



Mustang Express

Volume 2, Issue 3

Franconia PTA Newsletter

December 2008

No More Modified Calendar??!

Yes, there is a strong possibility that Franconia may be on a traditional calendar next school year (2009-2010)! Fairfax County faces a budget deficit of \$500 million next school year. Franconia is in danger of losing the modified calendar, CETA program, and class sizes may be increased by 2.5 children which can mean that Franconia would lose a Kindergarten teacher and 1 teacher from grades 1-6. A list of proposed budget cuts can be found at www.fcps.edu

The Superintendent's FY 2010 Proposed Budget Plan will be released on January 8, 2009. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the specifics of proposed budget. Final budget decisions will not be determined until May 21, 2009, when the School Board adopts its approved budget for FY 2010.

This means that (worse case scenario) we may not know until May 21, 2009 whether Franconia will be on a modified or a traditional calendar next school year.

How will the loss of the modified calendar affect your family? As soon as the proposed budget is released, we will inform you of the cuts affecting Franconia. Budget cuts will be discussed in detail during our PTA meeting on January 13 at 6:30pm. Please plan to attend to understand how cuts will affect your child.

Comments/suggestions for the superintendent can be made here: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/fy10suggestions.htm>



Upcoming PTA Events

Mark your calendars for these fabulous upcoming events! We hope to see you soon!

- December 18 Domino's Dough Raising Night
- January 13 PTA meeting; 6:30pm, library
- January 23 Movie Night, 7pm, gym
- February 27 Basket Bingo, 6pm, gym

PTA Board 2008-2009

President	Beth Krause	703-922-1877	beth_krause@hotmail.com
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Volunteer Coordinator	Carylin Waterval	703-924-2681	carylin_mother2@yahoo.com
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Box Tops Due

By Carylin Waterval, Volunteer Coordinator

It's time to turn in your Box Tops for the 2nd quarter. Please send them to school with your child by Monday, December 22. The class with the most box tops submitted will win an ice cream party. For multiple children, divide the box tops among each class. The PTA thanks you for supporting this great program this year!

Treasurer's Report

By Mary Jane Alves, Treasurer

Update on the PTA's Budget

It comes as no surprise that the Innisbrook gift wrap and accessories sale did not bring in as much as previous years. In fact, as we wait for the final tallies, it appears that the PTA's main fundraiser for the year brought in about four to five thousand dollars less than expected.

With such a large shortfall, the PTA needs your input on how to reconfigure the budget. In addition to a variety of educational and community-building activities, some important needs for the school that we had hoped to purchase this year are another SMART board (\$2,348), a set of guided reading materials (\$2,500) to replace missing or damaged items in existing classroom libraries, and another contribution towards offsetting the cost of school field trips (\$2,500). We have also seen an increased use of the PTA cafeteria card but a decreased amount of reimbursement of the card so far this year.

Join us at the January meeting in the school's library to discuss the other budget items, to help decide which items to delete or trim, and to vote on an amended budget for the remainder of the fiscal year.

So that we can continue to provide lunch to those who forgot to bring their lunch or lunch money to school, please be sure to reimburse the PTA if your child benefits from the PTA cafeteria card. Send check or cash reimbursements to the PTA cafeteria card to "Franconia Elementary PTA." To add money to your child's personal lunch card, that money goes to "Franconia Food Services."

We periodically receive donations from various Franconia families, and we are so grateful for these generous gifts of all sizes that help to offset shortfalls in other income categories. We are a 501(c)(3) company, so donations are tax-deductible if you or your employer are looking for year-end contributions. Another important asset that we do not want to take for granted is our volunteer base. Even if you cannot donate monetarily at this time, please help us out with your donated time. Whether you have time during the school day, in the evenings, or on weekends, we always need some additional volunteer power, so please contact Carylin Waterval about your availability.

*HAPPY HOLIDAYS
TO THE ENTIRE FRANCONIA FAMILY*

Franconia Promotions

By Carylin Waterval, Volunteer Coordinator

Franconia is participating in five major promotions programs for this year: Giant Food's A+ Bonus Bucks, General Mills' Box Tops for Education, Office Depot, Safeway's Club for Education, and Target's Take Charge of Education. All five programs provide instructional equipment, vendor certificates, and cash rebates to Franconia when you make everyday purchases. To sign up and support these programs, please see the information below.



This year's program will run from October through April. Franconia's School ID is **02290**; sign up at any Giant store **OR** log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus **OR** dial 1-877-366-2668. Remember, even if you designated last year, you **MUST** re-designate this year.



The program is simple. Clip Box Tops from your favorite General Mills products, each one is worth 10¢ to our school. Use the envelope sent home with each family to store your Box Tops during the quarter. At the end of each quarter, October 3, December 21, March 14 and June 1, send the Box Tops to school with your child. The class with the most box tops submitted each quarter will receive an ice cream party.

Another easy way to help our school is to sign up for the Box Tops website at www.boxtops4education.com. You'll get updates on our school's Box Tops earnings, money-saving coupons, family-pleasing recipes, chances to win Bonus Box Tops, the latest Box Tops news and much more. Best of all, it's absolutely free!



Office Depot donates 5% of your purchase to Franconia when you use Franconia's school ID 70103060 in the store and on-line! If you shop at Office Depot, please use our school ID.



Safeway has partnered with eScrip to support Franconia. Franconia's ID is 6505092. Sign up at www.escrip.com. Remember, even if you designated a school last year, you **MUST** re-designate this year.



Target – Enroll in Target's Take Charge of Education program: Here's how it works: Visit www.Target.com/tcoe or call 1-800-316-6142 to designate school, then use your REDcard whenever you shop. When you use your REDcardSM (Target® Visa® Credit Card, Target Credit CardSM or Target Check CardSM), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K–12 school of your choice.