



THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #3
OCTOBER 2008

A monthly newsletter of the Fallsmead Elementary School PTA
www.fallsmeadpta.org

EVENTS SCHEDULE

October 2008

- 10 Friday**
Sally Foster Order Forms Due
- 11 Saturday**
Kids Club, 6:00 pm-9:30 pm
- 13 Monday**
Open House, 9:30-11:00 am
- 14 Tuesday**
Picture Day – Blanton Studios
- 16 Thursday**
Young Rembrandts Begins
Glories Happy Hats Fundraiser
(4th-5th grades), 7:00-9:00 pm
- 17 Friday**
No School - MSTA Convention
- 20 Monday**
Staff Appreciation Bread drop-off
- 21 Tuesday**
Bread drop-off by 10:00 am
California Tortilla Dine-Out
Principal's Coffee, APR, 7:00 pm
- 31 Friday**
Halloween Parade, 1:30 pm
(Parties after Parade)
First Marking Period Ends
Sally Foster Delivery/Pick-up

November 2008

- 2 Sunday**
Minerva Indian Restaurant Dine-out, 12:00-3:00, 5:00-11:00 pm
- 3 Monday**
No School – Professional Day
Drop off bake sale items
- 4 Tuesday**
No School – Election Day
Election Day Bake Sale
Bring bake sale items
- 5 Wednesday**
PTA Meeting, 7:15 pm

NEWS & NOTES

NEW: No Left Turn Sign at Fallsmead

The City of Rockville has installed a No Left Turn sign at the drop-off/parking lot exit onto Gerard St. It is in effect from 8:00-9:00 am & 3:00-4:00 pm. Please obey the posted signage or choose a parking spot on the street if you must head west on Gerard St. School, parent, PTA, and neighborhood representatives are scheduled to meet with city & police officials on Oct. 9 to address other ways to improve procedures and maintain student safety during drop-off and pick-up. **Parents need to do their part to help. Please drive carefully** when entering & exiting school parking lots; follow directions of staff & volunteers directing automobile & pedestrian traffic; be courteous, slow down, stop & look before entering or exiting; and put the cell phone away until safely away from children who are walking.

PTA Meeting on November 5 – Technology, Math, School Improvement Plan

The next PTA meeting will be Wednesday, November 5th, beginning at 7:15 pm in the APR. There will be a presentation of classroom technology (i.e., those really cool Promethean Boards), math discussion and the FES School Improvement Plan.

Staff Appreciation Kicks-off this Month

The Staff Appreciation Project for October is freshly-baked breads, wrapped and ready for delivery on October 21st. See attached flyer for details.

Election Day Bake Sale, November 4th

Volunteers are needed to help with the Election Day Bake Sale in the school lobby while the polls are open (7 am – 7 pm). You can help by baking or purchasing goodies to sell and/or volunteering for a 1-2 hour shift on Election Day. Items needed: baked goods (anything with nuts MUST be clearly labeled) or purchased goodies (individually packaged crackers, snacks, juice boxes, small water bottles, etc.). Proceeds benefit Fallsmead Elementary through PTA. This is an exciting election year and the bake sale is a great opportunity to include your children in supporting voters as they participate in the democratic process! If you can help, contact Heather Haledjian at bakesale@fallsmeadpta.org or (301) 424-4852.

Fallsmead PTA Entertainment Books Are Here!

Buy an entertainment book & support Fallsmead! The book practically pays for itself with \$20 worth of Safeway coupons in the front of the book. Buy one for yourself, another for friends or family. *50% of proceeds go to our school if we sell over 100!* Don't wait—sales end Nov. 14. Cost is \$25.00 per book. For information or to purchase, contact Cheryl Levine, 301-996-6663 or giftwrap@fallsmeadpta.org. Books are also available for purchase online at www.fallsmeadpta.org.

Book Fair Safari Coming to Fallsmead in November

We need you to help us make this year's Scholastic Book Fair the greatest Reading Adventure yet! See attached flyer for dates and learn how YOU can help!

November 2008 cont'd

7 Friday

Scholastic Book Fair set-up

9 Sunday

Fallsmead articles due

10 Monday

Scholastic Book Fair, 8:30 am

11 Tuesday

Early Release Day, 12:35 pm
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Scholastic Book Fair
Report cards distributed

12 Wednesday

Early Release Day, 12:35 pm
Parent-Teacher Conferences
Scholastic Book Fair
Young Rembrandts, 12:35 - 1:35 pm

13 Thursday

Scholastic Book Fair

14 Friday

Scholastic Book Fair ends
Entertainment Book sales end

15 Saturday

Kids Club, 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm

26 Wednesday

Early Release, 12:35 pm

27-28 Thursday-Friday

No School – Thanksgiving

December 2008

2 Tuesday

PTA Meeting, 7:15 pm

All hands on deck! Lunch and Recess Monitors

Volunteers are greatly needed to help the school staff with lunch and recess. Parents are welcome to volunteer for any of the six shifts, including during their children's lunch and recess. Weekly commitments are preferable, but the school will gladly welcome volunteers on a bi-weekly or monthly basis. Even a half-hour once a month would be a great help.

The lunch and recess shifts are:

Grade	Start Time	End Time
Kindergarten	11:30 am	12:30 pm
1 st Grade	11:45 am	12:45 pm
2 nd Grade	12:15 pm	1:15 pm
3 rd Grade	12:00 pm	1:00 pm
4 th Grade	12:30 pm	1:30 pm
5 th Grade	12:45 pm	1:45 pm

To volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Patricia Polster, lunch and recess coordinator, at recess@fallsmeadpta.org or (301) 251-2964.

*** Please consider volunteering: it is a really important service to the school and also one that allows us to see our children in one of their most important social environments!

REMINDER: There is no school on Friday, October 17, so that teachers may attend the Maryland State Teachers Association convention. The date was incorrectly reported as Thursday, October 16, in a recent Falcon Flyer. Please note the correct date.

Congratulations to our September Drawing Winners

Timmy Ekpone, 5th

Sara Simmons, K

Wesley Horton, 2nd

Stone Tarwater, 4th



Thanks to all the families who contributed to the Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign this month. Along with the end of last year's collection and this month's donations, we've earned \$150 of the \$800 goal set for the school year. Congratulations!

Please have your children place the coupons in the blue Box Tops for Education collection box located in the front office. For ease of gathering, place coupons in a small plastic baggy with the student's full name and grade written on the outside of the bag.

Another easy way to help our school is to sign up for the Box Tops website at BOXTOPS4EDUCATION.COM. You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops, the latest Box Tops news and much, much more. Best of all, it's absolutely free!

For more information on how you can help our school earn cash through Box Tops for Education, contact Sabrina Altman, our Box Tops coordinator, at boxtops@fallsmeadpta.org or visit BOXTOPS4EDUCATION.COM.

From the President

It's hard to believe we have been in school for 7 weeks now. I would like to say THANK YOU to our PTA volunteers who have been very busy setting up fun, interesting programs for our students and families. Debra Browning organized a warm and informative New Parent Welcome last month. A huge thank-you goes to Jenn Pisarra and Melissa Cetola for organizing Kids Club again—it promises to be another great year. Cindy Singman and Wende Schuster worked tirelessly to help after school programs get started this semester.

Rupali Luthra has been working hard on the PTA directory which we are all anxiously awaiting. Thank you to Ting Luo for her efforts to get the FLES classes in Spanish & Chinese started here. Patricia Polster has been busy trying to get volunteers scheduled for lunch and recess so all the children can be safe while having fun. Thank you to Lisa Merkin, Jen Goode and the Community Service team for their efforts in gathering donations for the Shady Grove Pediatric unit. I know we appreciate ways that we can give to others who are not as fortunate as ourselves.

Thanks to Jodi Reff who took on a new project of putting a paper calendar together to help keep everyone organized and informed. Also, thank you to Sabrina Altman for collecting our Box Tops for Education which has already brought in a little money. Thank you to Sueni Massaquoi for heading up our Giant A+ program. All these great fundraisers allow us to fund programs at Fallsmead. Thank you to all these volunteers whose work enhances all of our children's education.

— Vina Coonin, Fallsmead PTA President

2008-2009 Fallsmead PTA Officers

President	Vina Coonin
1st Vice President	Michele Goodman
2nd Vice President	Betsy Meltzer
Secretary	Andrea Samborn
Treasurer	Rahul Jain

WHY COOK? RESTAURANT NIGHTS ARE BACK!

Dine-out with friends from Fallsmead at the local restaurants listed below and Fallsmead will receive a percentage of the sales from anyone who mentions Fallsmead -- no flyer necessary, but you must identify Fallsmead. Check the Fallsmead PTA website and upcoming flyers for more details and dates. Coming soon—Five Guys and Cheeseburger, Cheeseburger!

CALIFORNIA TORTILLA
@ Rockville Town Center
Tuesday, October 21

MINERVA INDIAN RESTAURANT
16240 S. Frederick Ave., Gaithersburg
Sunday, Nov. 2 (lunch buffet: 12 noon-3 pm, dinner: 5-11 pm)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

The Shady Grove Hospital donation project was a huge success. The hospital was very appreciative of Fallsmead Elementary families' generosity and all of the great toys/supplies received. Thank you to all who donated!

Fallsmead fifth graders will once again be participating in the Glories Happy Hats (GHH) project. To help raise funds for this event, the school will be hosting a 4th/5th grade dance in October. Details coming soon!

And, the school continues to participate in Pull Tabs for Charity. Please remember to collect 'pop tops' from aluminum cans before recycling. The pull tabs are then recycled; all profits from the recycling go toward the Pull Tabs for Charity organization.

For more information on any Community Service event, please contact Lisa Merkin at service@fallsmeadpta.org or 301-294-3632.

PTA Program Updates

- All FLES (Spanish/Chinese) classes are cancelled due to insufficient enrollment.
- No Chess Club this fall (due to no coordinator).
- Interested in working on a Grants Committee to write educational grant requests? Contact Vina Coonin, president@fallsmeadpta.org.
- Interested in helping with the website? Contact Rahul Jain, treasurer@fallsmeadpta.org.
- Interested in playing one exhibition (winner claims all bragging rights) softball game parents vs. the Fallsmead teachers? Contact Vina Coonin, 301-424-5270, or president@fallsmeadpta.org.

Sally Foster Sale – Order Forms, Merchandise Delivery

Sally Foster order forms are due on Friday, October 10. Merchandise will be at the school for pick-up on Friday, Oct. 31, after the conclusion of the Halloween parade and parties. Shop online with direct shipping through December to benefit Fallsmead (remember to include Fallsmead's account #501389 when you order online) at www.SallyFoster.com. Questions? Email giftwrap@fallsmeadpta.org or contact Cheryl Levine (301-424-8871) or Cindy Singman (301-251-9990).

Get ready for BINGO fever!

Sunday, January 11, 2009

3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

More information coming soon.

Interested in volunteering at Bingo?
Know anyone who needs to earn service hours?
We're looking for a few good helpers . . .

Contact Ellen Goldberg at bingo@fallsmeadpta.org

Silent Auction Signature Items

The Silent Auction is looking for **The Next Big Thing**. That thing can be a weekend away in a cabin that you know that friend of yours has, or a cruise on a boat that your co-worker is always bragging about, or maybe that really "cool" sculpture your brother in law made in art class last semester. The Silent Auction Signature Items are a great way to add zing and pizzazz to the Silent Auction. But I know The Ask can be awkward. No worries. Give me a call and I'll work with you to do it in a way that is comfortable. I can ask, we can ask, you can ask with a script I provide, I can ask with a script you provide. The options are endless. But we need the Signature Items and we need them now.

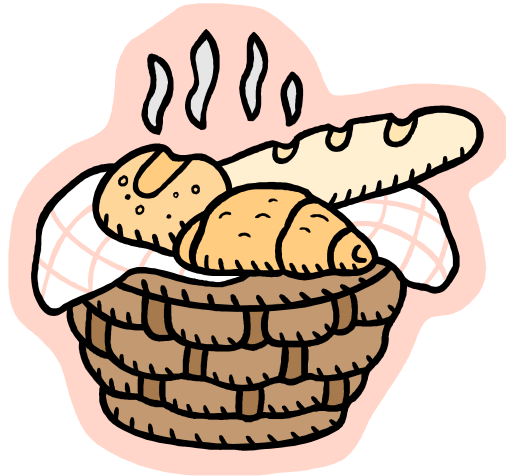
And if you have a place, a boat, a sculpture, a tote -- please let me know at your earliest convenience. Don't be shy... this is how we make things happen!!

Jill Hertzler

Silent Auction

silentauction@fallsmeadpta.org

240-505-3871



STAFF APPRECIATION

OCTOBER PROJECT

The PTA Staff Appreciation Committee works throughout the year to provide small gifts of appreciation to the teachers and staff in thanks for their constant and devoted hard work with our children each day.

Please consider providing a loaf of "quick" bread. These can be homemade, or store bought. Some suggestions are banana, cranberry, or pumpkin bread. If you are baking, and can provide more than one loaf, that would be fabulous!

Please deliver your wrapped and labeled bread at the main office, on Monday, October 20th, or by 10:00am on Tuesday, October 21st.

If you can participate in this bread project, please call or email Pam Hubbard at 240-912-7206 (staffappreciation@fallsmeadpta.org) with your quantity so we may be sure that we can provide for all staff. Thank you for your help.

Book Fair Safari

We're Looking for a "Herd" of Great Volunteers!

BOOK FAIR DATES: Nov. 10th 2008 to Nov. 14th 2008

Set-up on Friday, Nov. 7th

We need volunteers to make our Book Fair Safari our greatest reading adventure yet.

Contact bookfair@fallsmeadpta.org to Volunteer.

The Book Fair Team,
Kathleen SyBing
Shruti Taneja
Tharini Ramakrishnan

Please fill the form below and drop it in the book fair mailbox in the school.



Sign up to join our Book Fair Safari!

Name: _____ Email: _____

Tel: _____ Cell: _____

I am available (days/times): _____

I would like to help out by:

- Creating signs and media alerts
- Decorating
- Setting up our Fair (Friday 11/7/08)
- Securing community sponsors
- Helping shoppers during the Fair
- Packing up our Fair (Friday 11/14/08)
- Cashiering (sales open from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- Helping during classroom visits
- Helping at the family night (Wednesday, 11/12/08, from 7:00pm to 9:00 pm)

We appreciate your support!!