

Fairland Flyer

Flying Far With Education

Fairland Elementary School

February 13, 2008

President's Letter

Dear Fairland Families and Friends,

Happy 2008 to all of you, I hope everyone is off to a good start for the New Year. For those of you who have not been so fortunate, I hope you find peace and comfort in family, friends and community. It is truly wonderful to start looking forward to welcoming the renewed energy of springtime. We have had some beautiful days that have become a preview of great weather yet to come.

Since my last letter in December, we have enjoyed a couple of PTA events, such as Karaoke Night, and Black History Bingo. The events were well attended, (as were all of our events this year) not to mention the fact that the attendees enjoyed great fun. It is still not too late to come out and enjoy one of the upcoming PTA events before the close of the school year. It always gives me inherent joy to see new faces at each event!

I have had many questions as to why the February PTA meeting was cancelled. Due to the passing of the Mother of one of Fairland Elementary School's Teachers, Mrs. Klumpp, one of the most consistently active Teachers in the PTA for many years, we opted to cancel the PTA meeting because it coincided with some of the viewing arrangements. On behalf of the PTA, we offer her and the rest of her family our heartfelt condolences and hope they will find great solace in the beautiful memories of the times spent with their loved one.

As a PTA unit, this passing reminds us of the uncertainties and fragility of human existence and how precious family relationships and close friendships are. It does not matter if you have 5 years or 40 years with a loved one, the point is it will always be too short. This is the main reason why we should all count the tiny blessings that come our way on a daily basis when we least expect it. During the past week it became painfully obvious of my own need to keep the focus on the PTA mission, which is to work for children by strengthening the ties between home, family life and school, in order to facilitate their education. My commitment as your PTA leader is to therefore, keep the focus on the things we need to do to accomplish some of these goals by the end of the school year. Please feel free to contact me, if there is anything the Fairland Elementary School PTA can do to assist in you or your child in times of need.

I bid peace to all families in our Fairland Elementary School Community.

Sincerely,

Carla Austin

Fairland Elementary School, PTA President
caustin@enllc.net

Special Points of Interest:

- Blood Drive at Burtonsville Fire Dept. Feb. 17
9:00 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
- No school Feb. 18
- Books the Magic is Real Assembly
Feb. 25, 2:30 p.m.
- Band concert Feb. 26,
7:00 p.m.
- Storyteller Assembly
Feb. 28, 9:45 and
10:30 a.m.
- PTA Meeting Mar. 4,
7:00 p.m.
- Family Game Night
Mar. 7, 7:00 p.m.
- Our website:
www.mcps.k12.md.us/schools/fairlandes/



Pre-Kindergarten Press

Head Start has been busy as usual! All of our students have done an incredible job learning their letter names, both upper and lower case, and the sounds of the letters! We are working on rhyming words and are continuing sorting by color, shape and size. We are counting and learning to write our numbers and letters, as well. Our new unit is "The Restaurant." Please send in any restaurant menus and order pads from any restaurant, or small, clean, empty pizza boxes you can beg from Pizza Hut!

Kindergarten Communications

February is packed with learning! We celebrated our 100th day of school and had a lot of fun exploring the number 100. We have completed our winter round of testing and are so excited about our wonderful progress. We are focusing on our blooming writing skills and strong written responses. We also celebrate President's Day and Valentine's Day this month. A wonderful way to review the many ways to show caring, sharing and honesty. We will continue learning about the many changes in nature during winter. In addition, we are reading many nonfiction books on winter, penguins and other arctic animals.

Through our study of the groundhog, we know that he saw his shadow and there will be six more weeks of winter. So stay warm and keep on learning!



First Grade Flash

It is hard to believe that we have celebrated our 100th day of school. The students have learned so much and they are still enthusiastic about learning new things. In reading language arts our focus is on fairytales/folktales and the important message that is learned from each one, comparing different versions of a fairytale/folktale, and identifying and explaining character traits and their actions. In writing our focus is on writing to persuade. The students will learn the difference between a fact and opinion, and use that information to write to convince the reader to agree with their opinion. It is exciting to see the students use their knowledge of spelling patterns to help them in their writing.

In math the students are learning different ways to display data. They are learning to create tally tables, bar graphs, and pictographs from the data they have collected. The students are learning to use fact families to help them with their addition and subtraction facts. We are studying constructions in science. They will learn about construction materials, strong shapes, and building bridges. Our focus in social studies will be on economics. They will learn the difference between goods and services, wants and needs, and natural and human resources.

In honor of Black History Month the students will learn about the contributions African Americans made to our great nation. We will focus on pioneers in the field of science, civil rights, the arts, sports, and heroes.

Thank you for all you do to support your child. We appreciate all your help.

Second Grade Scoop

The second graders are busy learning many new and fascinating topics in third quarter! In math, we are finishing our unit on addition and subtraction. Our next unit we are looking forward to is learning more about fractions and measurement. We will be learning all the different ways that people use measuring in their daily lives. This unit is great for at-home learning connections! Have your student help when measuring items for

Second Grade Scoop continued on next page.

Second Grade Scoop (continued)

a recipe or telling time throughout the day. In reading, we will be studying the genres of folktales and tall tales! We will travel around the world and discover folktales from different countries. We will read tall tale stories about Pecos Bill, Johnny Appleseed and other great tales. Be sure to ask your student what an exaggeration is and to give you an example of one they heard in a story.

Also, you might notice your second grader being more persuasive at home. That's because we are focusing on writing to persuade this marking period. We are starting the unit by discussing what good persuasion techniques we can use and what techniques will not work. Just for fun, when your student requests an item in the future have him/her try to persuade you. Let them use the techniques we learned, before saying yes (or no).

Third Quarter is here!

This quarter we will be studying:

Reading/Language Arts:

- Historical Fiction
- Reading for literary experience-Exposure to a variety of genres and styles
- Reading to be Informed
- Cursive handwriting/Grammar/Punctuation & Capitalization

Writing:

- Persuasive Writing
- Writing to Inform

OTHER TIDBITS:

- We continue to integrate MSA practice in Reading and Math to prepare for testing in April.
 - The Baltimore Museum of Industry Field Trip has been rescheduled for April 28th. Be sure to sign and return those permission slips.
 - Mrs. Ysern's and Mr. DiFonzo's classes will be going on their "make-up" nature center field trips to the Smith Center. Look for and sign the permission slip for this trip. It's there is no charge for this trip.
- Mr. Amberg, from MCPS Outreach Program, will come to Fairland on March 3rd and teach the children about astronomy.

Third Grade Tidings

Math:

- Geometry
- Daily practice of multiplication facts
- Practice with two and three-digit subtraction with regrouping

Science:

- Students are wrapping up Crime-Lab Chemistry Unit
- Our next unit will be SOUND

Social Studies:

- Black History Month
- Maps and Geography

Fourth Grade Findings

With the second marking period behind us, students are busy trying to reach their new third quarter goals. In Reading, students are exploring the genres of Plays and Biographies. Just like prior quarters, students are expected to independently read 5 books and complete one question for each book. Students will also read a separate book for their Collection Project. Question and project information can be found on our 4th grade Fairland website. Due dates are:

Book 1— Due Thursday, January 31st

Book 2—Due Thursday, February 14th

BOOK PROJECT— Due Friday, February 29th

Book 4 — Due Thursday, March 13th

Book 5— Due Thursday, March 20th

Book 6— Due Thursday, April 3rd

Fourth Grade Findings continued on next page.

Fourth Grade Findings continued

This quarter in Math, our Mathematicians are discovering how both common and decimal fractions can represent fractional parts. We are also exploring how probability can be represented numerically and graphically. Parents, please encourage your child to practice reading decimals found on product labels. For example: The meat in the package has four and five-tenths (4.5) grams of fat. You can also ask your child to estimate the total cost of several items at the store. For more math ideas, visit www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math.

This quarter, our Authors are writing to persuade. Watch out for some persuasive letters! In Social Studies, our Anthropologists are investigating the factors prompting the exploration of new lands to determine migration habits. Talk to your child about your family's heritage to help him/her understand that the United States is a melting pot of immigrants from all over the world. This quarter, our Chemists will examine the states of matter - solids, liquids, and gases. Ask your child to explain the intriguing science experiments!

Fifth Grade Footnotes

Happy Valentine's Day! Can you believe we have completed half the year? It is now third quarter and the fifth graders are off to a great start. We have already completed the first book for independent reading. The first independent reading question/project was due on January 29th. The next five due dates are February 11th, February 22nd, March 5th, March 17th, and April 3rd. Please continue to encourage your child to read for at least thirty minutes every evening. Your child will be able to meet the reading goal if he/she sticks to the required reading. Our 5th grade scientists are busy studying and building structures. The students have built structures with straws and paper clips and will spend more time exploring what it is that makes a structure stand on its own. We sure do have a group of creative future scientists upstairs in fifth grade! In social studies, the students are continuing to learn more about our branches of government. With Election Day right around the corner, the 5th graders have also been spending time discussing the information about elections, presidents, and voting. The students seem extremely excited to vote when they turn eighteen!

Mrs. Hester's math class recently started their geometry unit. The students in Math A are constructing angles, measuring angles and naming the three different angles that they are studying. Mrs. Collins, Mr. Blake and Ms. Caines' math classes are very close to completing Unit 3. The students have worked so hard learning decimals, fractions and percents. Please continue to encourage your child to review math homework every evening. In Language Arts, the fifth graders will soon begin their play unit. Each of the classes will study tall tales and then perform a tall tale play for their classmates. We are looking forward to seeing our students step into character and shine on stage. We thank you for your support. We are looking forward to the second half of our year. Think Spring!

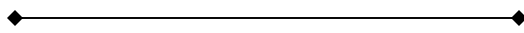
Fairland E-mail Group

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.



- √ The MCPS HIAT Team is offering a parent training session designed to help you use universally designed learning strategies to support students at home. Learn about using Powerpoint to support oral presentations. March 3 from 7-9 p.m. At the Center for Technology Innovation: 4 Choke Cherry Road, Rockville. Call 301-657-4959 for more information.
- √ February 28, 2008, 7:30 - 9:30pm Carolyn K, Webmaster of www.hoagiesgifted.org speaks on: Enforced, learned, or twice exceptional: Underachievement can have many causes, and a variety of solutions. Come learn about the differences, and similarities, and many of the possible solutions, to underachievement. The first step to resolving underachievement is to figure out what's causing the underachievement - then we can begin to resolve it! Carver Auditorium Carver Educational Services Center 850 Hungerford Drive, (Rt. 355) Rockville, Maryland 20850. For more information: hollygaut@hotmail.com.



Fairland Instrumental Concert: Tuesday, February 26 7:00 PM to 7:45 PM

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

Reminders for performing students:

- √ Please arrive at 6:15 to warm up with the band or orchestra.
- √ Wear black from the waist down and white from the waist up.
- √ Remember your instrument and your music!



In art class, the third graders learned about the Adinkra cloth from Ghana and have been developing an understanding of how artists can use symbols to communicate ideas, thoughts, and feelings through their artworks. Each third grade student has created a personally meaningful symbol to honor someone special in his or her life, carved the symbol into a stamp, and explored the process of printmaking in order to achieve an Adinkra-inspired "Special Symbols" cloth. I invite you to come see these beautiful and very personal works, which will be on display in the main hallway beginning the week of March 10th to supplement the Black History Month Assembly and the Black History Month Poetry Slam.

~Jackie Jones, Student Teacher in Art

Cafeteria News

Ms. Golden requests that students bring lunch money in envelopes labeled with their first/last names and teacher name to the cafeteria in the morning (PRIOR TO LUNCH). This will increase the speed of students moving through the lunch line.



Our next Cultural Arts Program will be Thursday, February 28th

with Baba Jamal Koran - The Story Man

Baba Jamal Koran is a master storyteller who brings African and African American cultures alive through folklore, fables, interactive stories and songs. His program blends contemporary and traditional story telling techniques with drumming, call and response, wit and wisdom, while passing on traditional African values and mores that speak to the entire human family. His stories encourage youth to make intelligent choices and to improve character. Families are welcome to attend the assemblies at 9:45 or 10:30 am.

Artist in Residence Program: Celebrating America's Jazz Heritage

This year the Unified Jazz Ensemble had returned to Fairland for the 4th grade residency program with Mrs. Rious.

Classroom Guidance lessons once again focus on relational aggression, using the Caldecott Honor book Rosa by Nikki Giovanni. Relational bullying refers to acts of emotional bullying which can be hidden. Instead of fists, emotional bullies employ relationships, words and gestures as their preferred weapons of attack.

Targets are those who are noticeably different (race, physical appearance, personality). Tactics such as the silent treatment, rumors, intimidation, humiliation, exclusion, teasing and manipulations are used which result in devastating injury to the target's self esteem and provoke feelings of social unacceptability. Stomach aches, headaches, anxiety, depression and school avoidance are often telltale symptoms of bullied children.

The only way to break this vicious cycle of relational aggression is through bringing the secrets of emotional bullying out into the open, providing targets with coping tools, preventing further acts of aggression and holding bullies accountable for their behavior as the roles and responsibilities of targets, bystanders, parents, teachers, administrators and well as recognizing community. This list of what a target should do is a beginning.



What Can a Target Do?

Know that it's not your fault.

Know that you don't deserve it.

Tell the bully to stop.

Remove yourself from the situation.

Get help from people you trust.

Hang out with people who let you be you.

Use humor to deflect yourself.

Don't become a bully yourself.

Just as some sources of relational bullying can be movies, TV shows, Internet "My Space" and the like, Rosa by Nikki Giovanni portrays Rosa Parks as an excellent example of what targets are to do. Rosa simply said "no" to the inappropriate behavior of a community. She did it in a respectful and responsible way. Students were given several scenarios and asked to write "I statements" as a way to communicate their feelings about certain unacceptable behaviors they might encounter. Students were encouraged to have the integrity, dignity and quiet strength of Rosa Parks to turn a "no" into a "yes" for change in the way they would allow others to treat them with the respect that they deserve. That is part of our "Character quest" at Fairland.



College Savings Plans of Maryland

Banneker Middle School PTSA invites Fairland families to join them for a special Parent Information Night. Learn how to make saving for your child's college education easier.

Feb. 19, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Benjamin Banneker Middle School

14800 Perrywood Drive

Burtonsville

www.collegesavingsmd.org



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.

- 3/12/08 Gang Awareness and Bullying Prevention
- 4/17/08 Internet Safety
- 5/7/08 What is the School Improvement Team?

Karaoke Café January 11, 2008

THANK YOU!!!



Thank you to all the parents and kids who helped make this year's Karaoke Café a big success! Thanks to the fifth grade wait staff — you did a fantastic job! A great big extra-special thank you to the teachers and staff who showed up and performed. Everyone REALLY enjoyed having you there. Singing Summer Loving: Sean Ford, Karen Collins, Pam Bayles, Shona Holmes, Laura Grabowski and her little superstar! We hope to see you all again next time!

Join us on Friday, March 7th, for our next big event -- Family Sports Night!



Coming soon to Fairland Elementary: R.E.A.C.H. Week

Earn money for the school while reading. Kick off assembly: Monday, February 25th at 2:30 p.m. in the All Purpose Room. Parents and Guardians are welcome. Check your child's backpack for more information. Contact Donna Kassel for any questions at kasseld@comcast.net.



Sponsored by the Fairland Elementary School PTA.



Fairland's **Kindergarten Orientation Program** will take place on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, here at school. This is a special day on which families accompany children who will be five years old by September 1, 2008, for registration for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. Children spend time in a kindergarten classroom with activities and the opportunity to interact with the kindergarten teachers and other children and tour the school. While it is always a good experience to be here that day, we continue to register children for kindergarten all through the summer. If you are interested in attending on April 29, please contact the school at 301-989-5658. Our currently enrolled kindergartners will not have class that day.

Thank You!

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

- Our Hospitality Team and contributing families for S'mores for the staff.
- Cathy Mackel and everyone who helped with the Election Day Bake Sale.
- The parents who created, sold and delivered special Valentine Telegrams this past week.

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/>.

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 or 301-879-3190.

We're on the Web!

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