Mad Science

Chair: Mary Bittle Koenick

Fundraising

Book Fair

Chairs: Lisa Tillman, Stephanie Vordick, Jen Oppenheim

Volunteers: Melissa Keller, Hyeongsuk Song, Amy Chang, Yuri Miura, Lisa Garson, Leslie Hanrahan, Lisa Bonato, Dana Hirsch, Meg Gold, Yvonne Levine, Lauren Greenberg, Li Zhang, Maria Potts, Stephanie Firestone, Bob Nugent, Jana Benicka, Andrea Nadelman, Gabrielle Roth, Jacki Seley, Diane Cordray, Dana Flower Lake, Heejung Cho, Karin Wulf, Jill Gendelman, Elvira Stanescu, Li Zhang, Yuri Miura, YoungJin Lee, Gregory Hazlett, Kate Heald, Kristen Mirsky, Pooja Ratmore, Marisa Irvine, Karen Opdahl, Becky Hutton, Kim Dettelbach, Marina Kublanova, Michelle Chaikin, Michelle Bernstein, Julie Yang, Meg Sommerfeld, Carol Lange, Cheryl Morris, Niki Artman, Satish Khadala, Liz Brinker

Carnival**Chairs:** Holli Jaffe and Michele Wisniewski**Volunteers:** Matt Jaffe, Peggy Ellett

Special thanks to Bob Sickels (KAH/Carnival Day)

Additional Fundraisers**Gift Wrap:** Lisa Garson, Ilene Reid**Restaurant Nights:** Robin Blackman and Lisa Garson**Retail Receipts:** Shari Campbell**Spirit Wear:** Melissa Keller**Box Tops:** Heather Watts**Bumper Stickers:** Ilene Reid**In School Activities**Cultural Arts and Assemblies**Chair:** Cheryl LopezGeography Bowl**Chairs:** Cheryl Morris, Jacki Seley, Grace Karmioli**Emcee:** Allie Williams5th Grade Celebration**Chairs:** Meaghan Miller and Jeannie GeierGuidance Advisory and Career Day**Chair:** Lisa BonatoWalk to School Day**Chairs:** Stacey Jungreis, Lisa Cohen, Grace KarmioliKindergarten Orientation**Chair:** Carol Lange**Volunteers:** Caroline Cooksey, Stephanie Vordick, Lauren Greenberg, Denise Chambers, Joe Piff, Melissa Keller, Lisa Garson**Publications****Harvest Chair:** Peggy Ellett**Harvest Copying:** Gila Kama, Marc Hershkowitz, Mike O'Donnell, Holli Jaffe, Jen Oppenheim, Lisa Garson, Caroline Cooksey, Katie and Timmy Ellett (counted and distributed to teacher boxes)**Scarecrow's Corner Chair:** Lauren Greenberg**Yearbook Chair:** Dana Hirsch**Representation and Administration****Membership:** Kate Heald**Student Directories:** Kate Heald**Directory Ads:** Melissa Keller**Sister School:** Connie Jacobson**Technology:** Todd Keller**Website:** Josh Wisniewski**Childcare:** Michele Wisniewski**NAACP:** Eggerton Campbell**School Improvement Plan:** Melissa Keller**By-Laws:** Bob Nugent**Parliamentarian:** Ilene Reid and Bob Nugent**Special Needs:** Marisa Irvine

Throughout the school, we have had a tremendous partnership with our Farmland staff and teachers. We would like to recognize the efforts of Diane Smith, Michelle Piket, Bobbie Boland and Sandy Mantua in our office. In the facilities department, Kenny Robertson, Vivian Ndeh, Pedro Paz, and Jin Kim have been so helpful with all of our events.

Note: Please forgive any omissions or errors. It is nearly an impossible task to accurately capture all the individual contributions for all our programs over a year. Names are in any particular order.

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

For Harvest submissions please send them via email to elletts5@verizon.net and indicate HARVEST in the subject line. Deadline is the Friday after each month's PTA meeting