



Fairland Elementary School

**FAIRLAND FLYER**  
*Flying Far With Education*



**December 2008**

Greetings Fairland Families and Friends

In the next couple of weeks we say goodbye to 2008 with all its peaks and valleys and welcome in the year of 2009 come what may. I sincerely wish you and your families all things great and wonderful in the New Year.

This past weekend, we celebrated our multi-cultural exchange in the form of International Day. The children who came out were all brave and wonderful. They all eagerly participated in the festivities of the day.

In the first half of the event, the children bravely introduced themselves and the countries they represented. Next, they practiced playing rhythm instruments to live music. Following this, they participated in interactive learning activities as Fairland parent Sherwood Mackel provided music representative of the USA.

After the band finished playing, the children eagerly took center stage and sang, danced and made music with a true spirit of togetherness. The International Day finale was truly worth waiting for; it was simply beautiful to watch.

This event would not have come together without the strong dedication of a few good parents. When I pulled up to the school on that cold December day with flurries coming down on all of us, it was quite a relief to see that the volunteers who pledged their support were there eager and ready to try to make it possible. Ms. Cohen, Mr. Rebstock and Mrs. Soto-Brown (Fairland Staff members) thank you from all of us.

From the bottom of my heart, I say thank you to all the volunteers who carried weight of the Fairland PTA with heartfelt pride, so delicately on their shoulders throughout the year of 2008.

Peaceful tidings for 2009 Fairland Community.

Sincerely,  
Carla Austin  
Fairland Elementary School,  
PTA President

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**DEC. 24 - JAN. 2**

**No School  
Winter Break**

**JAN. 6**

**PTA Meeting  
7:00PM - 9:00PM**

**JAN. 9**

**KARAOKE Café  
7:00PM - 9:00PM**

**JAN. 20**

**No School  
Inauguration Day**

**JAN. 22**

**DIVERSITY Meeting  
7:00PM - 9:00PM**



**FAIRLAND E-MAIL  
GROUP**

Welcome new and returning families!

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).



## Kindergarten Communications

In December, we will be enjoying the many versions of the popular folktale, *The Gingerbread Man*. 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.

## First Grade Flash



The first grade classes are busy **reading** and **writing** every day. We are using many strategies to gain comprehension when reading informational text. We are also learning to identify the main idea and supporting details when reading. We will also begin to identify the main character in a story. We will collect evidence by thinking about what the character says and does to help us understand the character.

The first graders have become explorers! They are exploring new sounds and **spelling** patterns. By exploring new sounds and patterns, the first graders will be able to read and write new words. We are continuing to add five new first grade words to the word wall each week. Please continue to practice these words with your child daily.

In **math**, we are writing and solving number sentences for story problems involving addition and subtraction, comparing and ordering the number of objects in a set, and adding and subtracting one- and two- digit numbers without regrouping. We are also developing strategies to master addition and subtraction facts with sums to 10. We are also learning to select appropriate tools to measure length, time and weight.

Please continue to work on home assignments, and check folders and backpacks each night. Be sure to ask your first grader to tell you what he/she’s learning in school.



## Second Grade Scoop



The chill of winter is coming fast, but the warmth of the holiday season will keep us warm. The second grade students are hard at work every day.

In **reading** we are working on what makes a good title, and writing thoughtful answers to questions about the books we read. We are working with both informational and fiction books. Please continue to complete the reading logs; this allows your child to practice what they are learning at school. In math we are working on addition and subtraction.

Please practice **basic addition and subtraction** facts with your child at home, and make sure they are completing their homework. This is the best way to support them in learning how to add and subtract using regrouping. The 3-D projects that were completed look AWESOME. Everyone has done a great job!

In **social studies** we have started our unit on the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims. We will be looking into their daily lives and how the two groups of people interacted with each other and how the two groups interacted with the environment. In science we will be exploring balancing and weighing.

Please remember to send students to school in winter coats, hats, and gloves if they need them. Concerned about loosing them? Then make sure your child's name and teacher's name are written somewhere on the article so it can be returned.

Have a warm December and happy holidays to all!

Warm Regards-  
The Second Grade Team

## Third Grade Tidings



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS** from the 3rd grade team. We hope you enjoyed your Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends. The students have quickly adjusted to being back to school after the holiday break. They have really progressed in learning the various concepts of measuring inches and centimeters, conversion problems, and identifying perimeter and area. We're now moving on to multiplication and division. Parents be sure to have your child practice their multiplication facts using flash cards. We would like to have the students master the multiplication facts of 2 through 10 by January 5th. Some students already know the facts of 0's, 1's, 2's, 5's, and 10's. We know that they can do it!

The Maydale field trip was an adventure. The students learned about the various types of leaves that are native to Maryland and about tree life. They also explored the Maydale grounds using a compass. Their excitement was contagious! Mr. Amberg, our tour guide, was quite impressed with their knowledge of plants and the plant-life cycle. Bravo! The 3-D bee and/or plant models are due this month. We can't wait to display them and hear the student presentations.

Finally, we are thankful to the 3rd grade parents for your continued support of your children with their Independent Reading initiative and homework. Keep up the good work! Have a Happy, Healthy, and Safe New Year! TOGETHER WE ACHIEVE MORE!

Third Grade Team  
Cathy Jones • David DiFonzo • Angela Moses • Patricia Ysern



## Fourth Grade Findings

In Reading, we are starting realistic fiction novels and historical fiction novels. We are also reading stories from JUNIOR GREAT BOOKS! Quarter 2 Remaining Due Dates for independent reading:

**Book 4-** December 23

**Book 5-** January 7

**Book 6-** January 21

Students must complete six independent books by the end of the quarter!

In **Writing**, we are working on several pieces as well as improving in our ability to answer brief constructed responses. In Math, our second unit is well underway. Our unit focuses on algebra, patterns and functions. Multiplication and division practice are very important right now!

For **Social Studies**, we are comparing and contrasting the lives of the colonists with the Native American people of Maryland. We are also creating family crests, modeled after the Calverts and Crosslands of early Maryland.

In **Science**, we will be talking about pollution and its effect on our environment.

December is always a busy time for everyone. Don't put off independent reading! This is also a great time to practice multiplication facts.

Please be sure to check your child's agenda book and VIP folder daily. It is absolutely essential to help them stay organized.

Students should be reading at least 30 minutes each night of an independent book.

Finally, the chorus show is scheduled for December 18th. See you then!

## Fifth Grade Footnotes



**Happy Holidays!** We are hoping everyone is staying warm and enjoying this holiday season! We are keeping warm and working hard in fifth grade! The fifth graders are joyfully engaged in learning! As we approach the New Year, in **language arts**, we are working on poetry and short stories. The students will spend time analyzing and writing poetry. They will also have a chance to create their own short story.

Mrs. Collins' and Ms. Menter's **math** classes are completing our study of geometry. Students worked hard measuring angles and circles. Mr. Blake's and Mrs. Hester's **math** classes are continuing their study of fractions, decimals and metric measurements. Please encourage your child to study their math journals and basic facts every evening. This will help them towards their success in math. We certainly have mad scientists in fifth grade! Our busy fifth graders are working on their electricity unit in **science**. They will be constructing their own electric circuits.

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Continued...

In **social studies**, the students are learning about the levels and branches of government. We think we have some future politicians in fifth grade! Learning about the roles and responsibilities at each branch and at each level of government should give them a leg up on the competition when they run for office!

Please continue to encourage your child to stick to their 30 minutes of reading every evening. This will keep all students on track with the due dates.

Thanks for your support.

Mr. Blake, Mrs. Collins, Mrs. Hester, and Ms. Menter wish all of our Fairland Families a very happy, safe and healthy holiday.

## Physical Education

Dear Fit-tastic Fairland Families,

Earlier this fall the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released new Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, a comprehensive set of recommendations for people of all ages and physical conditions. The Physical Activity Guidelines are designed so that people can customize them to suit their lifestyle and include activities they enjoy. Children should participate in one hour or more of physical activity per day, and most of the activity should be moderate or vigorous aerobic physical activity.

This month I encourage you to “Find Some Fun Inside!” by regularly incorporating family fitness activities from your child’s December 2008 Physical Activity Calendar. Create a scavenger hunt in your home and have a race to see who can find everything. Practice safe balances and stunts during TV commercials. Put on your favorite music and see how long the family can dance together.

Try to discover ways to make sedentary time an active time for all members of your family. Waiting for the school bus to arrive? Fit in stretching, curl-ups, or other strength exercises while you wait. Preparing food? Calf raises and counter push-ups can be performed while multi-tasking. Activities like carrying laundry up and down the stairs, lifting groceries onto shelves, and relocating winter decorations all use muscular strength.

You’ll be surprised at how many ways you can exercise your body working together in your home during winter weather. Perhaps it will snow and then you can move your indoor exercises to outdoor sledding, snowperson rolling, and snowball throwing!

Healthfully,

Mrs. Williams  
Physical Education Teacher

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Montgomery County Schools will be closed January 20, 2009, in celebration of the Inauguration of our 44<sup>th</sup> President.

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## Counselor Corner



Classroom Guidance this year has addressed the recognition of bullying tactics. Through the retelling of My Secret Bully and the reading of Just Kidding, both written by Trudy Ludwig students were given examples of three ways bullying is similar to other forms of harassment. It is the result of an imbalance of power; the bully chooses the behavior and blames the target for the harassment.

Dr. Dan Olweus, bullying expert and researcher, points educators to interventions that change a school culture rather than just changing the behavior of the targets. He includes setting clear standards for acceptable and unacceptable behavior, implementing consistent consequences for actions that are likely to hurt others and providing education about bullying to every student. Educating the students includes telling them that targets are not at fault and they did nothing to cause the bullying. Acknowledging with the target that bullying does hurt helps them heal.

Strategies are taught that these may not work and that if they become more bullied they must get adult help. If they are denied help from one adult, they are encouraged to keep trying until someone will act on their behalf. The difference between tattling (getting someone into trouble) and reporting (getting self or others out of danger) must be taught to them. These are important messages that children must hear over and over from many sources.

Just Kidding provides the following **Teasing Do's and Don'ts**:

### Teasing Dos and Don'ts

#### Do

- ✚ Be careful of others' feelings.
- ✚ Use humor gently and carefully.
- ✚ Ask whether teasing about a certain topic hurts someone's feelings.
- ✚ Accept teasing from others if you tease.
- ✚ Tell others if teasing about a certain topic hurts your feelings.
- ✚ Know the difference between friendly, gentle teasing and hurtful ridicule or harassment.
- ✚ Try to read others' "body language" to see if their feelings are hurt—even when they don't tell you.
- ✚ Help others when they are being teased or ridiculed.

#### Don't

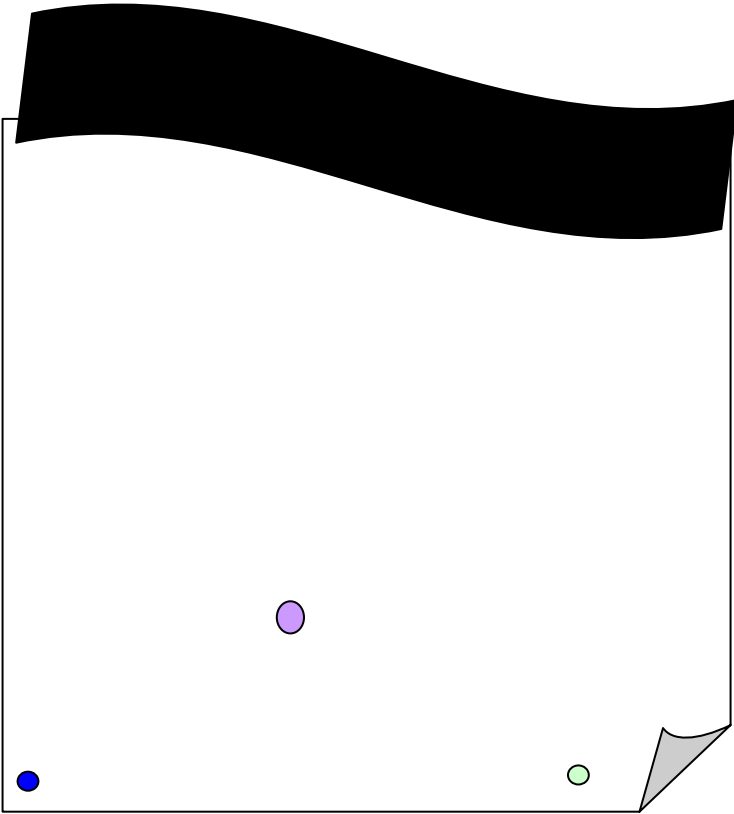
- ✚ Tease someone you don't know well.
- ✚ Tease about a person's body.
- ✚ Tease about someone's family members.
- ✚ Tease about a topic when someone asked you not to.
- ✚ Tease someone who seems agitated or who you know is having a bad day.
- ✚ Be thin-skinned about teasing that is meant in a friendly way.
- ✚ Swallow your feelings about teasing. Tell someone in a direct and clear way what is bothering you.

Here are some websites Trudy Ludwig cites in her books.

The Empower Program	<a href="http://www.empowered.org">www.empowered.org</a>
Full Esteem Ahead	<a href="http://www.fullersteemahead.org">www.fullersteemahead.org</a>
GENaustin Girl Empowerment Network	<a href="http://www.genaustin.org">www.genaustin.org</a>
The Ophelia Project	<a href="http://www.opheliaproject.org">www.opheliaproject.org</a>
<a href="http://www.bullying.org">www.bullying.org</a>	<a href="http://www.stopbullyingme.ab.ca/">www.stopbullyingme.ab.ca/</a>
<a href="http://www.ifcc.on.ca/bully.htm">www.ifcc.on.ca/bully.htm</a>	<a href="http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp">www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp</a>
	<a href="http://www.no-bully.com">www.no-bully.com</a>

**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, however, 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*



**REVISED CLASS LISTS**

Two children were inadvertently left off of their class lists in our PTA Student Directory. We have updated those two class lists and have them below. The new additions are in bold. We apologize for any inconvenience.

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# PTA Student Directories

The PTA Student Directories were sent home via backpack mail in early November. If you have not received your copy and you are a paid PTA member, please contact Kim Gibbs at 301-879-7034 or [kim\\_a\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com). If you are not yet a PTA member, please join for only \$10 and receive the PTA Student Directory for free!



**The deadline for the January 2009 issue of Fairland Flyer is January 9, 2009.**

**Please submit your materials to [jablee@verizon.net](mailto:jablee@verizon.net) and [lcalloway@eschoolnews.com](mailto:lcalloway@eschoolnews.com)**

**Thank You.**



## Fairland Calendar of Events 2009 School Year

No School-Winter Break	December 24, 2008 to January 2, 2009	
PTA Meeting	Tuesday, January 06, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Karaoke Café	Friday, January 09, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School	Monday, January 19, 2009	
No School	Tuesday, January 20, 2009	
Diversity Meeting	Thursday, January 22, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School	Monday, January 26, 2009	
PTA Meeting	Tuesday, February 03, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
BINGO night	Friday, February 06, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School	Monday, February 16, 2009	
Early Release	Friday, February 27, 2009	Dismiss at 1:00pm
PTA Meeting	Tuesday, March 03, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Family Sports Night	Friday, March 06, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School	Monday, March 30, 2009	
PTA Meeting	Wednesday, April 01, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School- Spring Break	April 6-13, 2009	
Silent Auction	Sunday, April 19, 2009	12:00pm - 5:00pm
Diversity Meeting	Thursday, April 23, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Movie Night	Friday, May 01, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Beautification	Saturday, May 02, 2009	10:00am - 1:00pm
PTA Meeting	Tuesday, May 05, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
No School	Monday, May 25, 2009	
Chess Tournament	Friday, May 29, 2009	5:00 - 9:00pm
Book Fair, Buy 1 get 1 Free	<b>TBD</b>	
Last PTA Meeting	Tuesday, June 02, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Spring Dance	Friday, June 05, 2009	7:00 - 9:00pm
Last Day of School	Tuesday, June 16, 2009	Dismiss at 1:00pm

## Black History Poetry Slam



On Friday February 27th, we will have our second Black History Poetry Slam. Students from all grade levels have selected poems by various African American poets. They will practice, memorize and recite their poems during the poetry slam. Listening and learning these inspiring poems may motivate these students to become the poets of the future.

Mark your calendars and come and join the fun. The program will be held in the evening at 7:00 pm. If you would like for your child to participate, please turn in your permission slip to Mrs. Cofield by December 23rd. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs. Cofield @ 301 989-5658. Thank you.



## Thank You International Day Volunteers!

It just would not have been possible without your contribution.

Ms Jessica Cohen  
Mr. John Rebstock  
Mrs. Brenda Soto-Brown  
Cathy Mackel  
Sherwood Mackel  
Walter  
Bill Thomas  
Judith Roberts  
Damian Roberts  
Akheem Roberts  
Dina Hodgson  
Tiffany Williams  
Nerfeti Brown  
Odette Royal  
Mr. and Mrs. Wathsala Chandradasa  
Miss S. Chandradasa  
Judith Gervais  
Silvya  
Miss Keisha  
Janelle Royal  
The awesome Fifth Grade helpers of Fairland Elementary!





**FAIRLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PTA  
Community Kids Festival & Silent Auction  
Sunday, April 19, 2009  
12:00 pm – 5:00 pm**

Time to mark your calendars for the **2nd Fairland Community Kids Festival and Silent Auction**. Our inaugural event, held in April 2007 was a huge success! This major PTA fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009 from 12-5 pm. This event is a great way to support your school and is a fun afternoon for the whole family. There will be hundreds of wonderful items donated from local and national businesses, Fairland families, and staff. Great deals await the highest bidder, and a great time awaits all who work on this wonderful and worthwhile event!

We need your help to make this event fun and successful! The Community Kids Festival and Silent Auction Planning Team is seeking volunteers to assist with the planning, creating decorations and displays, collecting donations, organizing class projects, assisting in set-up, publicity, and marketing. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to [communitykidsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:communitykidsfestival@gmail.com).

This silent auction donation form has been provided if you would like to donate an item or know someone who may be interested providing a donation.

**SILENT AUCTION DONATION FORM**

Fairland Elementary School  
14315 Fairdale Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20905  
(301) 989-5658  
PTA Tax I.D. Number: 20-3366991

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

To benefit Fairland Elementary School, I/we will donate the following goods or services to be auctioned at the Silent Auction, to be held on Sunday, April 19, 2009. Unless otherwise specified, all donations must be used within one (1) year of the auction.

**All donations should be received by Friday, February 27, 2009.**

**DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS:**

Please be specific. Your description will be used in our catalog. Please indicate, if applicable, whether time, type of accommodation, date, or number of persons is restricted; tax, tip of alcoholic beverages are included; reservations are necessary; or if any other restrictions apply:

<i>Insert description here</i>
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<b>ESTIMATED OR RETAIL DOLLAR VALUE OF DONATION:</b>	\$
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**Please check all that apply:**

- Donor is including voucher, letter, item or certificate with this form.
- Donor will deliver items to Fairland Elementary School by Friday, February 27, 2009.
- Use this form as the Gift Certificate.
- Fairland Elementary School PTA may create a certificate based upon the information on this form.
- Please have winning bidder contact donor to arrange for pickup of donated items.
- Brochures, menus, samples, etc. are enclosed for display and advertisement at the auction.

Contact Person:	
Donor Establishment Name:	
Street Address:	
City, State, Zip Code:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your generous donation and support of Fairland Elementary School!**

**Questions?**

**Please contact Dheeraj Agarwal at (202) 368-1067 or via email at [dheeraj.k.agarwal@gmail.com](mailto:dheeraj.k.agarwal@gmail.com).**

SAVE THE DATE!  
**SAVE THE DATE!**



**Please Join Us for an Afternoon  
Full of Fun and Games.**

*Free and Open to the Public*

\*\*\*The poster contest has been extended until Friday Jan 9<sup>th</sup>.\*\*\*

Click on link to view the 2007 contest:

<http://montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/fairlandes/fairlandPta/poster.htm>

Sunday, April 19, 2009  
12:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
Fairland Elementary School

**To volunteer, please send an email to:  
[communitykidsfestival@gmail.com](mailto:communitykidsfestival@gmail.com)**

## Diversity Meetings.....

Please mark your calendars....

January 22, 2009

April 23, 2009

All meetings held at 7:00 p.m. (Media Center)



*Creating Partnerships with Parents, Montgomery County Public Schools and PTAs*

*We would like to welcome you back to Fairland. As advocates for our children, we encourage you to become more actively involved in your children's education. Come to the meetings and learn how you can help network and keep your children on the right track in order to help them succeed and have a wonderful learning experience.*

### ***Mission***

The mission of the Parents' Council is to provide a forum through which interested citizens may offer assistance, guidance and support to African American and other minority parents and students of Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) using encouragement, information sharing, training, positive motivation, critical evaluation and advocacy as they pursue the highest quality education possible.

### ***Vision***

The Parents' Council envisions a system where children are encouraged to excel to the extent of their abilities; their strengths are recognized and cultivated; they are able to participate and succeed in safe and culturally competent school environments and the staff and administration reflects the diversity of the community.

### ***WHO ARE WE?***

The Parents' Council of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was formed as an outgrowth of ideas put forth during the 1995 and 1996 NAACP Youth Summits. The Parents' Council began in five clusters and now proudly boasts a Parents' Council in every school cluster in Montgomery County. The Council is the largest minority parent organization in the state. Its members are parents, guardians, and grandparents of minority children enrolled in the Montgomery County Public School System (MCPS). The Parents' Council invites everyone who shares the goal of equal education for all children, to join with them as we advocate for quality education for minority children.

“Parents as Partners” – Your Fairland Parent Representative

Sheri Melvin – [sheri\\_melvin@hotmail.com](mailto:sheri_melvin@hotmail.com) 301-674-2706

