



# Fairland Flyer

## Direct Donation Campaign

This year, the Fairland PTA is making an appeal for direction donations to the PTA. The PTA will be collecting money throughout the school year. The money goes toward funding staff appreciation events, staff vouchers, cultural arts programs, PTA dances, and so much more.

Please make checks out to the Fairland ES PTA. Provide your name, address, email, and telephone number. This will help us to give you a

proper "thank you" and documentation for tax purposes. You can drop the money off at the office in an envelope labeled "PTA Direct Donation Campaign / Tiffany Williams". The office staff will put your envelope in the PTA mailbox.. You may also mail the donation to:

Fairland ES PTA  
14315 Fairdale Rd  
Silver Spring, MD 20905  
Attn: Tiffany Williams, PTA

## Presidents Preamble

We're off to a great start this year. We began with a welcome back luncheon for the teachers and staff in August. In September, we had a social for the entire Fairland community and sponsored the Book Fair. In October, we helped clean up the school grounds with our beautification day. We also held the fall dance. I'd like to thank all of the volunteers who assisted with these events. I'd like to express my appreciation to the new parents who have stepped up to fill the vacant slots in key positions--Dance Chair (Ivana Miranda), Fundraising (Emalee Lewis), Hospitality Co-chairs (Brandi Jones and Niani Stimpson), and Spirit Wear (Nikki Owens). There are still vacant positions so let me know if you are available to help.

Upcoming Events: At the PTA meeting on November 3, 2009, after a brief business meeting, several math teachers will gather by grade to explain some of the "new" math concepts to parents. So if you've struggled with trying to help your child with math but could only rely on your "old" math knowledge, please join us for an information sharing session. Also, during November, the Hospitality Committee will be soliciting donations of different types of pies for our November staff appreciation event.

## Fairland eMail Group



Welcome new families and returning families!

If you are not already signed up for our PTA email group, please send your email address to Kim Gibbs at [kim\\_a\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com).

## Kindergarten Communications

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We have been very busy! We have finished our first round of reading assessments. As a result, we have grouped children according to their strengths and needs with other students for reading instruction. We have been studying apples as part of our living things unit in science,

however, we have enjoyed activities with apples across the curriculum. We have made apple patterns in math, read nonfiction apple books, celebrated Johnny Appleseed's birthday and even created an eatable apple tree for snack. We are starting the second part of the month off by

comparing apples and pumpkins. We are observing the changes that come with fall. We went on our first field trip to observe a working farm and pick pumpkins. We will end the month celebrating Halloween. Have a great month!

## First Grade Flash

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We have been working hard in First Grade! The first graders are eager to learn new words daily. We are reading in small groups and writing stories too. We have been listening to stories and learning about the author Kevin Henkes.

The first graders have been working on learning more words, sharing ideas, discussing reading and writing strategies and story elements.

In math, the first graders are working on reading and writing numerals to 100, identifying a number that is one more, one less, identifying numbers that are located between two other numbers, and we will model the concept of addition and subtraction. We are also reviewing the days of the week with calendar skills each day.

Please continue to work on home assignments, and check folders and back packs each night. Be sure to ask your first grader to

tell you what they are learning in school. There are many exciting things happening in first grade.

In November, we will start learning about informational text and the many text features authors use to help us to understand the text. We will continue to learn about reading to be informed. We will also read to perform a task. You can help at home by using sequencing words (first, next, then, last) when asking your first grader to perform simple tasks at home. We will also work on retelling information learned from informational text.

In math, we will use ordinal numbers first through tenth, identify measurement tools, estimate and measure length, model ten more and ten less to 100, add and subtract one and two digit numbers without regrouping and write and solve addition and subtraction number sentences. These skills will need

reinforcement at home. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts with your first grader.

In the second quarter, the first grade classes will begin our formal spelling program. We will explore spelling and sound patterns. Spelling homework will be added to the regular homework assignments. Please look for more information about our spelling program to come in November.

Many thanks to you for visiting our classes during the Open House and we welcome you to our Halloween activities on Friday, October 30th. Please make sure you have signed up for parent teacher conferences on November 11th or 12th.

## Second Grade Scoop

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The second graders had a fabulous day on October 30th. We spent the morning doing three great pumpkin activities, after visiting our “magical” pumpkin patch to receive our pumpkins. The students learned to measure and weigh their pumpkins, to use their pumpkins to write creative poems and made a pumpkin patch with facts and opinions. The day ended with the Fairland Halloween parade and our classroom parties. A huge thanks to all the parents who organized and helped at the parties.

The second marking period has begun and we have started many

new topics and units. In reading, our focus this marking period will be on comprehending literary texts and reading informational texts. In writing, the students will be learning how to write to inform others on a new topic. We will gain information by going to the Baltimore Aquarium on December 18th. Our new unit in math is geometry. Students will be learning all about characteristics of different shapes and how shapes are around us in everyday life. We will be taking a break from science, for a little bit, while we focus on social studies. We will

be learning about the geographic characteristics of the United States and how early settlers and Native Americans lived together. As an extension of this we will be taking a field trip to Woodlawn Manor Museum on November 24th. There we will be learning more about the Wampanoags and Pilgrims.

We were looking forward to seeing many of you at parent-teacher conferences. Please notify your child’s teacher as soon as possible if you are unable to make your scheduled conference.

## Third Grade Tidings

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Third Grade is off to a good start. It is hard to believe that the first marking period ended October 30<sup>th</sup>. You should have received your child’s progress report and returned the bottom portion signed to your child’s teacher. Conferences are scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in November. Make sure you have received your specific conference time and date.

All classes enjoyed their first field trip to the Smith Center. There they learned about plants, seeds and fruits. It was a great supplement to our science unit where they have been studying Plant Growth and Development. They have enjoyed observing the changes in their brassica plants.

This unit will end in mid-November. Beginning in December, the Crime Lab Chemistry Unit should begin. Students will be transitioning from plant biologists to criminologists.

In Social Studies, the students will learn map skills and interpretation. It will be very helpful if you give them as much practice as possible at home reading maps and understanding map elements.

In the past eight weeks, we have explored realistic fiction, story elements and character traits in fictional texts. We also explored text features and structures of non-fiction text. Quarter two will bring comprehension, interpretation and evaluation of infor-

mational text and literary texts.

Students have been writing for personal expression. In quarter two, we will move into focusing on the writing process. This will include informational writing that contains main idea, summaries and logical sequence of events.

We completed Unit 1 in math. Unit 2 is Measurement. This includes linear measurement and estimation, area and perimeter, and standard and metric conversions. Remember, Unit 3 is coming up at the beginning of December. This unit is multiplication. Your children need to have memorized **all** multiplication facts to be successful in this unit.

## Fourth Grade Findings

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We wish Mrs. Julian and her new, little son Joshua a restful and joyful break. We welcome Toni Smith as her long term substitute.

The students are working hard to successfully complete their first 4th grade marking period. In Math, we are studying geometry and graphs/data analysis. Parents can help their children with these units by playing a version of the "I Spy" game. Locate a pair of parallel lines in the room and say, "I spy a pair of parallel lines." As your child guesses, provide feedback such as

"warmer" and "colder." Check the glossary of geometry terms in your child's reference book for vocabulary words.

In Reading, students are learning about the genres of Fables and Fantasy. Ask your child to explain foibles or to summarize his/her favorite fable! Please remind your child to read every night for at least 30 minutes. Reading will help your child meet the Independent Reading Goal of 6 books by October 28th. Also, please remind your child to complete the daily Spelling homework.

We are publishing our Personal Narratives in Writing – ask your child to read you his/her descriptive memory!

In Science, we are observing the snails, crickets, roly polys, and grasses in our ecosystems.

In Social Studies, we are busy studying maps and the history of Maryland.

Happy Reading!!

## Fifth Grade Footnotes

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Greetings from 5<sup>th</sup> grade! Our students have been working hard this first quarter. We are trying to keep them organized and have given them several tools to help. All of the students have a VIP (Very Important Papers) folder. This folder is used to keep homework, graded papers, and notices. It should be brought home each day, and back to school the next. Also, on Fridays we need parents to empty the folder and keep all graded papers and notices.

The students also have agenda books to keep track of their homework assignments. Every night at home they should be doing spelling, math, and independent reading. Each student has been given an Independent Reading folder that contains all

of the paperwork necessary to complete their independent reading work, as well as a list of the due dates for each quarter. In reading language arts, students have been reading historical fiction books. They have learned the elements of historical fiction. They can now use a plot diagram to keep track of the parts of the plot for any fiction book. Students have used these plot diagrams to help them write summaries. Our 5<sup>th</sup> graders have also been working on a variety of writing projects including I Am poems and Halloween stories. We have focused this quarter on including interesting details in their writing.

Mrs. Hester's and Mr. Blake's math classes have completed their first unit in math. The fo-

cus was on collecting, organizing, and analyzing data. They are now working on Unit 2 and are reading and writing decimals, rounding and estimating decimals, and will soon add, subtract, multiply, and divide decimals. Mrs. Collins' class has also just completed their first unit on divisibility rules, patterns, function tables, and using variables in expressions. The focus of their second unit will be geometry. Students will learn about angles, polygons, area, and perimeter.

The 5<sup>th</sup> graders have been studying physics in science. They have learned what causes motion, as well as three types of motion (uniform, variable, and periodic). Next, they learned the difference between mass and

weight. Finally, they saw what happens to motion as a result of friction.

In Social Studies, students are studying the rights and responsibilities of citizens. They have also learned the three branches

of government. Next, they will be learning about the causes of the Revolutionary War. This will include studying the Boston Tea Party, Quartering Act, and the Stamp Act.

We are looking forward to meeting and talking with parents at our November parent/teacher conferences!

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## Ice Skating Fundraiser

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The Gardens Ice House  
13800 Gunpowder Road, Laurel, MD

**Date: Sunday, November 15, 2009**  
**Time: 1:50-3:50 p.m.**

**Cost: \$7.70 per person, includes admission and skate rental**



Come join us for an afternoon of fun! Fifty percent of the proceeds will come back to fund activities for Fairland ES children.

Relatives, friends, and neighbors are all welcome to participate and support the school. Please invite them to come! Look for the Fairland ES table and pay for tickets there starting at 1:30.

We hope to see you there!

Any questions, please contact Karen Brown (301-879-5754; [kmbrownphd@hotmail.com](mailto:kmbrownphd@hotmail.com)) or Kim Gibbs (301-879-7034; [kim\\_a\\_gibbs@hotmail.com](mailto:kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com)).

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## Cheeburger Cheeburger Fundraiser

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Mark your calendars for our December fundraiser at every kids favorite burger joint, Cheeburger Cheeburger. On Monday, December 7, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Fairland ES PTA. Don't forget to tell your friends and family! More details will be forthcoming in backpack mail.



**FAIRLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

Montgomery County Public Schools  
Fairland Elementary School  
14315 Fairdale Road  
Silver Spring, MS 20905  
Phone: 301 989 5658  
Fax: 301 989 5658  
E-mail: [newsletter@fairlandPTA.org](mailto:newsletter@fairlandPTA.org)

***Every Child One Voice!***

Fairland Elementary School is located in the southeastern part of Montgomery County in Maryland. It has been at its new location since August of 1993, but it has already outgrown its space. We presently have nearly 600 students from grades K-5, along with 2 Special Education classes. Fairland's very diverse student body has representatives from many socio-economic levels, racial groups, and cultural backgrounds. Our black and hispanic population is about 50% at this time. This allows Fairland to take advantage of the rich and diverse backgrounds of our students and staff. The very active PTA supports the school in many ways, involving many community establishments and parents from all student groups.

The organization of classes varies with grade level. For the most part, lower grades are self contained with sharing among the teachers as they deem appropriate. In the upper levels, 4th and 5th, the classes are departmentalized, with teachers specializing in particular content areas. The students change classes but the classes are located very close to each other. Flexible scheduling is called for quite often and communications among the teachers at these levels is facilitated with common planning time and having known and worked with each other for several years