

# Fairland Flyer

Flying Far With Education

Fairland Elementary School

December 14, 2007

## President's Letter

Greetings Fairland Elementary School Community,

On behalf of the Fairland PTA, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to our dedicated families and friends for all their hard work during 2007. It is amazing to think of the hours of service donated, the dollars spent to support the fundraising efforts of the PTA, and the incredible show of support by families continually coming out in support of our PTA events throughout the calendar year. The Fairland PTA is only as good as the community of people in it. As PTA President, I am continually humbled by the number of good people who continue to volunteer their time and talents just at the moment the task seems almost impossible.

As the year closes, it becomes a perfect time for reflections of the year that has gone by. We take the time to reflect on the pleasant and even the not so pleasant. While the pleasant brings a deserved smile to one's face and happiness to one's heart, the not so pleasant presents the opportunity to find personal growth, which ultimately strengthens how we participate in our community. When the clock strikes midnight on December 31<sup>st</sup>, for those of us counting down, it will become a perfect opportunity to discard old burdens and symbolically make a fresh new start.

As parents or guardians, spouses, aunts, uncles, siblings or friends, we may not always get it right the first, the second or even the eleventh time in our encounters with one another and especially our children. Therefore, as we welcome the New Year, we get a chance to resolve do it better as we experience the challenges of daily living. We all have felt the joy of getting it right, it is truly a remarkable feeling and something to continuously strive for.

In closing, the Fairland Elementary PTA asks for a small place on your New Years resolution list and it goes something like, "Plan to donate a few hours of time to the PTA in 2008."

May all Fairland families enjoy the gift of peace for the rest of the season and enjoy health, happiness and family unity throughout the year in 2008.  
Happy New Year Fairland families and friends!

Sincerely,  
*Carla Austin*  
Fairland Elementary School  
PTA President  
caustin@enllc.net

Editor's Note: With this issue the Fairland Flyer Newsletter is being consolidated to bi-monthly. We are also shortening the newsletter to reduce the number of pages to be photocopied each time. We hope that these changes don't lessen the value of our newsletter for you and your family.

Special Points of Interest:

- All School Holiday Music Sing-a-Long  
Dec. 21, 2008  
10:00 a.m.
- No School  
Dec. 24, 2007 —  
Jan. 1, 2008
- Next PTA meeting  
Jan. 8, 2008  
7:00 p.m.
- Karaoke Cafe  
Jan. 11, 2008  
7:00 p.m.
- Band Concert  
Jan. 15, 2008  
10 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- No School  
Jan. 21-22, 2008
- Bringing Literature to Life Assembly  
Jan. 23, 2008  
9:45 and 10:40 a.m.
- Winter Chorus Concert, Jan. 24, 2008  
10 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Black History Bingo Night, Feb. 1, 2008  
7:00 p.m.
- PTA Meeting  
Feb. 5, 2008  
7:00 p.m.
- Our website:  
[www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/)

## Pre-Kindergarten Press

Head Start has been speeding along and working very hard, as usual. We have been talking about stores for our literacy unit. Ask your child what they have learned about grocery stores, clothing stores, and book stores. We made our own pretend money to use in our stores and will be writing our own books to sell in our book store. We are continuing to work on beginning sounds of words, recognizing and writing upper and lower case letters and we all should know how to write our names at this point. Keep practicing! We are learning math words such as: big, small, short, tall, thick, thin, wide, and narrow. We are also learning propositional words and phrases: next to, under, behind, in front of, etc. We are counting every day, reading every day and will be exploring lots of fun books about the winter and winter holiday season. Have a wonderful holiday and peace and love to all our Head Start families!



## Kindergarten Communications

In December, we will be enjoying the many versions of the popular folktale, *The Gingerbread Boy*. We will be comparing and contrasting, sequencing events, dramatizing and even creating our own versions. To add to the fun, we will be opening a gingerbread bakery for children to buy and sell various “paper” cookies. The bakery helps strengthen oral language, writing skills and counting money, not to mention...it’s really fun! We will culminate the unit at the end of the month by creating our own gingerbread houses.

In January, winter and snow will be our theme. We will learn how different animals as well as humans prepare for and enjoy winter. After winter break, we will begin our second round of county reading assessments. We are so proud of the progress of our students. In Math, we continue to work on number sense. We are learning various ways to show number, match numbers and sets, order sets, sequence number, odd and even numbers and ordinal numbers.

We wish everyone a safe and memorable holiday season.



## First Grade Flash

Our first graders continue to make progress in mastering the second quarter skills in reading and math. The first graders’ focus in Reading/ Language Arts is on “Reading to Be Informed”. They are learning to research a topic and to use that information to write a report. The students are learning to identify text features, such as table of contents, index, captions, labels, glossary, maps, bold print, and charts. They are learning why text features are important in helping them to understand the text. We have also been discussing “Reading to Perform a Task.” We have been reading procedural texts and writing procedures for simple tasks.

In math we are working on using standard and non-standard units to measure, telling time using an analog clock, problem solving, and ordinal numbers. In science, the students will investigate structures and the materials used to build them. Our social studies unit is “Geography: Changes in the Way We Live”. Thank you so much for the support you are giving your child in helping him/her with the basic skills facts, spelling words, and independent reading assignments. We are seeing improvement in all areas.

We will be rescheduling the field trip to Imagination Stage soon. As soon as the plans have been finalized you will be notified.

The first grade teachers wish everyone a safe and joyous holiday season.

## Second Grade Scoop

The second graders had a very busy November with two field trips. Our first trip was to Strathmore Music Center. We had a fabulous time listening to the National Philharmonic orchestra. The students even participated in one of the pieces by singing along and doing hand motions. Our second trip was to Woodlawn Manor Museum to learn more about the Wampanoag Native Americans. While it was quite cold for our trip everyone had a fabulous time playing games and seeing artifacts used by the Wampanoags and the Pilgrims. A few students even put on clothes worn by the two groups. We would like to thank all the

*Second Grade Scoop continued on next page.*

## Second Grade Scoop (continued)

parent chaperones that came with us on our trip.

The second graders are finishing their second math unit, on geometry. We have been learning about plane and solid shapes, congruency, symmetry and how shapes can be moved (slide, flip, turn). We will soon be taking our test on this unit.

In writing, we have changed our focus from personal narratives to writing to inform. All the students are writing their own books about a given topic. They will then use text features to enhance their books.

The second grade team would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season!

## Third Grade Tidings

The third grade has received the delivery of its next science kits; the unit is called Crime Lab Chemistry. In this unit the students will study fingerprints and finger printing, chromatography, and analyzing evidence to solve cases. Please begin exploring and discussing these concepts with your child so they have as much background knowledge as possible.

Our trip to the Baltimore Museum of Industry was cancelled because of the snow. We are working on rescheduling the trip for some time in early Spring.

We are working on informational writing this quarter. Most of the students still need much work in the basics of developing a simple paragraph (topic sentence, supporting details and concluding statement). We will be conducting research in order to gather information for these informational writing pieces.

As you know, following directions is very important. In reading, we are concentrating our efforts on following written instructions to perform tasks. Please expose your children to as many examples of written instructions as possible. Have them point out the important text features that assist them in following and understanding the instructions.

Many of the third graders are trying to learn the names and locations of the states in our country. Please encourage them to demonstrate their knowledge and possibly sing one of the songs they've learned in class. Give your child opportunities using the map in any trip you take. Have them use the legend/key, scale, and compass rose (cardinal directions) during these trips.

By now your child hopefully has memorized their basic math facts. This will be crucial in their success in the upcoming unit – Multiplication and Division Facts and Concepts. If you have not been studying the multiplication facts up to this point, now is the time to get flash cards and begin memorizing these facts daily. Our weekly timed tests will change from addition and subtraction to multiplication.

## Fourth Grade Findings

The end of the second marking period is fast approaching! In Reading, students are exploring the genres of Historical Fiction and Realistic Fiction. The Cereal Box Projects were a success! We are very pleased with the results! Students put forth a lot of effort! Before the end of the marking period, students are expected to independently read 3 more books and complete one question for each book. Question due dates are:

Book 4— Due Thursday, December 20<sup>th</sup>

Book 5— Due Friday, January 4<sup>th</sup>

Book 6— Due Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup>

This quarter, our Mathematicians are solving algebraic equations for unknown variables, identifying patterns by stating the rule, and computing multiplication and division problems. Parents can help their children by practicing their times tables. Try using fact triangles or have your child create their own flash cards. For more ideas, visit [www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math](http://www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math).

*Fourth Grade Findings continued on next page.*



## Fourth Grade Findings continued

This quarter, our Authors are writing to inform. Ask your child to explain the difference between facts and opinions.

In Social Studies, our Anthropologists are investigating the lives of various Native American tribes. Find out which tribe your child is researching!

This quarter, our Scientists will examine the effects of pollution on their ecosystems. Ask your child to explain the relationship between their ecosystems and the Chesapeake Bay.

## Fifth Grade Footnotes

It's hard to believe it but Winter Break is almost here. Our fifth graders have been working hard and making progress in all areas. Some important dates that are coming up are the due dates for the rest of this quarter's Independent Reading. The 4<sup>th</sup> book is due 12/21, the 5<sup>th</sup> book is due 1/4, and the 6<sup>th</sup> book is due 1/17. Thank you for helping your child meet these deadlines.

Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders are working on many exciting activities in their classes. In math, Mrs. Hester's class is learning how to multiply and divide fractions and mixed numbers. In Mr. Blake's, Ms. Caines', and Mrs. Collins' classes the students are drawing and measuring angles, making circles and finding the circumference, diameter, and radius, and studying polygons. They are really enjoying the hands on activities in this geometry unit.

In reading language arts, our students are learning about poetry. They are interpreting poems, and learning poetic techniques such as alliteration, metaphor, simile, and personification. We are having great fun enjoying some wonderful poems! The 5<sup>th</sup> graders are also practicing for MSA by reading short passages and writing Brief Constructed Responses. There are many writing projects going on in 5<sup>th</sup> grade. For example, some are writing to express personal feelings, and others are learning how to develop their own voice in their writing. Soon we will all write a winter story about Bob the snowman. These stories will be displayed outside of the classrooms next month. Please stop by to enjoy them!

The students have enjoyed the astronomy unit in science. They have recently compared asteroids, comets, and meteors, as well as learned about constellations. In January we will begin the structures unit. In social studies the students are finishing their study of government and will begin learning the causes of the Revolutionary War. In grammar time students are learning about subjects and predicates, and continuing to use adjectives to spice up their writing.

Please remember to check your child's VIP folder on a weekly basis for important notices, as well as graded papers.

- On December 3, 2007 we had the first Cultural Arts assembly with Nada Brahma presenting 2 shows. Their performance was funded by the PTA and the MD State Council for the Arts. Nada Brahma took the children on a world musical tour and provided a history of the instruments and music, introduced the children to the languages or accents of the countries, incorporated opportunities to get the children on their feet, brought a few children onstage to help the group play and ultimately brought the staff up on stage to perform with them while having the kids in the audience choreograph the final dance.
- Wednesday, January 23, 2008 will be the next Cultural Arts assembly featuring Chris Fascione's "Bringing Literature to Life" show. This will be two morning performances with grades 3 - 5 attending the 9:45 performance and Headstart - 2<sup>nd</sup> grades attending the 10:40 performance. Chris will bring the story pages to life as he enacts the stories in his one-man production, morphing into each character to entertain and illustrate how much fun reading can be.

Before the Thanksgiving holiday, we sent home this year's Student Directory via backpacks. If you are a paid PTA member and have not received your directory, please contact Kim Gibbs at 301-879-7034 or kim\_a\_gibbs@hotmail.com. We had a net profit of \$523 for the directories this year. Thanks to all our ad and Fun Note supporters!

Make sure you get a copy by joining the PTA today. Dues for the school year are only \$10 and you get a free student directory too! PTA membership applications are in the school office or can be found on our website at:

[http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/fairlandPta/memberApplication\\_20070817.pdf](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/fairlandPta/memberApplication_20070817.pdf)

## Student Directory News

The PTA wishes to thank all the advertisers in this year's Directory. The ad for Laurie Zebrowski was inadvertently left out of the directory. Although the PTA does not normally place ads in this newsletter, it is reproduced here with our apologies for the error.

**Call me for all of your Real Estate needs!**



Laurie  
Zebrowski  
REALTOR®

*Performance, Not Promises*

**301-442-2303 Direct**

**301-774-5900 x111 Office**

**LaurieZebrowski@mrisc.com**

**RE/MAX**   
Outstanding Agents.  
Outstanding Results.®



Classroom Guidance this month for Grades 3-5 surrounds the tactics of emotional bullying as seen in My Secret Bully by Trudy Ludwig. The main character, Monica, is a young lady who is the target of relational aggression in which name calling and manipulation to humiliate and exclude is used by someone who has been a best friend since Kindergarten. This type of bullying is often not recognized as being as injurious as physical bullying but it can be far more devastating and long

lasting. This book explores the options that Monica has and empowers young people to identify the tactics, face their fears and reclaim their power from the bully.

The end of the book sites several websites to help parents and students with bullying problems.

The Empower Program

[www.empowered.org](http://www.empowered.org)

Full Esteem Ahead

[www.fullersteemahead.org](http://www.fullersteemahead.org)

GENaustin Girl Empowerment Network

[www.genaustin.org](http://www.genaustin.org)

The Ophelia Project

[www.opheliaproject.org](http://www.opheliaproject.org)

[www.bullying.org](http://www.bullying.org)

[www.stopbullyingme.ab.ca/](http://www.stopbullyingme.ab.ca/)

[www.ifcc.on.ca/bully.htm](http://www.ifcc.on.ca/bully.htm)

[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp)

[www.no-bully.com](http://www.no-bully.com)



Thank you to all of you who sent in canned goods. The food closet provides food for Silver Spring families throughout the year. I hope you all have a very blessed holiday season for your goodness.

## Chess Club Expanded to Mondays

- Fairland parent Vaughn Bennett gives free chess lessons to all interested students on Monday and Friday mornings, 8 to 9 am. in the Media Center. Also, we want to thank all the families who contributed to the Chess Club's effort to raise money to buy permanent chess sets for our students. So far we have raised \$160 towards our goal of \$200. If you would like to contribute, please send cash to school in an envelope marked "Chess Club."
- Contact Anne Lehan at 301-879-0968 or 4Lehan@comcast.net to register your child.

**Thank you Mr. Bennett!**

## MCPS Parent Academy Workshops

Banneker Middle School is hosting a series of workshops for parents. Call to register by phone: 301-517-5940. Childcare is available. All meetings start at 7:00 p.m. For additional information visit [www.mcpsparentacademy.org](http://www.mcpsparentacademy.org).

- 1/3/08 Helping Your Child Get the Most Out of Homework
- 2/4/08 Transitioning to Middle School and High School
- 3/12/08 Gang Awareness and Bullying Prevention
- 4/17/08 Internet Safety
- 5/7/08 What is the School Improvement Team?

This year the Fairland PTA is participating in a **Direct Appeal** program where families give monetary donations to help pay for various functions, such as: cultural arts assemblies, staff appreciation events, family evening events, just to name a few. A "Direct Appeal" replaces the need to have a big PTA fundraiser such as selling wrapping paper.

Every donation makes a difference. We encourage you to donate through the Direct Appeal at anytime during the year. You can even donate more than once!

All donations to the Direct Appeal are tax deductible. Please send a check to the Fairland PTA today.

# Thank You!

There have been a lot of hard working parents and staff members over the past few weeks and we would like to thank them for their dedication to our school and families.

- Michele Parent for bringing us the Nada Brahma Assembly.
- Our hospitality team of Suzie Friedman, Georgia Lemberos, and Sherri Totaro conceived a yummy cookie day for our teachers and staff. Thanks to them and all the parent volunteers who baked cookies.
- The teachers for a fun and educational Math Night.
- The following people for creating and participating in International Day.

Stephen and Jennifer Agyepong

Carla Austin

Lee Calloway

Glenda Camara

Jessica Cohen

Catherine Davis

Linda Dicken

Nabiha Ettayebi

Suzie Friedman

Catherine Joanny

Ben and Donna Kassel

Pamela Lawson

Anne Lehan

Sherwood and Cathy Mackel

Annette McVeigh

Mentwab Mekonnen

John Neely

Judith and Damian Roberts

Marissa Thomas

Candace White

The Building Services Staff

Susan Meyers & Dolores Bauman

Mrs. Garfinkel and Mrs. Dunn

Master Chung's Tai Chi Group

Parents and children in the Parade and Fashion Show

Parents who donated food, prizes and other items

- Kristina Aabel, Mike and Cheryl Johnson for organizing and working at our Ice Skating Night. Also thanks to all the families who came out and skated that night.

# Winter

If you missed this month's PTA meeting, here is what we talked about.....

1. Joe Romano, from "Romanomagic" presented the "Books the Magic is real" fundraiser, which we will be doing in the Spring. More information to follow soon.
2. The doors leading to the portable classrooms are now locked, and may be entered by using a control access card. All doors are locked during the school day other than the main entrance to enhance security.
3. Eighty five of our students and their families and 13 of our staff participated in Math Night.
4. Karaoke Night will be held on Friday, January 11, 2008. Will be asking for volunteers to bring card tables, battery candles, and to help set up.
5. Paint Branch High School now looking to break ground in 2009.
6. Our PTA bylaws will need to be reevaluated and renewed by April 2008. We will be looking for some volunteers to form a bylaws committee.

Easy Ways to Raise Money for Our School

- ✓ Box Tops for Education: Earn cash for our school when buying groceries. Clip the box tops and send them to school with your child.
- ✓ Giant Food A+ BonusBucks: A+ BonusBucks are points that accrue with each purchase using the BonusCard. Sign up at [http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/aplus\\_pin.htm](http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/aplus_pin.htm).
- ✓ Safeway eScrip: Safeway, through the eScrip program, will donate a percentage of the purchase price on selected products. Don't forget to designate Fairland Elementary School as that organization at <http://www.escrip.com/>.
- ✓ Recycle used printer cartridges and cell phones through our program at school.
- ✓ Clip and save Campbells Soup labels to earn educational materials for our school: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com/>.

Babysitters Needed!

We are looking for middle-school and high-school students over age 13 to earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours by babysitting at our monthly Fairland Elementary PTA meetings.

Our monthly meetings are usually the first Tuesday of the month from 7:30-9:00 p.m.

If you know someone who is interested in helping out at one or more meetings, please contact Alfiya Akhmed at [aalfiya1000@hotmail.com](mailto:aalfiya1000@hotmail.com).

Fairland E-mail Group

If you are not already signed up for our PTA email group, please send your email address to Kim Gibbs at [kim\\_a\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com).

The Yahoo group distributes valuable information about what is happening in and around our school.



Fairland Elementary School

14315 Fairdale Road                      Phone: 301-989-5658  
 Silver Spring, Maryland 20905      Fax: 301-989-5769

Mrs. Tillie Garfinkel, Principal  
 Mrs. Stacey Dunn, Assistant Principal

● Flying Far With Education!

**The Fairland PTA**

The Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) at Fairland Elementary School is a non-profit volunteer organization which strives to improve the education, socialization and community action of its students, teachers and families. Membership in the PTA is \$10 per adult and entitles a paid member to voting rights in the PTA. All parents, regardless of membership, are invited to participate in meetings, discussions and events. Our meetings are typically on the first Tuesday of each month, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with social time. The business meeting starts one half hour later in the school's All Purpose Room. Reminders will go home on flyers in your child's backpack. Membership monies are used to support the fun and educational events planned throughout the school year for our students and their families.

The entire PTA welcomes you to volunteer your time to assist with a committee, an event or a position in the PTA. Please contact Carla Austin, PTA President, if you are able to volunteer an hour, a day or commit to a year-long role on the PTA: [caustin@enllc.net](mailto:caustin@enllc.net) or 301-879-3190.

We're on the Web!

[www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/](http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/)