



Fairland Flyer

PTA Student Directories

Our yearly PTA student directories are being distributed the first week in January. PTA members get free copies! If you have not yet signed up to join our PTA (only \$10!), please do so at <http://fairlandpta.org/flyers/2009membershipForm.pdf>. If you are a paid PTA member and do not receive your directory by January 11, please contact Kim Gibbs at 301-879-7034 or kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com

President's Preamble

Happy New Year and Welcome Back! I thank all who participated in our Joe Corbi's fundraiser. Special thanks goes to Emalee Lewis (a Kindergarten parent) who organized the whole thing. We managed to raise a few thousand dollars.

If anyone has ideas for speakers to give 20- to 30-minute presentations at our PTA meetings, please email your suggestions to cnmackelpta@aol.com. Also, we could use some help with Hospitality, photocopying, and fundraising.

The first half of the school year went by rather quickly. I guess because we've been busy. Please note the activities coming up in February. I look forward to seeing you there!

Cathy

Books the Magic is Real



Coming in February - Sponsored by the Fairland Elementary PTA.

Books the Magic is Real reading fundraiser.

Watch backpack mail for more information.

Kick-off Assembly will be held on February 22. Parents/guardians are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Donna Kassel by email at donnzo@verizon.net.

Join our PTA List Serve!

Stay current on information, tips, and resources to help your child succeed in school. To join our Yahoo group, send an e-mail to kim_a_gibbs@hotmail.com or sign up for fairlandelementary@yahoogroups.com at Yahoo groups.

Kindergarten Communications

In December, we enjoyed the many versions of the popular folktale, “The Gingerbread Boy”. We learned comparing and contrasting, sequencing events, dramatizing and even creating our own versions. To add to the fun, we opened a gingerbread bakery for children to buy and sell various “paper” cookies. The bakery helped strengthen oral language, writing skills and counting money, not to mention...it’s really fun! We

culminated the unit at the end of the month by creating our own gingerbread houses.

After winter break, we will begin our second round of county reading assessments. We are so proud of the progress of our students.

In Math, we continue to work on number sense. We are learning various ways to show number, match numbers and sets, order sets, sequence number, odd and

even numbers and ordinal numbers.

When we return from break, we will be talking about the changes that come along with the winter weather. We wish everyone a safe and memorable holiday season.

First Grade Flash

We have learned 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 have been reading 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. We are also comparing and ordering

the number of objects in a set, and adding and subtracting one- and two-digit numbers without regrouping. We are also continuing to work on strategies to master addition and subtraction facts with sums to 10. These skills will need reinforcement at home. Please continue to practice addition and subtraction facts with your first grader.

The first grade classes are busy reading and writing every day. We are using many strategies to gain comprehension when reading informational text. We are also learning to identify the main idea and supporting details when reading. We will also begin to identify the main character in a story. We will collect evidence by thinking about what the character says and does to help us

understand the character.

The first graders have become explorers! They are exploring new sounds and spelling patterns. By exploring new sounds and patterns, the first graders will be able to read and write new words. We are continuing to add five new first grade words to the word wall each week. Please continue to practice these words with your child daily.

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 he/she’s learning in school. We are looking forward to our field trip to Imagination Stage to see Peter and the Wolf on February 24th.

Second Grade Scoop

In Reading, the students are now working on strategies to use while reading for information. We are focusing on asking questions and identifying text features and using them to help us understand the information in the books. We will continue to read fictional stories and looking at characters, setting, problem and solutions and how they help us understand what's happening in those stories. Please make sure that your child is picking books that will challenge their reading skills.

In Writing, students are continu-

ing to work through the writing process. Students are working on writing to inform. We are writing on many different topics- animals, states, toys etc. We continue to practice writing rough drafts, editing, revising and publishing. Look for your child's finished product soon.

In Math, we finished the Unit Assessment on geometry, and we have started to focus on addition and subtraction. Please have your child practice their basic addition and subtraction facts. It will make Math much easier.

For Science, we are so excited to begin our new unit on balancing and weighing. We will study ways to make items balance. We will also become familiar with various ways to weigh things. This is a fun unit for us to study!

For Social Studies, we have finished our unit on Geography, Pilgrims and Wampanoags. We will be taking a break from Social Studies, for the next month, to complete our Science unit.

Third Grade Tidings

It is hard to believe that we are almost halfway through the school year! You should receive your child's progress report soon, please discuss it with your child and sign and return the bottom portion of the paper.

We are now beginning our second unit in science: "Crime Lab Chemistry." In this unit, your children will be learning about fingerprints and fingerprinting. They will also learn about chromatography. They will apply this knowledge to help them solve a fictitious crime. If any of you know a detective or someone involved in the field of crime solving who would be available and willing to do a presentation in class, please have them contact the school.

Students are well into the multiplication unit in math (unit 3). The two accelerated classes are finishing up the 3rd grade concepts and are moving into the 4th grade material. The other two classes will continue to work on problem solving with multiplication and division. It is crucial that all students memorize their multiplication facts in order to be successful in this unit and future units. Spend at least 10 minutes each night with your child learning (memorizing) the basic facts. Class time is for learning concepts. Students must use given resources to memorize the facts at home. Our study of geometry will follow this multiplication unit. It should begin the first week of February.

In reading, your child will be reading Historical Fiction and learning figurative language (such as alliteration, personification, simile and metaphor). They will continue to work on reading to be informed using biographies and other informational texts.

They will be moving into writing informational and persuasive pieces.

As always, look for spelling and math homework every night.

Fourth Grade Findings

The end of the second marking period is fast approaching! In Reading, students are exploring the genres of Historical Fiction and Realistic Fiction. Before the end of the marking period, students are expected to independently read 2 more books and complete one question for each book. Question due dates are:

Book 5— Due Wednesday, January 6th

Book 6— Due Wednesday, January 20th

This quarter, our Mathematicians are solving algebraic equa-

tions for unknown variables, identifying patterns by stating the rule, and computing multiplication and division problems. Parents can help by practicing their children's multiplication tables. Try using fact triangles or have your child create their own flash cards. For more ideas, visit www.ed.gov/pubs/parents/Math.

This quarter, our Authors are writing to inform. Ask your child to explain the difference between facts and opinions.

In Social Studies, our Historians are investigating their family's

heritage. Help them with their family interviews.

This quarter, our Scientists will examine the effects of pollution on their ecosystems. Ask your child to explain the relationship between their ecosystems and the Chesapeake Bay.

Our next Checkbook Party will be January 8th! Ask your child to explain this fun experience to you!

Fifth Grade Footnotes

Hello from 5th grade! Our students have been working on a variety of new concepts this second quarter. As usual, they have homework every night. They should be doing spelling, math, and independent reading for homework. As a reminder, their Independent Reading folder 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 and writing poetry. They have learned about similes, metaphors, alliteration, repetition, and onomatopoeia. We have read many poems, learned how to mark them up, and how to de-

termine the mood. We have also looked for the hidden meaning in poems. Students have had an opportunity to write several poems which are displayed in our hallway. They did a fantastic job!

Mrs. Hester's and Mr. Blake's math classes have completed the first half of the second unit in math. The focus was on computing with decimals, including using estimation to solve problems. They are now working on the second half of the unit working on multiplying, dividing, and estimating fractions and mixed numbers. Later in the unit they will learn about ratios, rates, and percents. Mrs. Carstens' class has also just completed their second unit. They worked on ge-

ometry, including learning about angles, circle, polygons, area and perimeter. The focus of their third unit will be reading and writing decimals, as well as adding and subtracting decimals. They will do the same with fractions, and will also learn how to write ratios.

The 5th graders have been studying electricity in science. They made their own electricity by using a balloon to create static electricity. They also were able to use a battery, wire, and light bulb to make an electrical circuit. During the rest of this unit they will explore with magnets to determine what types of materials are magnetic.

In Social Studies, students are finishing their study of the rights

Fifth Grade Footnotes cont'd

and responsibilities of citizens. 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 have our first meeting with the middle school counselor scheduled for February 1st. The sixth grade counselor from Briggs Chaney Middle School will be coming that day to meet with our students and will give

them their course application booklet. We are trying to schedule the Banneker counselor for that same week. Please check your child's back pack that week for the very important registration packet.

Transitioning to Middle School

A representative from Briggs Chaney Middle School (BCMS) will speak at our February 2, 2010 PTA meeting. I encourage the 4th and 5th grade parents zoned for BCMS to attend.

Lost & Found



The Lost and Found is filling up fast. If your child has lost something at school perhaps a good Samaritan has returned it. A helpful hint for making a lost item easier to find is by writing a name or placing a tag in an inconspicuous location.

Karaoke Cafe

The Karaoke Cafe will take place on Friday, February 5, 2010 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Vannesa Crotzer at vvcpac@verizon.net.

Ice Skating Fundraiser



Our Gardens Ice House fundraiser took place in November. Even though it was one of the warmest days ever in November, we still had a pretty good turnout. We will do one more ice skating fundraiser in the coming months. Stay tuned for more details!



Cheeburger Cheeburger Fundraiser



Thanks to all the families that came out to our Cheeburger Cheeburger fundraiser in December. We hope to do another restaurant fundraiser in the coming months.



**FAIRLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

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Every Child One Voice!

Fairland Elementary School is located in the southeastern part of Montgomery County in Maryland. It has been at its current location since August 1993, but it has already outgrown its space. We presently have nearly 600 students from grades K-5, along with two 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.