



# THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #9  
APRIL 2009

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

## EVENTS SCHEDULE

### April 2009

- 18 **Saturday**  
Kids' Club, 6:00-9:30 pm
- 20 **Monday**  
Principal's Coffee, 9-10:00 am
- 22 **Wednesday**  
Dine-out Night at Rockland's  
5:00-8:30 pm
- Apr 27-May 1 Terra Nova Tests  
administered to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- 28 **Tuesday**  
Artist-in-Residence Reception  
6:00 – 7:30
- 30 **Thursday**  
Fallsmead Family Hoedown  
7:00-8:30 pm

### May 2009

- 2 **Saturday (NEW DATE!)**  
Spring Fair & Silent Auction  
1:00-4:00 pm
- 5 **Tuesday**  
PTA Meeting, 7:15 pm
- 14-15 **Thursday-Friday**  
Kindergarten Orientation  
No school for kindergarteners
- 15 **Saturday**  
Kids Club, 6:00 – 9:30 pm  
(Last Kids Club of School Year)
- 18-19 **Monday-Tuesday**  
Dine-out Nights at Ledo's

## NEWS & NOTES

### Principal's Coffee

Please join Mr. Payne and Ms. O'Hara at the Principal's Coffee/Media Center reception on Monday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:00 am in the Media Center. Ms. O'Hara, our media specialist, is excited to have parents view the numerous resources added to the Media Center made possible by the last year's PTA school gift.

### Fallsmead Family Hoedown

Families of Fallsmead students are invited to join us at the Fallsmead Hoedown on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00-8:30 pm. Slim Harrison will bring his Jugband and lead parents and kids in a fun evening of square dances and line dances. All proceeds will be used to pay for the 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Glories Happy Hats workshops that were held in January. See attached flyer for more details.

### May PTA Meeting

The May PTA meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 5, at 7:15 pm in the Media Center. We will be voting on the board, and are still looking for someone to run for President and 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and for someone to serve as MCCPTA rep and Wootton cluster rep.

### Attention 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents

Please start collecting your photos for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade celebration slide show – these should be placed in the box in the front hall at school. Also requested is your 5<sup>th</sup> grader's baby photo for a "Guess the Fifth-Grader" collage, which should be given to your child's homeroom teacher. Watch for flyers with more information on these projects to be sent home with your 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

### Dine-out Nights in April and May

Escape from cooking and join Fallsmead friends on Wednesday, April 22, at ROCKLANDS Barbeque and Grilling Company in Wintergreen Plaza from 5:00 – 8:30 pm. May's dine-out nights will be May 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> at Ledo's Pizza in Travilah – be on the lookout for more information.

**Kindergarten Orientation:** If your child turns 5 before 9/01/09, contact the office to register for Kindergarten orientation, May 14 & 15.

## Artist-in-Residence Reception

All of our students are enjoying the opportunity to work with artist Jing-Jy Chen. At the opening reception on Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 6:00-7:30 pm, you can see the work the students have created. Mrs. Chen, as well as some of our students, will be demonstrating the techniques they learned through the residency. Paint and paper will be available for you to try your hand at oriental brush painting!

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## SILENT AUCTION DATE CHANGED!

Please note the date for the Spring Fair and Silent Auction has changed to **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**! The Silent Auction still needs your help - check the Fallsmead PTA website and click "Silent Auction" in the top right corner. There you will find our online catalogue of donated items. Is there something you plan to donate? Please do it as soon as possible so we can be organized and ready to go on Spring Fair and Auction Day, Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Is there something on the list that you think is great? Prepare to win big and be ready for some stiff competition!! Requests for volunteers for the Spring Fair and Silent Auction will be coming soon in a separate flyer. Questions? Contact Jill Hertzler, Silent Auction Chairperson, [silentauction@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:silentauction@fallsmeadpta.org), or 240-505-3871. Thank you all!!

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### *Extra Microwave?*

If you or someone you know has an extra microwave, consider donating it to the Fallsmead faculty for the staff lounge – they'd **LOVE** it!



### *Congratulations to our Drawing Winners...*

Anya Bijlani  
Kate Garmer

Nai'a Freeman  
Hannah Eberhardt

Thanks to all the families who contributed to the Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign this month. As always, please keep bringing in your boxtops -- and juice pouches and pull tabs for collection, too.

## ***Join the Fun at Fallsmead's New Math Lab!***

Now open—Fallsmead's new Math Lab, where students learn math concepts in a fun and interactive way. Students from grade K to 5 are playing mind-challenging games involving problem solving. Once a week each teacher sends half of the class during math period. The Math Lab is staffed completely by volunteers—and we need YOUR help to make this new offering a success. Volunteers assist and encourage students to solve challenging puzzles and maintain proper use of the lab. **Please consider being a volunteer for your child's sessions in the Math Lab.** No special skills are necessary. To volunteer Contact Brigitte SanGiovanni at [mathlab@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:mathlab@fallsmeadpta.org). Each class is just 30 minutes and volunteers can sign up for any grade and any time convenient for them.

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### **ROCKLANDS Barbeque and Grilling Company**

Fallsmead Elementary School Fundraiser

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

5:00-8:30 pm

at our Rockville location in Wintergreen Plaza

All you have to do is come in and eat!

We'll donate 10% back to the school!

Wintergreen Plaza  
891A Rockville Pike  
Rockville, MD 20852  
(240) 268-1120

We are right by the Bloom!

[www.rocklands.com](http://www.rocklands.com)

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### **Gaithersburg West Life Sciences Center**

Representatives from John Hopkins, the lead developer of the proposed Gaithersburg West Life Sciences Center, will provide our Cluster with information regarding the proposed development as well as answer our questions. This meeting is open to all MCPS parents, and will be held at Wootton High School on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. This development could have a major impact on our community and schools, and we encourage parents to join us and learn about this project.

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### **Afterschool Activities Announcement**

The Mad Science after school program was cancelled due to lack of enrollment.

# From the President

I hope you all had a great Spring Break and are excited about coming back for the last quarter of the year. It's hard to believe that we're in the home stretch but there is still lots of fun left in the year. I'd like to specifically thank my board: Michele Goodman, Betsy Meltzer, Rahul Jain, Andrea Samborn, Diana Rabinowitz, Rochelle Hodes, Dave Pawlik and Andrea Bernardo for all their help and support this year. I have valued their input and advice over the past several months and am so happy to see some of them willing to serve for another year.

We still have some great positions left available, specifically PTA President, PTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, MCCPTA rep and Wootton Cluster Rep. I know it can be a little daunting to serve on the PTA board, but trust me – I walked in last year knowing very little about how the PTA was supposed to work. If I can do it, anyone can! Please help us to continue the great work we have done here for Fallsmead Elementary. Without PTA leadership, many of the fantastic programming we do for the school will no longer be possible.

In addition to these board positions we have a number of committee chairs that are turning over this next year as the current chairs are either moving on to other positions or on to the PTA at Frost: volunteer coordinator; staff appreciation; room parent coordinator (Wendy Abid is going to help with Kids Club); Sally Foster; ICB coordinator; civic action committee; and leadership team representatives. There may be additional openings and I will keep you informed as I know of them. One of the hardest things I faced as a new PTA president was filling these committee positions with the right people, so I am hoping to help out the next president a little before I leave office. If you are interested in these positions, please let me know at [president@fallmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallmeadpta.org). I know that if you are interested, the current chairs will be happy to share all of their knowledge to make the transition as smooth as possible. For all those officers and chairs who have committed to another year, thank you so much. Fallsmead is a better place for all its volunteers!

OK, the spring is packed with great community activities, so I hope to see you at many of them. I know Mr. Payne and Ms. O'Hara are looking forward to seeing you all at the Principal's Coffee/Media Center reception on Monday in the Media Center at 9am.

See you then...

Vina Coonin  
Fallmead PTA President  
[president@fallsmeadpta.org](mailto:president@fallsmeadpta.org)

## *2008-2009 PTA Officers*

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

# It's a Fallsmead Family Hoedown with Sunnyside Slim and the Sunnyland Band!

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders need to raise another \$800 to pay for the Glories Happy Hats workshops they held in January (where they made fun hats for kids who are hospitalized). You can help!

Mrs. Wasser and the Fallsmead PTA Community Service Committee are inviting all Fallsmead parents and kids to a fundraising dance with Slim Harrison and the Sunnyland Band!

Mr. Slim will accompany kids from the audience with Fiddle, Banjo, and Resophonic Slide Guitar while leading others in some of their favorite Jugband songs. Playing his patented Kazoozaphone, he will lead the audience in dances such as the spirited "Virginia Reel," "Cotton Eyed Joe," or "La Bamba."



**TIME:** Thursday, April 30, 2009  
7:00 - 8:30 pm

**LOCATION:** Fallsmead Elementary School  
All Purpose Room

**COST:** \$10/Parent-child couple  
(extra kids/parents: \$5 each)  
Tickets will be sold at the door

**NOTE:** All kids, Kindergarten - 5th grade, must come with an adult!  
If your parent can't come, bring a Fallsmead friend's parent, your favorite uncle or aunt, or another adult!

Contact Mrs. Wasser (301-279-4984), or Jen Goode (301-340-1144) of the PTA Community Service Committee, if you have any questions.