

Fairland Flyer

Flying Far With Education

Fairland Elementary School

April 9, 2008

President's Letter

Dear Fairland Community,

During the past couple of months, the PTA sponsored a cultural arts assembly and a sports night, both of which the children thoroughly enjoyed. Thanks to all those who participated in any way to help make the events successful. In addition, we kicked off our ongoing reading "REACH" fundraiser.

I wish to personally thank our PTA members for continuously supporting our efforts this year. The commitment, the great turnout at every social event and the high membership level (we have met our established goal of 151 members) leaves me hopeful for the outlook of our Fairland Elementary PTA community as a whole as we work hard to keep the focus on the things that are positive.

Please continue to bring your children out to any of the PTA events they show interest in attending. You do not have to be a paid PTA member to come out and participate. Please remember that these events are for the children to find a social and fun filled outlet, which you (our dedicated parents) finance each time you support a PTA fundraiser.

It is with great sadness that I report that our FES community lost a mother to illness; she passed away in March. My heart truly goes out to the children and the relatives who now have the monumental task of loving them enough to compensate for the loss of their mother's hugs, kisses and kind reassurances that all children need to thrive. May these two children always have an abundance of the things they need and grow up to have wonderfully productive lives.

The close of the school year is fast approaching and we are looking forward to warmer days and the fun activities ahead. Have fun making plans to enjoy the summer with your children. The most constant advice I get from parents of adult children is to enjoy these early years because they go by so very quickly and you never get them back.

I bid each of you the joy of finding the balance of inner peace and the cheerful outlook that comes securely attached to it!

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

Special Points of Interest:

- Picture Day, April 17
- School Play, April 18, 10:15, 2:15, & 7:30
- Music Assembly, April 22, 2:15 pm
- Kindergarten Orientation, April 29
- PTA Movie Night "Millions," May 2, 6:45 pm
- PTA Meeting, May 6, 7:00 pm
- Kids Flea Market, May 16, 6:30 pm
- Career Day, May 19
- Spring Band Concert, May 20, 7:00 pm
- Book Fair: Buy 1 Get 1 Free, May 20-23
- No School, May 26
- PTA Meeting, June 3, 7:00 pm
- Sock Hop, June 6, 7:00—9:00 pm
- Our website: www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/

Pre-Kindergarten Press

We hope everyone had a wonderful Spring Break! It is hard to believe how quickly the year is flying by! Your children have progressed so far! Please keep working with them on writing their names, upper and lower case letters, numbers, and reading simple sight words. We are continuing to work on the Firehouse Unit and have been using the phrases: "Stop, drop and roll," "Stay low and go" and "dial 911". Please ask them when these phrases are used and why. Also, please practice saying and writing their phone numbers and their addresses. Have them learn the phone numbers that would be given to the Operator should there be an emergency. Our next unit will be The Farm. As you know, we are going to visit Elioak Farm in Columbia on April 15th. Please return your permission slips if you have not yet done so! We will discuss how crops grow and the animals found on a farm.

We have a big surprise in the next week or so! (Don't tell, but the Fire Department is coming to visit! Shhh!!)

- » PLEASE check your child's folder every night so you can return any forms and permission slips that we send home, as well as to check for homework.

We love your children! Please keep reading with them and talking with them. Remember, you are their role models! They are going to be so ready for Kindergarten!!



Kindergarten is in full bloom!

Kindergarten Communications

Our skills are growing and growing!

We have been observing the many changes in nature during Spring. We are reading poems, fiction and nonfiction books about living things in spring. This is great preparation for our trip to Maydale Nature Center at the end of the month. We are finishing up our third unit in math on time, measurement and shapes. In our last unit of math we will work on joining and separating sets, money and solving story problems. We will also be celebrating favorite folk tales in April and May. We will be reading, retelling and comparing/contrasting versions of various tales. We are looking forward to our trip on May 20 to Toby's Theater where we will see Seussical the Musical.

First Grade Flash

Science: Weather

- √ observe and report on precipitation, cloud coverage, and the wind
- √ use and read a thermometer
- √ learn about clouds and the water cycle

Social Studies

- √ learn about customs and traditions
- √ make a timeline to use to write an autobiography

Math

- √ count money using quarters, dimes, nickels and pennies
- √ solve money problems
- √ fractions
- √ divide an object into equal parts
- √ label equal parts
- √ use estimation
- √ measure objects using a centimeter ruler

Reading/Language Arts

- √ Writing: write stories with characters, setting, problem, and solution. Write for personal expression.
- √ Reading: read and discuss books by Arnold Lobel and Ezra Jack Keats. Read with expression and fluency.

Other Information

- √ The first graders will be attending a performance at Imagination Stage on May 1st.
- √ Look for information about our field trip to the Baltimore Zoo.
- √ We will be tie-dyeing T-shirts in May (\$6.00).

Second Grade Scoop

We hope everyone had a wonderful spring break and is well rested for our last quarter of the year. It's hard to believe how fast the school year has flown by. We are working on our fourth math unit. This unit is working on measuring different attributes. The students will learn to use a clock, thermometer, ruler, and measuring cups. All students will be taking the county unit test in April. Have your student help with measuring objects at home.

The second graders will take a standardized reading and math multiple choice test called Terra Nova in the last week of April. The scores will be sent to the school later this year. We are very proud of how hard the students worked to prepare for this very important test.

Second Grade Scoop continued on next page.

Second Grade Scoop (continued)

Our social studies unit this marking period is on leaders, past and present. The students will be learning what makes an effective leader as well as learning about some of the United States' famous past leaders. As an extension of this unit we will be going on a field trip on May 29th. During this trip the classes will visit the many memorials and monuments built, in Washington D.C., to remember our famous leaders. Your student will come home soon with a permission slip. We are also in need of parent chaperones to help with the trip. Due to bus capacity, there is a limited number of chaperones we can take.

The second grade team has an end of the year picnic each year. We will be holding the picnic on Monday, June 11. During the morning the students will be rotating to our different classrooms for fun activities. Then for lunch they will feast on hot dogs, fruit, cookies, and juice boxes. We will need parents to donate food and drinks. Please check your child's backpack for a flyer to be coming home at the end of April.

Third Grade Tidings

Reading/Language Arts:

- Reading to be informed
- Reading for literary experience- Fantasy
- Cursive handwriting/Grammar/ Punctuation & Capitalization

Social Studies:

- Cities/Cultures of the Past (Aztecs, Mexico, and DC)

Writing:

- Poetry
- Spelling: Continue to explore various spelling patterns

Science:

- SOUND
- Homework project relating to sound.

Math:

- Money
- Time
- Equations
- Measurement (Capacity, weight, length, temperature)

OTHER TIDBITS:

- MSA is now complete. We applaud our students' efforts!
- The Baltimore Museum of Industry Field Trip is April 28th. Be sure to sign and return those permission slips.
- Mr. DiFonzo's (April 16th) and Mrs. Ysern's (April 17th) classes will be going on their "make-up" nature center field trips to the Smith Center. Be sure to sign and return the permission slip for this trip. There is no charge for this trip.
- Behavior expectations remain high. We are confident that all students will be able to participate in the remaining activities by demonstrating their ability to remain focused and respectful to their peers and staff.

**FOURTH QUARTER IS HERE!
HURRAY!**

Fourth Grade Findings

Welcome to fourth quarter! This quarter our Authors are investigating the genres of Poetry and Mysteries. Just like prior quarters, students are expected to independently read five books and complete one question for each book. Students will also read a separate book for their project. Question and project information can be found on our 4th grade page through the Fairland website.

Book 1— Due Wednesday, April 16th

Book 2— Due Wednesday, April 23rd

Book 3 — Due Wednesday, April 30th

BOOK PROJECT— Due Wednesday, May 14th

Book 5— Due Wednesday May 28th

Book 6— Due Tuesday, June 10th

This quarter our Mathematicians are discovering various strategies for multiplication and division. Parents, please practice multiplication and division facts with your child every night! Additionally, students will explore elapsed time. Try comparing family members' ages using years, months, days, or minutes! For more math ideas, visit www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math.

Fourth Grade Findings continued on next page.

Fourth Grade Findings (continued)

This quarter, our Scientists will examine rocks, fossils, weathering, and natural disasters! Ask your child to explain an intriguing science experiments!

In Social Studies, our Politicians are delving into the three branches of government to better prepare us for our Annapolis field trip on Thursday, May 1st. Please turn in your child's \$35 and all the permission slips by April 25th. Students must be at school by 8:15 a.m., dressed for an outdoor walking tour. Please pack a lunch in a labeled, clear bag with a plastic or boxed drink.

* Spring has *
* sprung! *

Fifth Grade Footnotes

- We have been busy in 5th grade preparing for the MSA testing. Our students have been practicing taking multiple choice tests, as well as writing brief constructed responses. By the time you are reading this, our Reading and Math MSA testing will be finished. However, we still have to take the Science MSA test. That will take place in early May.
- Our 5th graders will be taking two field trips. On April 29, we have been invited to see the play "Les Miserable" at Blake High School. We are really looking forward to this exciting musical production. Also, on Wednesday, May 21 we will be visiting the historic city of Philadelphia. The students will need to be at school that day by 6:45 am, and will need to be picked up at Fairland at 6:15 pm. Watch your child's VIP folder for the permission slip that will be coming home soon!
- Our 5th graders are working on many exciting activities in their classes. In math, Mrs. Hester's class is learning how to draw circles, and how to find the area and circumference of circles. They enjoy the opportunity for hands on learning in this geometry unit! In Mr. Blake's, Ms. Caines', and Miss Collins' classes the students are organizing and interpreting data. This includes finding mean, median, and mode. They will also organize data by making stem and leaf plots, and will learn how to use ratios.
- In reading language arts, the 5th graders are enjoying tall tales. They are reading about such characters as Paul Bunyan, Pecos Bill, and John Henry. The students will also work with a small group to put on a tall tale play. They will memorize their lines, make costumes, and scenery. We are looking forward to their final productions!
- The students really enjoyed the structures unit in science. They worked on a challenge to build a tall structure using only straws and paper clips. Also, they used index cards and masking tape to make a strong structure. We tested each strong structure to see how much live load it could hold. Most of them were able to hold at least 3 pounds! Our next unit will focus on magnetism. Students will use magnets to test objects to see if they are magnetic or not, as well as learn about how magnets attract and repel.
- In social studies, the students have learned about many of the laws that were in place during the pre-Revolutionary years, such as the Stamp Act and the Tea Act. They discussed how these restrictive laws led to the American Revolution. They will also study other events that led the colonies to go to war with England.
- All students have to read six independent reading questions this quarter. The due dates are posted in their reading folders. Please help your child meet these important deadlines.
- The Family Life/Human Sexuality health classes begin on April 22. If you haven't returned the permission slip yet, please do so we know whether or not your child can attend these classes.
- Finally, mark your calendars for Monday, June 10. Our 5th grade promotion ceremony will be held at 10:15 am in the All Purpose Room that day. We hope to see all of you there!

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.

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



Fairland Instrumental Concert:

Tuesday, May 20

7:00 PM to 7:45 PM

All Fairland Families are invited to attend the Fairland spring instrumental music concert. You will have a chance to hear all the band and orchestra students perform.

Reminders for performing students:

- √ Please arrive at 6:15 to warm up with the band or orchestra.
- √ Performing students are reminded to wear black and white.
- √ If you have any questions please contact Mrs. Belin.



The BUY ONE GET ONE FREE Scholastic Book Fair is almost here!!



The book fair will be held Tuesday, May 20, to Friday, May 23. Stay tuned for booklists and flyers in your backpacks with the date of Family Night!

Volunteers needed!

Please email Suzie at suzie.friedman@gmail.com or Andrea at cuellar_7@msn.com to help out!!

Is Your Child Bright but Struggling?

Learn more about the gifted and talented students with learning disabilities programs and services in MCPS.

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/curriculum/enriched/gtld>

Register for these programs:

- Saturday Discovers for Gifted and Talented 4th and 5th Graders (next one May 17)
- Summer Youth Programs for grades K-12 (June 6—August 15)

Contact: 240-567-7264 or www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth

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.

- 4/17/08 Internet Safety
- 5/7/08 What is the School Improvement Team?



Congratulations to Ms. Schwartz's class. They are the winners of a Domino's pizza party from Fairland's fundraiser night in March! This is their second win this year! Enjoy!

Our next Cultural Arts Program will be Tuesday, April 22nd at 2:15 p.m.

Andes Manta performs vibrant music of the Andes Mountains on more than 35 traditional instruments including the six-foot long panpipes, llama toenail rattles, four-foot long flutes known as moxenos, and the haunting sounds of the rainforest. Natives of the Ecuadorian Andes, the Lopez brothers, learned their traditional folk music as it has been taught for thousands of years, passed from father to son, brother to brother. They invite the audience to form an impromptu drum and rattle band.

During Classroom Guidance, Game Day by NFL superstars Tiki and Ronde Barber was read as a story to illustrate how jealousy and competition can be destructive in teamwork. As young players, Ronde was the blocker for Tiki who always got the chance to run in the touchdown and to then receive all the praise and recognition. Ronde finds out his value when he has to sit on the bench for a game and Tiki does not have his expertise to help him score. The story ends with Ronde being given the chance to score and his giving the praise and recognition to the whole team rather than just keeping it for himself. The students in each class then used teamwork to play Career Charades in preparation for our 2008 Career Day Morning.

Our Fairland Elementary School Career Day Morning will be on Monday, May 19, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. - 12 Noon. The purpose of this event is to enhance the meaning of the students' education, to identify areas in their education and character development that will promote a positive career experience, and to give them the opportunity to envision the multitude of choices that are available to them in the World of Work.

We invite you to come share your time and talents. This is an opportunity for your child to understand what you do everyday. It is an opportunity for Fairland students to become acquainted with and value the work you do as well as their own job as a student. It is an opportunity for you to positively affect the future of children.

If you are interested and would be willing to make a presentation, please fill out the form below and return this to Ms. Hart.

CAREER DAY



Sign up today to make a presentation on
Monday, May 19, 2008, 9 to 12.
Please return to Ms. Hart.

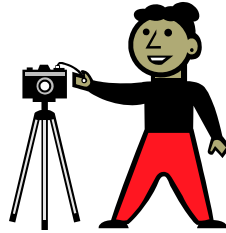


Your Name _____ Home # _____ Work # _____
Cell Phone _____ Email _____
Parent of Student(s)/Teacher(s) _____
Your Occupation _____

Picture Day

April 17

Lifetouch Studios will be at Fairland for individual Spring pictures and class photos. Your child will be bringing information regarding pricing and packets in their backpacks.



The class photos will cost \$10.60 and can be paid for with cash or by check. Students must pay separately with their own envelopes, i.e. siblings should each have their own envelope. Payment for the class picture must be made on picture day.

The individual picture will feature a close-up pose against a natural stone wall framed by shrubs and flowers. You send no money now for the individual picture. Your finished portrait package will be sent home for your review and you simply return any un-used portrait sheets with your payment. Your child is encouraged to wear their favorite outfit.

The photographer suggests that solid colors look best, especially pastels or deep, vibrant tones. All students will be photographed. Please notify your student's teacher if you do not want an individual portrait taken of your child. This program supports our school. Lifetouch provides the school with a donation for every picture package purchased!

It's time for Spring cleaning!

The Health Room is in desperate need of gently used clothing, particularly in larger sizes. Accidents happen and at this time we are just about out of clothes for children to change into.



Please consider doing a little "spring cleaning" and donate your usable sweats, jeans, tee shirts, and belts to the Health Room.

Fairland's Kindergarten Orientation Program will be held on Tuesday, April 29, 2008.

Children who will be five years old by September 1, 2008, may be registered for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. While it is always a good experience to visit that day, we register children for Kindergarten all through the summer.

Our currently enrolled Kindergarteners will not have class that day. Please call the Front Office if you have any questions.

The Wizard of Oz in the Wild West!



Come see our school play on April 18 at 10:15 am, 2:15 pm and 7:30 pm. No tickets required.



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.

IMPORTANT SIGNS OF CHILDHOOD ILLNESSES

A temperature of more than 101° orally
Diarrhea
Persistent cough
Thick yellowish discharge from nose
Loss of energy or decrease in activity

Nausea or vomiting
Pale or flushed face
Earache
Rash or infection of the skin
Red or pink eyes

Stomachache
Headache
Sore throat

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF MY CHILD HAS ANY OF THESE SIGNS?

If your child has any of these symptoms when it is time for school, it is best that he/she stay home. Most childhood illnesses are over soon and no cause for worry. But, if the symptoms are severe or persist for more than 24 hours, you should contact your private source of medical care.

Children sometimes use illness as an excuse to miss school. On the other hand, some children force themselves to go to school even though they are sick. There may be times that your child does not show signs of the above-noted symptoms but may be ill. You know your child best, therefore; we rely on your judgment as to whether he/she is too ill to attend school.

WHEN MAY MY CHILD RETURN TO SCHOOL AFTER AN ILLNESS?

Generally, your child may return to school when he/she is free of signs of illness. However, there may be times when it is necessary for your child to see your source of medical care before returning to school. Please call your school nurse if you have any questions regarding a specific condition.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY CHILD BECOMES ILL AT SCHOOL?

If your child complains of being sick or does not look well after he/she reaches school, we will contact you. Therefore, it is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information and phone numbers to call in case it is necessary to contact you.

Laura Cooke, RN
School Community Health Nurse

Kathleen Kirk, SHRA
School Health Room Technician



Thank you to everyone who came out in the rain to enjoy the Family Sports Night on March 7th.

The turnout was amazing and it was great to see many new faces. Marvin Cofield did a fantastic job keeping the kids entertained with all the games and equipment he brought. Kids (and adults) of all ages played Tug Of War!!! There was a soccer shoot out, fun with the parachute, and scooter races. Everyone went away with a gold medal and a prize! We really appreciate everything that Mr. Cofield did to help make it a wonderful event for everyone.

Thanks to the Fairland PTA for providing this event. Also, thanks to all the people who helped with the set up, clean up, food sale and spirit wear sale -- Vanessa Crotzer, Marissa Thomas, Sheri Melvin, Neil Dicken, Ben Kassel, Carla Austin, and Kim Gibbs. We appreciate Building Services for all of their hard work too. It was a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of people.

Linda Dicken

Thank You!

The PTA wishes to thank The Fractured Prune and the Burtonsville Starbucks for their contributions to our February bake sale.



Ready for some
Spring Cleaning?

Come & sell your wares at the Fairland PTA Kids' Flea Market

Friday, May 16, 2008 6:30 p.m to 9:00 p.m.

Students, families, and staff can set up tables to sell items to our Fairland community. Fees for table reservations and other details will be coming home soon with your child.

Pizza and other refreshments will be sold.

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.
- ✓ 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/>.
- ✓ Designate Fairland PTA when you purchase Verizon products. Call 1-888-695-5299 and give them tracking code 1145.

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!

We're on the Web!

www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/

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 or 301-879-3190.