



THE FALLSMEDIUM

ISSUE #10
MAY 2009

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

EVENTS SCHEDULE

May 2009

- 18 **Monday**
Ledo Pizza at Travilah Square
Restaurant fundraiser, 5-10 pm
- 19 **Tuesday**
Ledo Pizza at Travilah Square
Restaurant fundraiser, 5-10 pm
- 23 **Saturday**
Kids Club, 6:00-9:30 pm
- 25 **Monday**
No School – Memorial Day
- 29 **Friday**
Deadline to order School Tool
Box (school supply) kits

June 2009

- 2 **Tuesday**
PTA Dinner/Meeting, 7:15 pm
Beale Street Grille, Rockville
- 4 **Thursday**
Field Day – Grades K-2
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- 5 **Friday**
Field Day – Grades 3-5
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
- 9 **Tuesday**
5th Grade Celebration, 6:30 pm
- 10 **Wednesday**
4th Grade School Year of Poems
1:45-3:00 pm
- 12 **Friday**
4th Grade Crab Feast, noon
- 15 **Monday**
5th Grade Pool Party
- 16 **Tuesday**
Last Day of School – Early
Release, 12:35 pm

NEWS & NOTES

New PTA Officers Elected for 2009-2010

New PTA officers were elected at the May meeting. Current President Vina Coonin will be handing over the reins to President-elect Jamila Bell and VP Lyn Mullinax who will be serving as co-presidents. See Page 3 for the names of PTA's new leaders for 2009-2010.

June PTA Meeting

Join us for our annual PTA dinner on Tuesday, June 2, at 7:15 pm at Beale Street Grill (9712 Traville Gateway Drive, Rockville: <http://bealestreetgrill.com>) to welcome our new PTA board and heartily thank our outgoing board. Please submit a check made out to Fallsmead PTA for \$25 and RSVP to Vina Coonin (president@fallsmeadpta.org) if you would like to attend. We'd especially like those parents who are saying goodbye to Fallsmead to come to one last PTA meeting! It will be fun to celebrate the transition to a new leadership team and we will be voting on (1) the 2009-2010 PTA budget and (2) PTA's school gift. Gift options include: math lab money that could be used to pay stipend to staff the lab; books for the media center; or books for the guided reading room. Parents are free to weigh in, but we will take a vote on 6/2.

Last Kids Club of the 2008-09 School Year

Saturday, May 23, is the last Kids Club of the school year. We hope your children have had a great time and that adults have enjoyed their guaranteed free time once a month! If you have money left in your family snack account, it will roll over to next year unless otherwise requested. Contact kidsclub@fallsmeadpta.org.

Order School Supplies for Next Year

What a great way to extend the summer fun, not worrying about shopping for school supplies in August! You may pre-order the school supplies your child will need next year through the School Tool Box program. An order form should have come home in your child's backpack with a list of all the materials he or she will need next year (a different list for each grade). This year we will be taking orders online, too, at www.fallsmeadpta.org – just click on the School Tool Box icon on the left hand menu. The Boxes you order will be available for pickup at the Open House on August 28, 2009. All orders, with payment, must be received by May 29th.

After School Programs – End Dates

After school programs will be winding down in June. Note that the first KidWrite of June will be held on Thursday, 6/4, rather than on Wednesday, 6/3. Here are final class dates: Overtime Sports ends the week of 6/8; Adventure Theater ends on Tuesday, 6/9; KidWrite ends on Wednesday, 6/10; Young Rembrandts ends on Thursday, 6/11.

5th Grade Countdown

What time is it? 5th Grade Pool Party Time!



The entire 5th grade class will celebrate the end of the school year by spending all day at the pool with their teachers.

Fun and food will be provided. It will be a wet and wild way to close out the school year! So put it on your calendars now! Lifeguards are hired, so additional chaperones aren't needed.

When: Monday, June 15th, 9:00 am - 2:30 p.m.

Where: Fallsmead Community Pool - located one block from the school on Greenplace Terrace.

More information will go home with students as the date approaches. Please contact the 5th grade teachers for more information.

Fallsmead Family Hoedown Update

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Fallsmead Family Hoedown on April 30th. Unfortunately, we were unable to meet our fundraising goal, which was to raise enough money to pay for the 5th grade's 2-day Glories Happy Hat workshop (we fell about \$600 short). We are asking 5th grade parents to help us cover this expense, particularly if your family did not participate in either of the fundraiser dances. We have relied on donations and fundraisers to cover this expense in the past and we may not be able to continue this worthwhile community service project in the future without sufficient support.

5th Grade Celebration

Invitations to the 2009 5th Grade Celebration will be sent home with students soon. The Celebration is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2009, from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the Thomas Wootton High School Auditorium.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m.

Program begins promptly at 6:30 p.m.

Dessert reception to follow in the cafeteria

4th Grade Parents Needed on June 9th

Fallsmead is trying to establish a new tradition in which 4th grade parents help out on the night of the 5th Grade Celebration so that the 5th grade parents can enjoy the evening with their graduates instead of worrying about running the event. Volunteers are needed to help with check-in, distribution of programs, putting up decorations and serving/clearing food. We need 4th grade parent volunteers from 4-6 p.m. and 6-7 p.m. on June 9th. Please let us know if you're interested in helping out. We will all reap the benefits next year! Contact Laura Quam at 301-279-2522 or by email at quamfamily@comcast.net.

Last Chance to Submit Photos

We are in the final stages of putting together the slideshow for the 5th grade celebration. Don't miss your chance to be included! If you haven't sent in photos, please do so ASAP. You can put prints or CDs with photos in the "5th grade slideshow" box in the main hall or email photos to Julie Walkup at walkups@comcast.net. Also, we'd love to have your VIDEOS to include in the 5th grade SLIDESHOW. Did you videotape the 2nd grade play, a variety show, a concert, or anything else? If so, please let us know!

Restaurant Fundraiser at Ledo Pizza

Ledo's Pizza @ Travilah
10058 Darnestown Road
301-424-2700

Monday, May 18 &
Tuesday, May 19
5:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

A portion of food sales on these evenings will be donated to Fallsmead Elementary.

From the President

We have a new PTA Board

Please join me in congratulating the 2009-2010 Fallsmead PTA Board elected at our PTA meeting on May 5th.

President:	Jamila Bell
1 st VP:	Lyn Mullinax
2 nd VP:	Lisa Merkin
Treasurer:	Michele Goodman
Secretary:	Andrea Samborn
Wootton Rep:	David Pawlik and Rochelle Hodes
MCCPTA Rep:	Rochelle Hodes (we could use another rep if someone is interested)
Parliamentarian:	Diana Rabinowitz

I am very excited to see a combination of new faces as well as ‘veterans’ on our board. I am confident that their varied experiences and perspectives, their enthusiasm, and their commitment to Fallsmead will make next year even better than this year. Jamila and Lyn will be piloting a new method of leadership for our PTA by serving as co-presidents. I am looking forward to working with them and the entire board for a smooth transition.

Committee Chairs for 2009-2010

In prior emails and Fallsmediums, I have requested committee chairs to inform me if they were not planning to continue in their positions. I am pleased to report that most committee chairs ARE continuing in their roles. Thank you all who plan to continue! Fallsmead is a much better school as a result of all the time and talent you give. I’d also like to welcome a few new committee chairs: Jen Goode (Community Service), Ann Hepburn (Volunteer Coordinator), William Magazine (Safety), Brenda Mitchell (Staff Appreciation) and Gretchen Navidi (Special Needs Liaison). If you see your name as a committee chair in error, please let me know as soon as possible and let me know whether there is someone on your committee who can assume the leadership position.

A list of PTA Committees is included in this issue of *Fallsmedium*. As you can see, we still have a few open slots for next year: After School Program coordinator, Bingo, Civic Action, Communications, Fifth Grade Celebration, Lost and Found, New Parent Welcome, PTA Directory/Membership, Sally Foster, and Variety Show. I also would like to have another parent partner with Brenda Mitchell for Staff Appreciation. As you read this, if there is a committee that interested you, please let me know. We will postpone an event to the following year without a chairperson (like we did for the Variety Show this year).

I ask that all committee chairs review their budgets as posted on the website and let me know if you think you will need more/less money than what was budgeted for this year. We will vote on the budget at the June 2nd meeting.

JOIN OUR PAC (Programming Action Committee) to look at programming and fundraising at Fallsmead

At the May PTA meeting, we looked at the calendar as it was PLANNED for this year versus what was actually IMPLEMENTED. There were close to 50% more activities that required some commitment of parental resources (e.g., community service, staff appreciation, dine-outs, school events that required substantial volunteer support, etc.). When we combine this information with poor attendance/participation in some of our PTA events, we must question our programming and whether we need to streamline our calendar.

We also want to explore the possibility of a “fund drive” initiative which would give parents the opportunity to make a tax-deductible contribution to Fallsmead enabling us to drop most of our fundraising events. Such a drive may not allow us to forgo fundraising entirely, but would certainly allow us to be very choosy in our events. We would hope that some of our community building events would be truly *community building events*, and not fundraisers under the guise of community building.

We know that we are running short on time to complete this work during the current school year. For practicality, we will vote on a budget at the June meeting. If the PAC recommends that our PTA restructure our budget to accommodate a fund drive (with fewer fundraisers, etc.), we will vote on amending the budget and amending the program calendar in September. One of the first deliverables from this team will be a school wide survey that will give us some insight about how parents feel about the PTA programming and how we could better serve the school. Please contact Vina Coonin (president@fallsmeadpta.org) if you are interested in participating in any way. Thanks!

Thank you!

Although we have only been in school for half the month of May, we have had MANY events supported by countless volunteer hours. I would especially like to thank Jill Hertzler for her work on Silent Auction. She and her team worked to procure really fun and interesting items for the auction which raised 40% more money than last year – YOU ROCK JILL! I know she didn't accomplish this ALL on her own, so thank you to Andrea Samborn, Ann Hepburn, Cindy Singman, Goli Afshari and all the other parents who help procure, set up, and clean up during the auction.

Also, I want to give a huge “thank you” to Eva Cowen who worked tirelessly to run another amazing Spring Fair in spite of work conflicts, the threat of rain, and the multitude of soccer conflicts the day of the event. Everyone had great fun and we were so lucky to have you chair the event this year!

We had many other programs this month that were supported by dozens of parents in our PTA. Thank you to Jen and Melissa for their continuous efforts to run Kids Club. Thank you to Scott Hodes and Cindy Singman for another fun dine-out at Rocklands (don't forget there's another on May 18 and 19 at Ledo's Pizza). Thank you to Jen Goode, Diana Rabinowitz, and Lisa Merkin for their great work on the Community Service Committee. And of course, thank you so much to Amy Garmer and Marie Novak for putting the Fallsmedium together each month.

I am a bit saddened to thank these 5th grade parents because we will soon say goodbye to them. These parents are committee chairs or board members this year, but will no longer have a child at Fallsmead in the fall. Each of these ladies has contributed greatly to our school.... you will each be missed!

Andrea Bernardo: Wootton Cluster Rep, Civic Action
Ellen Goldberg : Bingo Night
Pam Hubbard: Staff Appreciation
Betsy Meltzer: 2nd VP and Volunteer Coordinator
Kathleen Sybing: ICB coordinator; past Treasurer; Book Fair
Julie Walkup: Yearbook

Vina Coonin
President, Fallsmead PTA
May 2009

2009-2010 Committee Chairs

After School Programs (OPEN)

Assist in developing/coordinating after school programs. Occurs throughout the year. Contact afterschool@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Back to School Picnic (Fred Rohde)

Assist with this annual August event. Occurs Thursday, August 28th. Contact picnic@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Bingo Night (OPEN)

Assist in the organization and running of this January event. Contact bingo@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Boo Hoo Breakfast (Laura Kerschenbaum)

Assist with this event for parents of incoming kindergarteners on the first day of school. Contact boohoo@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Book Fair (Tharini Ramakrishnan and Shruti Taneja)

Assist with set up, sale, restocking at this November event. Occurs week of parent/teacher conferences. Contact bookfair@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Boxtops for Education (Sabrina Altman)

Collect boxtops and submit as needed. Occurs all year. Contact boxtops@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Chess Club (Georgia Granthon)

Assist at weekly meetings featuring chess play, instruction, chess ladder and club ratings. Occurs all year. Contact chess@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Civic Action (OPEN)

Inform school community about pertinent civic issues. Occurs all year. Contact civicaction@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Communications (OPEN)

Help distribute information about PTA events. Occurs all year. Contact communication@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Community Service (Jen Goode)

Assist with coordination and provide support for student outreach projects to serve the greater community. Occurs all year. Contact service@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Cultural Arts (Brigitte SanGiovanni)

Assist with Cultural Arts assemblies, authors' visits, etc. Occurs all year. Contact culturalarts@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Election Day Bake Sale (Heather Haledjian)

Bake items to sell, assist in set up, assist in selling. Occurs Tuesday, November 4th. Contact bakesale@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Fallsmedium (Amy Garmer & Marie Novak)

Assist with editing or distribution of the newsletter. Occurs all year. Contact fallsmedium@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Fifth Grade Celebration (OPEN)

Assist with organization of the year end dinner and related activities. Occurs week prior to last day of school. Contact dinner5th@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

FLES Coordinator (Ting Luo Zhao)

Oversee the Foreign Language in Elementary Schools program. Occurs all year. Contact fles@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Gazette Reporter (Shirley Carpenter)

Write press releases for the Rockville Gazette School News. Occurs all year. Contact gazette@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

International Festival (Deepa Parija)

Assist with event to promote appreciation & celebration of cultural diversity and heritage. Occurs Sunday March 1, 2009. Contact international@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Kids Club (Jennifer Pisarra, Melissa Cetola & Wendy Abid)

Organize volunteers and activities for the monthly Falcon Kids' Club (held on Saturday evenings). Occurs all year. Contact kidsclub@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Kindergarten Orientation (Terri Fagan)

Assist with student check-in, taking photos, escorting families to classrooms. Occurs in May. Contact k_orientation@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Lost and Found (OPEN)

Maintain the lost and found area, send reminders to parents, arrange for periodic donation of unclaimed items. Occurs all year. Contact lostandfound@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Math Lab Coordinator (Brigitte SanGiovanni & Shruti Taneja)

Coordinates and trains volunteers for the Math. Identifies materials needed in the lab. Occurs all year. Contact mathlab@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Merchandising (Adria Schoen)

Assist in selecting merchandise to promote school spirit. Occurs all year. Contact falcongear@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Multicultural Showcases (Golizar Afshari)

Help set up the monthly displays in the two showcases in the hallway outside the school office. Occurs all year. Contact showcase@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

New Parent Welcome (OPEN)

A special welcome for families new to Fallsmead. Enjoy light refreshments as you meet other new parents and guardians as well as a few "veteran" parents. Occurs in September. Contact newparent@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

PTA Directory/Membership (OPEN)

Assist in production of school PTA Directory; encourage membership, collect fees, distribute directories. Occurs mostly in August through October. Contact membership@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Recess and Lunchroom Monitors (Patricia Polster)

Occurs all year. Contact recess@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help. Click [here](#) a detailed description of monitor duties.

Restaurant Fundraisers (Scott Hodes & Cindy Singman)

Work with various restaurants in the community to establish a Fallsmead Night. Occurs all year. Contact dineout@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Room Parent Coordinator (Wendy Abid)

Assist teachers in finding volunteers for specific projects, update families with important class news, plan class parties. Occurs all year. Contact roomparentcoord@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Safety (William Magazine)

Promote safety at Fallsmead and serves as a liaison with FM staff and Montgomery County Public Schools as necessary.

Sally Foster (OPEN)

Promote sales, sort orders, and distribute merchandise. Occurs in September and October. Contact giftwrap@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

School Photographer (Kathy Carr)

Take candid pictures at school events; submit to Gazette Reporter and Yearbook Coordinator. Occurs all year. Contact pictures@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Science Fair (JoLynn Tarwater & Sheara Fewell)

Assist with planning and production of this February event. Occurs February 18 and 19, 2009 (snow dates Feb 23 and 24). Contact sciencefair@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Silent Auction (Jill Hertzler)

Solicit donations for the auction, organize, set up and run this event at the Spring Fair. Preliminary work begins in February and the event is on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Contact silentauction@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Special Needs Liaisons (Gretchen Navidi)

Act as information liaisons for families and students with special needs at Fallsmead. Occurs all year. Contact volunteer@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Spring Fair (Eva Cowen)

Assist with set up, sell refreshments, run amusements and various activities. Occurs on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Contact springfair@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Staff Appreciation (Brenda Mitchell)

Assist with various projects to provide special recognition throughout the year to Fallsmead staff. Occurs all year. Contact staffappreciation@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Sunshine Program (Lee Pai-Sherf)

Assist in the distribution of birthday and special occasion cards to faculty and staff. Occurs all year. Contact sunshine@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Variety Show (OPEN)

Assist at Spring school variety show. Help is needed for costume making, music, piano playing, props, backstage oversight, etc. Occurs first half of May. Contact varietyshow@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Volunteer Coordinator (Ann Hepburn)

Assist with volunteer coordination and helping to get volunteers for events when necessary. Occurs all year. Contact volunteer@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Webmaster (Rahul Jain)

Maintain Fallsmead PTA website. Contact webmaster@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.

Yearbook (Kathy Carr)

Assist with the production, coordination and distribution of the yearbook. Occurs all year. Contact yearbook@fallsmeadpta.org for more information or to volunteer to help.



PTA Celebrates Spring at Fallsmead!

Staff Appreciation Week

By Pam Hubbard, Chair, Staff Appreciation Committee. The week of May 4th-8th was Staff Appreciation Week at Fallsmead. We attempted to do something special each day of the week to assure the staff of Fallsmead of our appreciation for their work and dedication to our children.

On Monday, coffee and donuts were served. M&Ms and Skittles were put in the mailboxes. On each candy package was a "prescription label" reading: M&Ms/SKITTLES 5 MG. BLUE IS FOR RELAXATION; RED IS FOR STAMINA; PURPLE/BROWN IS FOR SUGAR/CHOCOLATE HIGH; GREEN IS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT; YELLOW IS FOR FINDING YOUR CENTER; ORANGE IS FOR PATIENCE. PRESCRIBED BY: DR. PTA.

On Tuesday, the PTA hosted an after-school Cinco de Mayo happy hour in the staff lounge, complete with non-alcoholic margaritas, chips, dip and fiesta music.

Wednesday was the Dessert Fest thanks to the contributions of parents. Every staff member received chips in their mailboxes.

On Thursday, PTA provided a lunch of Ledo's pizza and salad, and Tic Tac mints were put in every mailbox.

Friday was the day for Rita's ices during the lunch hours. The staff was very appreciative of everything done by the PTA. Thank you to everyone who provided desserts and/or helped to make these events possible.

Spring Fair and Silent Auction Success!

Events Raise Over \$4000

By Jill Hertzler, Silent Auction Committee Chair. The 2009 Spring Fair and Silent Auction were WONDERFUL! The weather, the games, the auction--everything went off without a hitch. And this year WE RAISED OVER \$4000!

Thank you to Eva Cowan, chair of the Spring Fair Committee, and to everyone in the Fallsmead Family. To name just a few of our many volunteers who stepped up in a big way: Goli Afshari, Sabah Ashemi, Angela Bijlani, Nikhil Bijlani, Debra Browning, Melissa & Ted Cetola, Sally Deol, Crystal El-Khatib, Ellen Foley, Gregg Goodman, Shane Grant, Ann Hepburn, Kathleen Klausung, Stephanie Knauer, Vickie Kwong, Tammy & Rich Mariani, Andrea Markovitz, Brenda Mitchell, Debbie Myers, Diana Rabinowitz, Rhonda Ricci, Margot Richters, Laura Riese, Andrea Samborn, Wende Schuster and Maria Tsitrin. There were so many and you all are AWESOME! Thank you!

PTA Donation to the Media Center

On Monday, April 20th, in conjunction with the Principal's Coffee, Mrs. O'Hara and the Media Center recognized the PTA for its generous donation that was given at the beginning of the school year. This donation has allowed for the purchase of hundreds of extra books that the school would not normally have.

Congratulations to our May Drawing Winners...

Libbey Kim Isabella Oliva Julianne Wong

Thanks to all the families who contributed to the Box Tops for Education fundraising campaign this month. You may continue to bring in your Boxtops through June, and keep saving them over the summer for next year!



Fallsmead PTA Community Service Committee SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE



The Problem:

Some families in our Montgomery County School System don't have the resources to purchase school supplies for their children for next fall.

How can you help?

Donations of new school supplies can be dropped off in the box at the front of the school until Friday, May 29th. Donated school supplies will be delivered to the Montgomery County Linkages to Learning program.

<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/content/Linkages/index.html>

Linkages to Learning will distribute the school supplies to less fortunate kids in our school system, so the kids can start off the school year next fall with everything they need. The following are items that Linkages to Learning is requesting:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| ☺ Black & white marbled composition notebooks | ☺ Crayons | ☺ Pencils |
| ☺ Book bags | ☺ Dictionaries | ☺ Pens |
| ☺ Child scissors | ☺ Erasers | ☺ Rulers |
| ☺ Colored markers | ☺ Glue sticks | ☺ 2" zippered binders |
| | ☺ Individual pencil sharpeners | |

Every donation big and small is appreciated and goes directly to a student in need! Thank you in advance for your donation!!

Please contact Jen Goode (goode.fam@verizon.net) or Lisa Merkin at (Lisa.Merkin@montgomerycountymd.gov) if you have questions or want to arrange a drop-off.