



FALCON FLYER

Fields Road Elementary School
One School Drive, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20878

301-840-7131
October 2009 Issue



Greetings from the Principal

Dear Fields Road Families,

As we roll into fall, I want to thank those of you who participated in the PTA Sally Foster fundraiser. Half of what you spent on these products comes back to the PTA to support all Fields Road children. It will finance additional classroom supplies and grade level projects, among other things.

Our next major PTA initiative is the Scholastic Book Fair, held in the Media Center on October 5-9. It is a great time of year to curl up with a good book! Watch your child's backpack for details.

Please plan to come observe your children in their classrooms during our fall Open House on October 12 at 9:15-12:00. This is a great opportunity to see first hand what your children are learning in school. Look for large and small group lessons, teachers emphasizing key vocabulary, students discussing their thinking with each other and students explaining these thoughts on paper. It is also an ideal time to observe how teachers are using their Promethean boards to make our curriculum exciting for children.

As the weather turns colder, please make sure your children have adequate clothing for outdoor recess. Children will go outside for 30 minutes play time after lunch unless it is raining or the wind chill is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. If your child comes to school with a jacket and returns home without it, we have a lost and found collection that you might want to check. I also recommend that you write your child's name on their jacket label (like summer camp!) to help us keep the child and jacket together.

Enjoy the crisp weather and beautiful fall colors!

Sincerely,

Kathryn S. Rupp

Important Dates



Month	Day	Event
October	5-9	Scholastic Book Fair Media Center 8:30am - 4:00pm 
October	7	Book Fair Family Event 6-8pm
October	12	Open House for Parents 9:15am - 12 pm
October	14	Student Picture Day
October	16	MD State Teacher's Convention - No school
October	22	Sally Foster products pick-up 3-7pm
October	27	Eat Out Night - Giuseppe's Pizza Kentlands 5-9 pm
October	30	 Halloween Parade and Parties 1:45pm
November	2	Professional Day - No School for Students

*The next PTA meeting is
Tuesday, November 3rd
7:00 p.m. in the
Media Center.*

Greetings from the Assistant Principal

Dear Fields Road Families,

As parents you play an essential role in helping your child grow into an independent learner. You are one of the most important learning resources your child has.

Learning depends on making meaningful connections with what the learner already knows and understands.

Homework reinforces the classroom learning and provides parents with the opportunity to learn about what is being taught in school. Research has shown that another important result of homework is the quality time parents and children spend together.

Here are a few suggestions for how you can support your child with homework:

Set a regular time for homework - Some children prefer to complete homework immediately while others prefer to have free time first. Once homework time has been established, post the schedule where everyone in the family can see it, and stick to it.

Provide an area for study - Many children can concentrate in the busy family room or kitchen. However, other children like the seclusion of their bedroom. Be available to assist your child in the agreed upon location.

Teach time management skills - Show your child how to break up long assignments into smaller chunks and to prioritize the assignments given. Suggest that your child complete the homework for subjects they find difficult first.

Keep plenty of supplies on hand - Make a basket of supplies your child regularly uses when completing homework. This bin might include the following: pencils, paper, markers, crayons, glue, scissors, paper, a dictionary and a thesaurus.

Support your child's efforts - Help your child locate information to complete assignments. Suggest that your child use his/her resources, such as class notes or the textbook when they are having difficulty with an assignment. You might also work through an example with your child as a reminder of the steps that should be followed. You should never actually do the work for your child.

After reviewing completed homework with your child, have him/her place the work in the backpack before

going to bed. Praise your child for putting forth their best effort!

Your child can also use the Homework Hotline for additional homework support. This service is available Tuesday - Thursday by calling 301-279-3234 beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Sincerely,
Celeste King



TEACHER FEATURE

Mrs. Nicolette Woods is our new Media Specialist at FRES. She graduated from the University of Delaware in Elementary Ed and Special Ed, and she received her Masters from Towson University in Instructional Technology. She has been in the school system for six years, as an Academic Intervention teacher and a 4th grade teacher.

What Mrs. Woods enjoys most about her job is getting to work with so many wonderful, different students and families, and working with students individually to help them learn and grow. She says, "Seeing a student 'get it' and watching the light bulb of understanding after teaching a lesson is one of my favorite things! I also love getting to share my love of literature and technology with students. Helping students gain that love of reading is wonderful and priceless!"

Outside of school, she likes to spend time running, reading, traveling, going to the beach and just being with her family and friends. **Welcome to Fields Road, Mrs. Woods!**



- ❖ Thank you to Margo Prator for coordinating the Back to School Picnic, and also to all the fabulous volunteers. Despite the rain, we all had a terrific time! You did a great job!

PTA President's Message

Thank you! Your support over the past five weeks since our children have been in school has been amazing. We began the school year with a bang. Sneek Peak and Back to School night were well attended, the first PTA meeting was filled with new faces and energy as we listened to a representative from Family Partnerships talk about Homework and After School Activities, and our Back-To School Picnic was amazing! I want to send a few extra special thank you's for the Back to School Picnic:

- Those parents, guardians and students who came out to have fun
- The wonderful faculty who came out to support the school after hours. I know the kids love seeing their teachers outside of the classroom
- Margo Prator, VP of Programming for all the effort to make sure the evening went off without a hitch

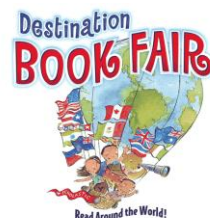
Membership - As of the printing of this newsletter we are nearly **150** members strong. That's an increase of 60% over last year. Thank you to those of you who have already joined. If you haven't don't worry—you may still join. There are forms in the school office - or simply send Shari Rager, VP Membership, an email to sharirager@yahoo.com and we will get you signed up. My new goal - 100% increase. I know we can do it!

On behalf of our children, I want to thank everyone who has volunteered to be a room parent, stepped up to help us with a project or volunteered in the classroom. However, there are still many opportunities to volunteer, please contact me at jeannemcps@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping out. We have jobs for people who work full time and can only help in the evening to those who can give us an hour or two a week in the school.

I hope to see everyone at the Book Fair and our October PTA mtg.

Thank you,
Jeanne

DESTINATION BOOK FAIR



The Scholastic Book Fair is already here at Fields Road! It's here from **October 5th - 9th, 2009**, from **8:30am-4:00pm** in the Media Center. Here is a list of events for the remainder of this week.

Wednesday, October 7th

The Fair opens at 8:30AM for early morning shoppers. Classes continue to preview the Fair and fill out their Wish Lists. The Fair closes at 4PM and reopens at 6PM.

The Family Event takes place! The family event will run from **6-8PM Wednesday night**. The first hour, 6-7PM, will focus on students in grades K-2. The newest "Flat Stanley" book will be read by our Mystery Reader! After the reading various Flat Stanley activities will be available for your student to complete. The next hour, 7-8PM, will focus on grades 3-5. A scavenger hunt, games and travel activities will take place. As always, there will be raffles at each event and cookies and milk will be provided.

Thursday, October 8th

The Fair opens at 8:30AM. All classes will have had a chance to preview the Fair at this point. The students will now have the opportunity to come to the Fair, at their teacher's discretion, and purchase books from their Wish Lists. The Fair closes at 4PM.

Friday, October 9th

A new event, "**Muffins for Moms**", starts the day off at 8AM! You and your child are invited to the Fair before school starts for a breakfast/shopping event! (Please note: No child will be permitted to enter the fair without an adult from 8-9AM today.) Muffins, juice and coffee will be provided. So come on in, have some breakfast and take a look at books! The Fair will open to all students after 9AM. The Book Fair will close promptly at 4PM in order to pack up! (Hey, Dads, be on the lookout for "Donuts for Dads" coming at our spring book fair.)

Adventure awaits you at the Book Fair. Let the journey begin!

Contact Rhonda Haley at tinkwtude66@msn.com for further details or questions.

Reflections Program

Fields Road Elementary School PTA is proud this year to sponsor the Reflections Program. The program is designed to enhance a quality arts education and provides opportunities for students to express themselves artistically and to receive positive recognition for their artistic efforts.

2009-10 Reflections Program Theme: "Beauty is..!"

PTA believes all children deserve a quality arts education and encourages students to pursue artistic expression through participation in its annual arts Reflections Program. The program offers students the opportunity to create works of art for fun and recognition. Students in preschool through grade 12 are encouraged to create and submit works of art in six areas: **dance choreography, film production, literature, musical composition, photography, and the visual arts** (which include art forms such as drawing, painting, print making, and collage). In its 40 year history, the program has encouraged millions of students across the nation and in American schools overseas to create works of art.



Official Media Sponsor
of PTA's Reflections Program

Our General Music teacher, Ms. Harvith and our Art Teacher, Ms. Nguyen have offered to help coach children who need help, in their respected genre of musical composition and visual arts, coming up with ideas. Each entry must be the original work of one student only, created expressly for the program and inspired by this year's theme: "Beauty is..!" Students who want to participate must submit their entries to Fields Road PTA by December 2, 2009. The winners will be sent on to the next level of judging.

Additional details on the contest can be found on the National PTA website pta.org under the programs tab. Please contact Tara Murayama, FRES PTA Reflections Chair, at (301) 212-8855 / gmurayama@comcast.net if you have any questions or would like more information.

Fields Road Student Government Association

America's future leaders are sitting in
Fields Road classes today!



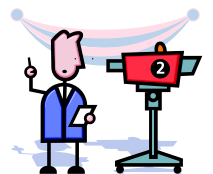
A productive way to enhance our student's leadership and academic skills is through a student government association. The **SGA** is democracy in action. Our **SGA** can and has shown students that they can make a difference- at home, at school, in the community and in the greater society.

Fields Road Falcons, we are gearing up for "ELECTION '09." Students in grades 3rd through 5th grade will vote for President, Vice- President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Fields Road **SGA**. Students who run for office but are not elected must still participate as representatives on the **SGA**. Each class will have at least 2 representatives at the **SGA** meetings.

In order to run for office, each student must submit an essay for which office they are hoping to campaign. This essay must include their ideas regarding responsibilities of an **SGA** officer and contributions he or she may make to the **SGA**. They may submit the essay to their homeroom teacher who will in turn submit them to me, the **SGA** advisor.

During campaigning the following rules and procedures will apply:

1. Only 5th grade students may run for executive office positions - President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and Publicity Director.
2. October 13 - all possible candidates will meet in Room 133 at 1:00 (5th grade lunch)
3. October 19 - Essays must be submitted to Mrs. Birns, **SGA** Advisor.
4. Only 4 campaign posters per candidate.
5. Campaign posters need to be approved by Mrs. Birns, Mrs. Rupp, or Mrs. King.
6. October 21 - Posters may be hung on hallway walls.
7. No "freebies" will be permitted to be distributed.
8. Candidates will prepare a 30 second speech.
9. October 27 - At 2:00 pm in the Media Center candidates will pre-record their speeches.
10. October 28 - Elections will be held immediately following speeches viewed by the 3rd through 5th grade classes.



Thank you for your cooperation and good luck,

Ann Birns, SLP
SGA Advisor

It's Time to Re-Register Your Merchant Cards!!

Giant A+ BONUS BUCKS

FRES ID: 00808



<http://www.giantfood.com/aplus/>

Each time you use your GIANT BONUS CARD, FRES will earn A+ BONUS BUCKS, which convert into CASH each month. You can designate up to three schools to benefit from the BONUS BUCKS that accrue. School Designation forms can be found on-line or at any store. This year's program will run from October 3rd through April 2nd. **Remember, even if you designated a school last year, you MUST re-designate this year.** Last year FRES earned \$1998.94 with just *88 cards* registered. Grandparents and neighbors can register their cards also, so spread the word and please register those Bonus Cards today to earn CASH for our school!



Safeway Club Card

FRES ID: 6503254

www.escrip.com Click on "Sign Up" or "Renew" in the top left corner. The Safeway Club Card for Education Program runs from October 1st through May 31st Present your registered SAFEWAY CLUB CARD when making your purchase. Use of your registered club card is required at checkout to automatically track contributions to our school.



Target REDcard

FRES ID: 58129

Register your Target REDcard to earn money for Fields Road Elementary School!

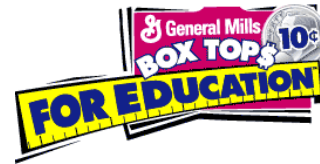
<http://redcard.target.com/redcard/> Click on the link to "Take Charge of Education" and designate Fields Road ES to receive 1% of your purchases with your Target REDcard. With just 27 cards designated, we still earned about \$200 each month in the 08-09 school year!

Harris Teeter Together in Education Program



Fields Road can earn points every time you shop at Harris Teeter and use your VIC card. You must review your VIC card selection each year by linking your card to FRES. Simply go to www.harristeeter.com and click on Together In Education and then "click here to link your card to a school" and enter the FRES ID number 6361. If you do not have a VIC card, then visit the above website and click on "Start saving with VIC" to sign up. Their program started already on August 1st, so sign up today!

General Mills Box Tops



<http://www.boxtops4education.com>

The deadline for the first class contest of this year is October 15. The class that collects the most box tops wins a prize. Ms. Hartten's class was the winner for the last collection of the 08-09 school year with 217 box tops. Her class won an ice cream party last June. The Box Tops for Education program offers an easy way to earn cash for our school by simply buying groceries. Cut out Box Tops from hundreds of your favorite General Mills products and send them to school in your child's backpack. Please send them in sets of 50 in a baggie with the name of your child's teacher. Check out the website for a list of products. Each Box Top is worth 10¢ for our school. Last year, FRES earned \$757 through this program. Way to go!

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month



During National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 - Oct. 15), the United States celebrates the culture and traditions of the Hispanic community whose roots trace to Spain, Mexico and the Spanish-speaking nations of Central America, South America and the Caribbean. It recognizes the economic, cultural, and social contributions of the more than 45.4 million Hispanics residing in the U.S.

In Maryland, over 5.5% of the population is Hispanic. At Fields Road, 19% of the student population is Hispanic (www.publicschoolreview.com). Did you know that Gilbert Arenas, Shakira, and Christina Aguilera are of Hispanic origin? Did you know that chocolate came from Mexico? How do you say banana in Spanish? Say BAH-NAH-NAH ... How about armadillo? Say R-MAH-DEE-YO. When greeting a Hispanic person, say "Hola, como estas?" means "Hello, how are you?"

The following links offer additional information about Hispanic Heritage Month:

Scholastic Hispanic Heritage

(<http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/hispanic/>) -

This site provides student activities about Hispanic history, famous Latinos, Maya and Miguel, and more.

Fact Monster

(<http://www.factmonster.com/spot/hhmbioaz.html>) -

This site has a list of biographies from famous Hispanic Americans.

Do you want to learn more about cultures? Come November, **Fields Road Elementary** will celebrate the many different cultures that are represented by our student body and around the world at the annual "Heritage Night". It is a fun and learning experience where you can learn interesting facts about countries.

Hasta la vista!!!



HELP WANTED

Wanted: Do you play piano? Our school chorus, The Singing Falcons, would love to have a piano player accompany us for our concerts. If you play and are interested, Mrs. Harvith can send a copy of the music home with your child for you to preview. Or maybe you know someone else... your child, grandparent, niece or nephew? Please email Mrs. Harvith at Ronni_C_Harvith@mcpsmd.org for more information.

Wanted: PTA still needs volunteers! The FRES PTA is looking for someone to chair a fundraiser for next month. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Jen Feinstein at jenfeinsteinaud@yahoo.com

Teachers, staff and parents: Have something you need for the classroom? Need volunteers for a school activity? To advertise in this section, please email Chris Adams at chrisadams888@hotmail.com.

FIELDS ROAD FRIENDS PTA COMMUNITY PROJECT



This year the FRES PTA will again "adopt" several children and their families in Gaithersburg to assist during the holidays. As a school community, there are many ways that you can contribute to this project. Please watch for more information on the FRES Friends Holiday Gift Giving Project coming in the next few weeks. We hope that you will plan to participate by giving in whatever capacity you can.

Michelle Culp & Sally Kramer
2009 FRES Friends
Holiday Gift Giving Project