



# THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #2  
SEPTEMBER 2009

A monthly newsletter of the Fallsmead Elementary School PTA  
[www.fallsmeadpta.org](http://www.fallsmeadpta.org)

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

### September 2009

- 11 Friday**  
Wootton Cluster Football Night  
Wootton H.S., 6:30 p.m. kick-off
- 15 Tuesday**  
Back to School Night, K-2, 7:00-  
8:30 p.m. & PTA Meeting
- 16 Wednesday**  
Back to School Night, 3-5, 7:00-  
8:30 p.m. & PTA Meeting
- 21 Monday**  
Deadline for ordering PTA  
directory
- 23 Wednesday**  
New Parent Welcome, 7:15 p.m.
- 28 Monday**  
No School – Yom Kippur

### October 2009

- 2 Friday**  
Early Release, 12:35 p.m.
- 6 Tuesday**  
PTA Meeting, 7:15 p.m.
- 12 Monday**  
Open House - Parents visit  
classrooms, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- 16 Friday**  
No School - MSTA Convention
- 19 Monday**  
Student Picture Day – Blanton  
Studios (make-up date: 12/3/09)
- 24 Saturday**  
Kids Club, 6:00 pm -9:30 pm
- 30 Friday**  
Halloween Parade/Parties  
First Marking Period Ends

## NEWS & NOTES

### **New Parent Welcome Reception, Wednesday, September 23**

Please join us at Fallsmead Elementary on Wednesday, September 23, at 7:15 pm in the APR, for an informal get-together with Principal Kevin Payne, PTA officers, “veteran” Fallsmead parents, staff & parents new to our school. All are welcome, whether new or returning! Contact Sonja Linn at [newparent@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:newparent@fallsmeadpta.org) if you are interested in attending or helping.

### **PTA Meetings on September 15&16 at Back to School Nights**

PTA officers will kick-off the school year at 7:00 pm on September 15&16 in the APR at the Back to School Nights. The first full meeting is scheduled for October 6 at 7:15 pm in the APR and will feature presentations from our Specials Team—Art, Counseling, Media Center, Music and P.E. You don’t have to be a member to attend PTA meetings—all are welcome! Contact co-presidents Jamila Bell & Lyn Mullinax by email at [president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org), or drop a note in the PTA mailbox at school if you have questions.

### **Collection to Curb the Flu**

During Back-to-School night, the PTA will collect supplies to help curb the spread of flu. Please donate tissues and hand sanitizer to be used in the school.

### **Student Telephone Directory Orders Due by September 21**

Only families that 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](http://www.fallsmeadpta.org) using the secure online payment system of PayPal. Questions? Contact Tracy Clark, [membership@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:membership@fallsmeadpta.org), or 301-610-9583. You may still join PTA after this deadline, but quantities of student directories will be limited.

### **Fundraisers: Sally Foster and Scrips**

This year, PTA will run the Sally Foster fundraiser in tandem with our big, new fundraiser, Scrips. Scrips will be explained in detail at the first PTA meeting. We need a group of volunteers (4-5) to help run Sally Foster at the end of September. If you can help, please contact Jamila Bell and Lyn Mullinax at [president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org).

### **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, sports in the Gym, other fun activities and a movie! **Kids Club will begin on October 24, and not in September as previously announced.** Don’t wait to register. Return completed registration form with payment to the front office. See attached flyer and registration form.

## Falcon Gear Spirit Wear Discount

[falcongear@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:falcongear@fallsmeadpta.org)

### EXCLUSIVE SPECIALS!!!

A new line of spirit wear clothing is coming later this fall. Individual orders will be taken in advance from samples. Now is your chance for great deals on last year's line of spirit wear. These prices are better than the same items in town without the school logo, but quantities are limited! Please see photos on the PTA website, [www.fallsmeadpta.org](http://www.fallsmeadpta.org).

- Long sleeve grey falcon t-shirt (available in preschool, youth small, youth large size (4th or 5th grader) or medium adult sizes) - \$6.00.
- Red Flannel Pants (youth small; youth medium to fit a tall 5th grader or small adult; youth large; adult small) - \$8.00.
- Tie dye short sleeve shirts (adult small only) - \$4.00.

Order on line or purchase at PTA events during September. Help our kids feel pride in their school and show it.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING FALLSMEAD ELEMENTARY!

### Do you have an extra hour to spare?

This year we want to provide the school with affordable after school programs. We have Chess Club returning, we're adding Group Piano to the lineup, and we would love to run the Math Lab after school. If you have the time and inclination to teach or bring a program to our school (dance, music, art, or academics) please contact [AfterSchool@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:AfterSchool@fallsmeadpta.org).

Chess Club is at capacity and is now forming a wait list. Please contact [chess@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:chess@fallsmeadpta.org) if interested.

### FACEBOOK: Become a Fallsmead Fan!

The Fallsmead PTA Facebook Page will have updates and reminders for PTA and school events throughout the year. Become a fan to receive instant updates.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Fallsmead-PTA/103185306924>

### PTA NEEDS YOUR HELP

**Volunteers are invited to help co-chair all of our committees this year.** If you didn't want to chair a committee because you weren't sure of the responsibilities or you didn't think you had the time, this would be a GREAT time for you to get your feet wet. The list of committees is on the PTA website, at <http://fallsmeadpta.org/?q=node/14>. Please contact the chair of the committee(s) you would like to help out with. They will help guide you through that committee's responsibility.

### MCPS Parent Advisory Council

We would love to have a Fallsmead parent be a part of the Parent Advisory Council for MCPS. If you are interested in a 2-year term on the council, please contact [president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org) for more information. Nominations must be received by MCPS by September 15th.

REMINDERS: There is no school on Monday, September 28. Friday, October 2 is an Early Release Day. Students are dismissed at 12:35 p.m.

### 2008-2009 Fallsmead PTA Officers

Co-Presidents  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Jamila Bell & Lyn Mullinax  
Lisa Merkin  
Andrea Samborn  
Michele Goodman

[president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org)  
[vp2@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:vp2@fallsmeadpta.org)  
[secretary@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:secretary@fallsmeadpta.org)  
[treasurer@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:treasurer@fallsmeadpta.org)

## Join the Fallsmead Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

The Fallsmead Elementary School PTA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer organization, which works to enhance the educational experience for our children. We operate a large number of programs around the school, ranging from after-school programs and clubs to celebratory events and fundraisers, all aimed to support the school and enrich the school experience.

The Fallsmead Elementary School PTA is a member of the local (Montgomery County), state (Maryland), and national PTAs. If you have any questions about the PTA, please email to [president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org).

You have two options to join:

1. [Online](http://fallsmeadpta.org/) at <http://fallsmeadpta.org/> click on Membership and pay online using Paypal.
2. Send in the attached form with your check.

### What does PTA do?

In addition to the monthly meetings, the PTA sponsors cultural assemblies for the students, opportunities for students to learn other languages, after school science and other enrichment activities. PTA social programs offer our children opportunities to further enhance their social skills and community building through programs such as International Night, the Variety Show, and the Spring Fair.

The PTA also supports Arts Integration by funding artists-in-residence at Fallsmead. We also provide teachers with annual stipends to supplement and enhance the curriculum. The PTA sponsors Staff Appreciation activities for the school's teachers through lunches, breakfasts, and other recognitions. Each month, PTA representatives attend meetings of the Wootton Cluster and the Montgomery County Council of PTAs.

### Why should you join?

It is only with your support that we can fund our annual contribution for essential classroom supplies and materials, along with providing supplementary staff training and other enrichment programs for our Fallsmead students.

In addition, high PTA participation sends a strong message to the Board of Education and other organizations that Fallsmead parents are actively involved and concerned about all decisions that impact Fallsmead, as well as Frost Middle School and Wootton High School. PTA participation may play a role in decisions regarding resource distribution and helps our PTA representatives with their role of advocacy.

Please know that every dollar from your membership fee and donation counts and no amount is too small. Your support is appreciated! As a thank you, with your membership fee you will receive one Fallsmead directory (essential for organizing play dates and packed with school information). A family membership provides TWO directories - keep one in the car for your convenience.

## From the Co-Presidents

Welcome back to school! September is chocked full of important events including our Back to School Nights on September 15/16. Please make sure you attend the PTA meeting at 7pm. We'll be discussing volunteer opportunities as well as introducing our new fundraising campaign. September 23rd is our New Parent Welcome. Come meet some of our newest families at Fallsmead.

We are trying to reserve rooms for more volunteer orientations. In an attempt to coordinate around everyone's schedules we are going to hold them in the evening and weekend. Thanks to all who turned out for our first session. It looks like we'll have some great volunteer work in the school this year!

We also want to thank Fred Rhode for the Back to School Picnic, Laura Kerschenbaum for the Boo Hoo Breakfast, Mike Schoen for getting all the school supplies to our students, Brenda Mitchell and Sandra Zinselmeier for organizing our first staff luncheon. This year is off to a great start because of all their hard work. Thank You!!!

See you at Back to School Night!

Jamila & Lyn



## ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?

Fallsmead families are invited to Wootton Cluster Night, Friday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, at Wootton High School.

WOOTTON PATRIOTS

vs.

GAITHERSBURG TROJANS

Kick-off at 6:30 p.m.

- Door prize for the first 250 cluster students.
- Special treat for all cluster students (while supplies last).
- Admission only \$1 for all cluster students.
- Show your Patriot pride - wear Wootton colors - red, white & blue!



**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](mailto:JRich65@comcast.net).

**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.

Please have your children place coupons in the 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](http://boxtops4education.com) or contact Sabrina Altman at [boxtops@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:boxtops@fallsmeadpta.org).



**Is your daughter interested in Girl Scouts?**

Opportunities are available for girls in all grades, including kindergarten! For more information about Girl Scout Juniors (4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades), Brownies (2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> grades) and Daisy Scouts (K and 1<sup>st</sup> grades) at Fallsmead Elementary, contact Pauline Griffith at [pwgriffith@yahoo.com](mailto:pwgriffith@yahoo.com) or (301) 838-0308. For information about Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capitol: [www.gscnc.org](http://www.gscnc.org).



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.

If you shop at other area grocery stores, you can still earn money for Fallsmead. Fallsmead participates with Harris Teeter's Together in Education (TIE) program (for information on enrolling your VIC card in this program, go to the Harris Teeter website at : [http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together\\_in\\_education/tie.aspx](http://www.harristeeter.com/community/together_in_education/tie.aspx)).

Fallsmead also participates in the Safeway "10% Goes Back to Schools" program – see store for details.



**Help 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Musicians at Fallsmead Dress for Success**

The 5<sup>th</sup> grade chorus and 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade instrumental music programs are requesting donations of clean, gently used boy's white dress shirts and boy's dress black pants (boys 8-10 years old). Mrs. Arellano would like to start a stash of extra shirts and pants to keep on hand for any chorus, band, or orchestra member who does not have these items at home.

These can sometimes be difficult items to find in stores, especially for boys. Donations of girls dressy white shirts, black dress pants, or black skirts are also welcome! The first concerts are scheduled for January. Your donations before then would help immensely!



You're invited!



# Specialist Back-to-School Night

**Tuesday, October 6**

@ the PTA meeting

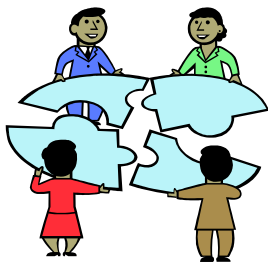
7:15pm

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



# ***The Fallsmead Falcons KIDS CLUB!!!***

*A safe, fun social outlet for Fallsmead Elementary School students  
in grades K through 5*

**WHAT:** A fun filled night  
**WHEN:** One Saturday a month from October through May  
**2009: Oct. 24; Nov. 14; Dec. 5;**  
**2010: Jan. 9; Feb. 27; March 20; April 17; May 22**  
**WHERE:** Fallsmead Elementary School  
**TIME:** 6:00 pm – 9:30 pm  
**WHO:** Grades 1 through 5 (Kindergarteners accepted on an individual basis)

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE:** \$80 for your first child, \$70 for your second child, and \$65 for any subsequent children. (This fee is a one-time charge for all eight nights, whether you attend 1, 3, 6 or all 8 evenings). Food will be available for purchase. You can set up a snack tab for your family (suggested amount \$20) and your child(ren) can draw on it each month.

\*\*In order to attend the first session on 10/24, you must preregister by 10/21 (no registrations will be taken at the door). Please include snack tab money with registration. Thanks!

## **\*\* ATTENTION PARENTS \*\* ATTENTION PARENTS\*\***

Parent volunteers are the **key** to this program! To provide an incredibly safe setting for this program, we need your support. **We are requiring at least one evening of your time** to help volunteer at the Fallsmead Falcons Kids Club. You must pick your top 3 choices of the month you want to volunteer. If you have more than one child you will need to volunteer two times. If you are unable to volunteer that evening, **you** are responsible for finding a replacement.

Complete the Registration form, sign the waiver, drop-off at school or mail to FES Kids Club (attn. Jenn Pisarra), 1800 Greenplace Terrace, Rockville, MD 20850. Make check payable to "Fallsmead PTA".

**Please PRINT NEATLY especially when writing your phone number and EMAIL ADDRESS.** When the information you provide is difficult to read we have trouble contacting you.

**You MUST fill out your FIRST, SECOND, and THIRD CHOICE for the MONTHS you want to volunteer. Once you have been assigned and notified of your assignment it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to MARK YOUR CALENDARS. We will try to remind you but this may not always happen.**

**\*\*If you miss your night to volunteer without finding a replacement, your child(ren) will miss kids club the following month.\*\***

For additional information, call Jennifer Pisarra at 301-340-9118 or 301 442-7745 (cell).

**The Fallsmead Falcons Kids Club Registration Form 2009-2010**

**(PLEASE PRINT)**

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade** \_\_\_\_\_ **Teacher:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Names:**

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Parent(s) who will work at Kids Club:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

1<sup>st</sup> choice volunteer month

\_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> choice volunteer month

\_\_\_\_\_

3<sup>rd</sup> choice volunteer month

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Daytime Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cell Phone 1:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Cell Phone 2:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: (will only be called if parent can't be reached)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Any allergy or medical concerns: \_\_\_\_\_

**Initial Snack Tab amount (1 snack account per family):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (please include amount w/ registration fee)

Yes! I have a 6<sup>th</sup> or 7<sup>th</sup> grader (or older) who is interested in volunteering for community service hours!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

1. **Code of Conduct** – You will play at Fallsmead Elementary School according to the posted rules or instructions given by parent volunteers. You accept responsibility for damages you cause at Fallsmead Elementary School.
2. **Risk of participation** – You understand that participation might involve physical activity that could result in injury. You assume all risk of injury.
3. **Waiver** – You release the Fallsmead Elementary School PTA from any liability for losses that may arise out of your participation at the Fallsmead Falcons Kids Club.
4. **Indemnity Agreement** – You will indemnify and defend us from any claims or suits made by anyone arising out of your activity at Fallsmead Elementary School.

I agree to follow the rules, regulations and directions of Fallsmead Falcons Kids Club. Fallsmead Elementary School assumes no liability for damages arising from the results of participation. I hereby approve my child's participation in this program and consent to emergency medical treatment for my child on my behalf. To the best of my knowledge there are no conditions which will interfere with my child's participation.

Parent signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Don't forget to register by 10/21 to participate in the Kids Club on October 24<sup>th</sup>!\*\***