



THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #2
SEPTEMBER 2008

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

EVENTS SCHEDULE

September 2008

- 17 Wednesday**
New Parent Welcome, 7:15 pm
- 19 Friday**
Deadline - Order Student Directory
Deadline - Register for Sept. Kids Club
Deadline - Register for all After School programs
- 20 Saturday**
Kids Club, 6:00-9:30 pm
- 29 Monday**
Early Release Day, 12:35 pm
- 30 Tuesday**
No School - Rosh Hashanah

October 2008

- 7 Tuesday**
PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 9 Thursday**
No School - Yom Kippur
- 10 Friday**
Sally Foster Order Forms Due
- 11 Saturday**
Kids Club, 6:00 pm -9:30 pm
- 13 Monday**
Open House - Parents visit classrooms
- 14 Tuesday**
Picture Day - Blanton Studios
- 16 Thursday**
Glories Happy Hats Fundraiser (Grades 4-5), 7:00-9:00 pm
- 17 Friday**
No School - MST A Convention
- 21 Tuesday**
Principal Coffee, 7:00 pm
- 31 Friday**
Halloween Parade/Parties
First Marking Period Ends
Sally Foster Delivery/Pick-up

NEWS & NOTES

New Parent Welcome Reception, Wednesday, September 17

Please join us at Fallsmead Elementary on Wednesday, September 17, at 7:15 pm, for an informal get-together with Principal Kevin Payne, PTA President Vina Coonin, "veteran" Fallsmead parents, staff & parents new to our school. All are welcome, whether new or returning! Contact Debra Browning, newparent@fallsmeadpta.org, or 301-838-0277, if you are interested in attending or helping.

Student Telephone Directory Orders Due by September 19

Only persons who have pre-ordered a directory via the "PTA Membership and Directory Form" will receive a Student Directory (telephone book) this year. Also use this form to verify that your child's name and family information are correct. You may sign-up and order your directory online at www.fallsmeadpta.org using the secure online payment system of PayPal. Questions? Contact Rupali Lutra, membership@fallsmeadpta.org, or 301-309-6320.

Next PTA Meeting on Tuesday, October 7—Featuring the Specials Team

The next PTA meeting will begin on October 7 at 7:15 pm in the APR. You won't want to miss presentations by Fallsmead's stellar specials team—see attached flyer for details. You don't have to be a member to attend PTA meetings—all are welcome! If you have items for the agenda, please send to Vina Coonin, president@fallsmeadpta.org, or drop in her PTA mailbox by October 1.

Sally Foster Deadline Approaching

Wrap up those sales! Sally Foster order forms are due on Friday, October 10. **Please note the increase in Maryland's sales tax effective in July—you must now compute and add 6% sales tax to order subtotals.** Merchandise will be at the school for pick-up on Friday, Oct. 31. Shop online with direct shipping through May (remember to include Fallsmead's account #501389 when you order online) at www.SallyFoster.com. More details available at www.fallsmeadpta.org, or email giftwrap@fallsmeadpta.org or contact Cheryl Levine (301-424-8871) or Cindy Singman (301-251-9990).

Calling All Kids! Kids Club is Back!

Kids Club is back for another year of kid-friendly fun. Fallsmead students join their friends one Saturday evening each month from 6:00-9:30 pm for parent-supervised music & dancing with a DJ in the APR, Coach Doug sports in the Gym, Magician/Mad Science, Arts & Crafts, Bingo, Games & a Movie. Kids Club begins on Saturday, September 20. Don't wait to register. **REGISTRATION MUST BE RECEIVED BY SEPT. 19 TO ATTEND THIS MONTH-- NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE DOOR ON OPENING NIGHT.** Return completed registration form (see attached) with payment to the front office. See attached flyer for details.

AFTER SCHOOL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

A variety of after-school enrichment activities for students in Grades 1-5 will be offered this fall. Registration forms are attached to this month's *Fallsmedium*. You can register your child for After School Programs by returning the completed registration form to the front office along with check made payable to the program vendor (not the PTA—except for FLES which is payable to Fallsmead PTA).

Program	Day/Time	Dates	Cost
Mad Science	Mon. 3:15-4:15	Oct. 6 thru Dec. 1	\$104
FLES Chinese I (Gr. 2-5)	Mon. 3:15-4:15	Start date TBD	\$210
FLES Spanish I (Gr. 2-5)	Tues. 3:15-4:15	Start date TBD	\$210
Broadway Kids "Willie Wonka Jr."	Wed. 3:15-4:45	Sept. 24-Dec. 5 (show: Dec. 8 th)	\$190
OverTime Sports Skills with Mr. Reid (Gr. 1-3)	Wed. 3:30-4:30	Sept.24-Dec.10	\$95
Young Rembrandts (art)	Thurs. 3:15-4:15	Oct. 16-Dec. 11	\$ 98
FLES Spanish Intro (Gr. K-1)	Thurs. 3:15-4:00	Start date TBD	\$210
OverTime Sports Skills with Mr. Reid (Gr. 4-5)	Thurs. 3:30-4:30	Sept.25-Dec.11	\$95

We are still trying to finalize the details for Hip Hop Dance (tentatively on Fridays) and Chess Club (Monday nights). We are in need of a volunteer to run the Chess Club! If you can help, please contact Wende Schuster at afterschool@fallsmeadpta.org. Check the PTA website, www.fallsmeadpta.org, for the latest information on after school programs.

PAYMENT REMINDER: To safeguard your payments, all checks and money for PTA memberships & programs should be dropped off in the Fallsmead Front Office, not in the PTA mailbox in the hallway.

New Kindergarten Position Added

Mr. Payne Interviewing Candidates

As a response to the problem of our overcrowded Kindergarten classes, Fallsmead has been given the allocation to hire a new Kindergarten teacher. Mr. Payne is in the process of interviewing for the position. The staff is working on making new class groups to prepare for the incoming teacher. If you have any concerns or questions about the transition from three to four kindergarten classes, please come to the New Parent Coffee on Wednesday, September 17, where Mr. Payne will be available to answer questions.

Important Playdate Reminder

It may seem crazy at times while trying to get 2, 3, 4, maybe even 5 kids or more out the door to school and activities, and back where they belong at the end of the day. The Fallsmead staff facilitates the safe arrival and departure of *hundreds* of students each day. Parents need to do their part to help the staff. The current policy is that a parent or guardian of **BOTH** children needs to send in a note **PRIOR** to the play-date informing Fallsmead of the schedule change. Unfortunately, many parents have not been following this policy, calling the office at the last minute, forgetting notes, etc. Mr. Payne and his staff would like parents to know that they will not track down parents and notes during dismissal. If you are scheduling a play-date for your child, please try to have both parents send a note on the day **PRIOR** to the play-date.

From the President

This year has started chock full of programs and events that would not be possible without our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to Cindy Singman for organizing the in-service luncheon for the teachers and Mike Schoen for organizing the school supply Toolbox program. Laura Kerschenbaum and Adria Schoen organized our Boo Hoo breakfast on the 1st day of school – thank you. Thanks to Fred Rohde for organizing the Back to School picnic and Adria and Mike Schoen for displaying our Falcon Gear. A few people stepped up to fill some big roles. I'd like to thank Betsy Meltzer for stepping in to be Volunteer Coordinator; Wendy Abid for serving as our Room Parent Coordinator; Amy Garmer, our new Fallmedium editor; and very special kudos to Rahul Jain for all his treasurer and webmaster work. If you haven't checked out www.fallsmeadpta.org, you have to do it--he's put together an amazing website.

— Vina Coonin, Fallsmead PTA President



PTA NEEDS YOUR HELP

Chess Club
Communications
Election Day Bake Sale – Nov. 4
International Festival
Multicultural Showcases
Special Needs Liaisons
Variety Show

Please consider helping our school community through one of these committees. To find out how you can get involved, contact Betsy Meltzer, PTA Vice President, at 301-762-1838 or volunteer@fallsmeadpta.org.

If you missed the mandatory volunteer training on Sept. 9-10, please contact Betsy Meltzer (contact info above) to arrange for training.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

The Community Service Committee, in partnership with Shady Grove Adventist Hospital, will be collecting donations for the hospital's Pediatric Unit/PICU. The donation drive will run from September 22-30. Bring donations to Kids Club on Sept. 20! Suggested items include sippy cups, rattles, crayons, coloring books, toys, board games, action figures and DVDs. All donations should be brand new and in original packaging, except DVDs & electronic toys which can be "gently" used AND in good condition. Please look for details & "wish list" of needed items in the attached flyer. Questions? Email service@fallsmeadpta.org or contact Lisa Merkin at 301-294-3632.

The Community Service Project for October is the Glories Happy Hats fundraiser (check out <http://www.glorieshappyhats.org>) –look for more details coming soon.

REMINDER: Monday, September 29, is an Early Release Day. Students are dismissed at 12:35 p.m. There is no School on Tuesday, September 30.

Do you have an extra hour to spare?

The school is looking for volunteers to help monitor children during lunch & recess, and to help in the school's copy center. Contact the front office staff to learn more, 301-279-4984.

NEW 2008-2009 CALENDARS

Get a 12-month wall calendar with all important Fallsmead & MCPS dates already filled in! For sale at all PTA events, including Kids Club, for \$2 each.

Quantities are limited.

2008-2009 Fallsmead PTA Officers

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



Cub Scout Pack 1753 Wants You!

Join Pack 1753 for first-class fun!

- ★ **Hiking, Camping & Outdoor Skills**
- ★ **Character Building & Citizenship**
- ★ **Family Field Trips & Activities**
- ★ **Sports & Games**
- ★ **New Friendships!**

Boys in grades 1-5 can join the fun. Pack 1753 meets one evening each month at Fallsmead Elementary School. Additional small group/den meetings are held throughout the month. For more information, call or email Cubmaster Jim Richardson, at 301-424-2374, JRich65@comcast.net.



Is your daughter interested in Girl Scouts?

Opportunities are available for girls in all grades, including kindergarten! For more information about Girl Scouts, Brownies and Daisy Scouts at FES, contact Pauline Griffith at pwgriffith@yahoo.com or (301) 838-0308. For information about Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capitol: www.gscnc.org.



The Box Tops for Education Program

offers three easy ways to make a difference through everyday activities: buying groceries, shopping online and purchasing books. School budgets are tighter than ever, and

Fallsmead is asking for the support of families and community members like you. Our goal this year is to raise \$800.

Please have your children place coupons in the blue Box Tops for Education collection box located in the Front Office. Please place coupons in a small plastic baggie with the student's full name and grade written on the outside of the bag. Each month there will be a drawing and four students will receive a prize for participating in the Box Tops program. For more information, visit boxtops4education.com or contact Sabrina Altman at boxtops@fallsmeadpta.org.

🎵 5th Graders Please Note This Correction

The CORRECT date of the 5th Grade Choral Concert is Thursday, December 18, 2008. Please note this new date on your calendars and Chorus Contract.



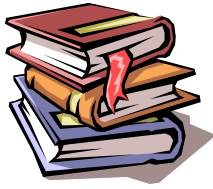
Come join Fallsmead families at Walk for Hope to Fight Breast Cancer on Sunday, October 12. Walk for Hope is a family-friendly fitness event for all ages. Register for a 1K or 4K Walk/Run along the beautiful trails of Cabin John Park. There is free food (bagels, fruit, Potomac Pizza, California Tortilla, Starbucks coffee) and free activities (music, moonbounce, clowns, etc.) You can even get a free massage! All money raised goes to breast cancer research at City of Hope. There is a suggested donation, but no amount is turned away.

A brochure will come in your child's backpack. For details or to register online, go to www.walk4hope.org or contact Susan Eisen, 301-251-6123. We hope to see you there!

Walk for Hope
Cabin John Park, 7400 Tuckerman Lane, Potomac
Sunday October 12, 2008
8:30 am Registration; 10:00 am Walk



Don't forget to register your Giant Food Bonus Card for the new school year. Once registered, Giant will make a donation to Fallsmead Elementary (ID 00701) based on registered purchases made at Giant throughout the school year. Register online or at the store. For more info, contact Suena Massaquoi at grocery@fallsmeadpta.org, or 301-762-9395.



You're invited!



Specialist Back-to-School Night

Tuesday, October 7

@ the PTA meeting

7:15pm

APR

Mrs. Donna Wasser, Mrs. Catherine O'Hara, Mr. Stanley Reid, Mrs. Patricia Touchette, and Mrs. Cheryl Arellano will be presenting overviews of their respective curricula and programs:

Counseling, Media, Physical Education, Art, and Music

We will begin our presentations at approximately 7:45pm.

We hope you are able to join us for this wonderful opportunity to learn more about what your children are learning in the *Arts!*

