



THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #4
NOVEMBER 2008

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

EVENTS SCHEDULE

November 2008

- 14 Friday**
Scholastic Book Fair Ends
Entertainment Book Sales
End
- 15 Saturday**
Kids Club, 6:00 pm – 9:30
pm
- 24 Monday**
Sneaker & Sandal Donation
Ends
- 24 Monday**
Potomac Pizza Dine-Out
Traville Village Center
4:00-9:00 pm
- 26 Wednesday**
Early Release, 12:35 pm
- 27-28 Thursday-Friday**
No School – Thanksgiving

December 2008

- 2 Tuesday**
PTA Meeting 7:15 pm
- 13 Saturday**
Kids Club 6:00-9:30 pm
- 18 Thursday**
5th Grade Choral Concert,
“December Round the
World”
- 24 December through 2 January**
No School – Winter Break

NEWS & NOTES

MCPS Budget Cuts, Inauguration Holiday – Register Your Opinion Today!

MCCPTA (Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher Associations,) has requested that we ask our members their preferences should budget cuts impact schools: Would you prefer temporary larger class sizes or cutting of staff/programs? The poll is on the PTA website (www.fallsmeadpta.org), so that parents and guardians can register their votes. Or, if you prefer, you may email Fallsmead PTA President Vina Coonin at president@fallsmeadpta.org with your response to this question. MCCPTA is also requesting parent input on whether to close schools on January 20 so teachers and students can attend the presidential inauguration & parade. Please e-mail Vina Coonin with your input, yea or nay.

Next PTA Meeting on December 2

The next PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 2nd, beginning at 7:15 pm in the APR.

Set Design Help Needed for December Choral Concert

The Fallsmead Music Program is looking for several parents who would be willing to paint back-drops for the 5th Grade Chorus concert, "December Round the World." The concert itself is scheduled for Thursday, December 18. Please contact Cheryl Arellano, Fallsmead's music teacher, at 301-279-4984, or by e-mail at Cheryl_M_Smoker-Arellano@mcpsmd.org, if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

Community Service Projects in November & December

This month, the Community Service Committee is collecting new or 'gently' used sneakers or sandals for boys and girls at the El Hogar de Ninos Emanuel (Home for Children) orphanage in Honduras. Sturdy sneakers and sandals preferred (Crocs are OK, but no flip flops please). All children's sizes needed! There are donation boxes conveniently located throughout the school building. Donations must be received by Monday, Nov. 24. And, FES will be working with Montgomery County to purchase Holiday presents for children who might not otherwise be getting gifts. Look for details in the coming weeks! For any additional information on any Community Service event, please contact Lisa Merkin at 301-294-2632.

Potomac Pizza Community Night on Monday, November 24

Join your Fallsmead friends at Potomac Pizza in the Traville Village Center on Monday, November 24, 2008, from 4PM – 9PM. for Fallsmead Elementary School Community Night. See page 4 for details.

Get Ready for B·I·N·G·O Fever at Fallsmead!

Bingo Fever will burn up the school on Sunday, January 11, 2009, from 3:00-5:00 p.m. To make this event a success, we need volunteers! If you would be interested in helping out or know a good student in need of student service (SSL) hours, please contact Ellen Goldberg at ejgoldberg@kpmg.com. Look for ticket information coming in December.

Sally Foster Wrap-up

Congratulations to Tess Hagler from Ms. Werek's third grade class for selling the most Sally Foster in the school and winning a 4gb iPod nano! Also congratulations go to Frances Villarraga from Ms. McMillan's second grade class, who won the second iPod in a drawing among the highest sellers (over \$100) in each class.

Here are the individual classroom top sellers – what a great job!

Kindergarten

Sara Simmons (Cohen)
Matthew Grant (Hofberg)
Bilal Khadar (Paquette)

First Grade

Madison Linn (Bordine)
Katie Henley (Sakla)
Daijah Thompson (Barringer)

Second Grade

Ryan Mariani (Herwood)
Avery Breen (Hill)
Frances Villaraaga (McMillan)
Ellie Cowen (Ritter)

Third Grade

Ashley Palmer (Herbert)
Tess Hagler (Werek)
Ryan Wong (Shevitz)
Lauren Woodward (Hilbrecht)

Fourth Grade

Veronica Scheon (Kim)
AJ Villarraga (Musser)
Lily Sokobin (Kessler)

Fifth Grade

Brittany Novak (Chappell)
Sammi Singman (Edwards)
Jillian Sampaio (Samsock)
Hirday Preet Singh (Teal)

Sally Foster orders are still being accepted online through December. 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).

Congratulations to our November Drawing Winners



Eric Quam
Wes Carr

Yosapat Thaohirun
Katie Henley

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 \$260 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.

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 Sabrinaaltman@yahoo.com or visit BOXTOPS4EDUCATION.COM.

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From the President

October was a very busy month for our volunteers! I want to give a huge SHOUT OUT to Cheryl Levine who has coordinated our Sally Foster gift-wrap sale. She gave a creative incentive to spark our kids' competitive spirit and was able to raise over \$4000 for our school. She continues her work through this month by selling Entertainment books online and at the Book Fair from November 10-14.

Thank you to Rupali Luthra who oversaw the data collection, printing and distribution of our fabulous Fallsmead Directory. It's a huge job, and I know that she worked very hard on it – the directory looks great!

I also would like to give thanks to our Staff Appreciation committee led by Pam Hubbard who organized another successful bread project to recognize our appreciation for the great teachers and staff at Fallsmead. Thanks to everyone who baked a loaf (or two) for the cause. I hope you took your appreciation one step further by voting for Ms. Shevitz and Mr. Hunter in the Gazette's "My Favorite Teacher" contest. Fallsmead had TWO teachers out of the 5 elementary school finalists for our area.

Thank you to Heather Haledjian and Kit Damonte for their heroic efforts on and before Election Day for our bake sale. They organized a first class effort to man our polling location and feed hungry voters, leading the effort to raise \$1088 for Fallsmead. I know many parents signed up to bake or man the table – so thank you so much to ALL of you for your time and efforts.

I need to thank our great Fallsmead Dine-out chairs, Cindy Singman and Scott Hodes. We had a great turnout at California Tortilla. Rahul Jain connected us to Minerva Indian Restaurant which was great fun. By the time this goes to print we will have enjoyed another event at Five Guys and Fractured Prune. Makes you hungry just reading this, doesn't it?

Thanks to the Community Service team, Lisa Merkin, Jen Goode who worked with Ms. Wasser to put together a fabulous fun dance for the worthy cause of Glories Happy Hats. They raised over \$800 which will pay for one of the 2 project days planned. A special thanks to Mrs. Wasser's son, Brian, who brought his rockin' MC talent *gratis*. Thank you so much for his donation of time and talent.

Thank you to the Book Fair Team, Tharini Ramakrishnan, Kathleen Sybing, and Shruti Taneja. They have been planning for months and it showed. Their attention to details and fun creativity were well showcased in our beautiful new Media Center. We all had a great time at Family Night – what a way to celebrate the joy of reading! Thank you for all of your hard work and all of the work of the volunteers who gave their time and talent to help. Thank you for Mr. Reid for donating his time on Family Night to run games in the gym.

I know there are many of you who are volunteering your time and talent in the classroom and on the playground. Thanks so much for all of your help in making Fallsmead so great.

— Vina Coonin, Fallsmead PTA President

FALLSMEAD ELECTION DAY BAKE SALE IS A BIG SUCCESS!

Due to the generous donations of baked goods and the hard work of many volunteers, the election day bake sale brought in \$1088 for the PTA to use to benefit the school. Many voters commented that they look forward each year to getting treats from the bake sale as part of their voting experience. Thank you to everyone who baked or bought donations of cookies, brownies, muffins, sandwiches, cupcakes, breads, water, or juice which provided a wonderful variety of items to offer to voters. A special thanks goes to the Levin Family who donated 200 bagels from their Whatsa Bagel business for the bake sale. The bagels were a very big seller in the morning along with the coffee and donuts donated by Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, and Krispy Kreme. Thank you also to the many parents who volunteered time to staff the bake sale table for one or two hour shifts throughout the day. Your contribution of time ensured the success of the sale.

--Heather Haledjian and Kit Damonte (Election Day Bake Sale Co-Chairs)

ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM COMING TO FALLSMEAD

Fallsmead's Art Teacher, Patricia Touchette, is bringing an Artist-in-Residence program to Fallsmead in Spring 2009. Artist Jing-Jy Chen will introduce students to the rich color and beauty of Asian art and culture. She will work with all first - fifth grade students. The students will be introduced to the materials that are needed to create Oriental artworks and will be shown how to use and care for bamboo brushes. Students will practice techniques of Oriental brush painting - both sumi ink and watercolor. They will complete individual paintings. The fifth grade will participate in the creation of a group mural for permanent display in the school. At the conclusion of the residency, there will be an opening reception, at which selected students and Mrs. Chen will lead demonstrations in the brush techniques learned. In addition, Mrs. Chen will conduct a workshop with the classroom teachers to raise their understanding and appreciation of Asian art and culture. Parent volunteers will be needed while the artist is here (March 23- April 27th). An opening reception is planned for the evening of April 28th we will have the opening reception. A piece of art from every 1st-5th grade student will be on display as well as the finished murals. More information coming in early 2009.

Potomac Pizza

Community Night



Please join us at
Potomac Pizza in the
Traville Village Center

9709 Traville Gateway Drive Rockville, MD 20850
301-279-2234

for

Fallsmead Elementary School
Community Night

Monday, November 24, 2008
4PM – 9PM

***Dine-In *Carryout**

We receive 20% of ALL Proceeds!

Don't forget to tell your friends and neighbors!

No coupons accepted on Community Nights.