



Mustang Express

Volume 2, Issue 1

Franconia PTA Newsletter

September 2008

September PTA Newsletter

Welcome to Fall! The Franconia PTA is happy to present this newsletter as an additional information source for parents to learn about Franconia Elementary and the PTA. We hope to provide an overview of PTA activities and expose parents to issues within our school system which impact us. The success of our PTA's partnership with the school is dependent upon the willingness of parents to get involved in the school and with PTA. This newsletter should give you an idea of the countless volunteering possibilities available.

The PTA board has developed a calendar of great activities for our school year; watch this newsletter and the Mustang Message for more information. Many thanks to all who helped with and attended the Back to School Picnic, it was a huge success! PTA meetings are typically held the first Tuesday of every month in the library. Please join us to learn about what is going on at Franconia. To view the PTA meeting minutes, go to the school website at www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES and select PTA. The PTA maintains an email distribution list for sending information, reminders, and updates to the Franconia Family. Please join this list by sending an email to FranconiaFamily-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.



Upcoming PTA Events

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

- October 22, 2008 Innisbrook Order Pick-up
- October 28, 2008 Franconia Night at Lucky's Restaurant
- November 4, 2008 Election Day Bake Sale
- November 8, 2008 Franconia History Day & Fitness Walk/Run, 9:30am
- November 11, 2008 PTA Meeting, 7pm & Patriotic Performance, 7:30pm
- December 2, 2008 PTA Meeting, 7pm

PTA Board 2008-2009

President	Beth Krause	703-922-1877	beth_krause@hotmail.com
Vice President	Kim Warner	703-822-2200	Kimberly.Warner@fcps.edu
Treasurer	Mary Jane Alves	703-924-7119	maryjanealves@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Shirley Woolsey	703-341-6174	woolsey319@gmail.com
Corresponding Secretary	Paula Thompson	703-921-5555	paulathompson@cox.net
Volunteer Coordinator	Carylin Waterval	703-924-2681	carylin_mother2@yahoo.com
Reflections Coordinator	Shelly Edenhart	703-313-7955	sedenhart@scadirect.com

Calling All Volunteers

By Carylin Waterval, Volunteer Coordinator

Thanks to the hard work by volunteers at recent school events this past month:

- Over 50 parents, teachers and school staff that volunteered at the Back to School Picnic,
- Parents who assisted with School Picture Day,
- 8 parents who will begin working with classes in the Strategy Lab this month.

We appreciate the over 75 parents who completed the PTA Volunteer form. We will be contacting you during the year to help us with school and PTA events. If you have any questions about volunteering you can contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinator Carylin Waterval at Carylin_mother2@yahoo.com



Other Volunteers Needs:

- Basket Bingo Chairperson needed to begin forming a planning committee to coordinate this event to be held in February 2009.

Reflections

By Shelly Edenhart, Reflections Coordinator

Franconia Elementary would like to encourage students in K through 6 to participate in the 2008-09 Reflections Program. Reflections is a self discovery learning program for children that was created by the National PTA in 1969 to encourage millions of students across the nation to explore their artistic talents. We would love our students to participate again this year by creating an original work of art based on the theme "WOW".

Students around the country in preschool through grade 12 participate in the areas of literature, dance choreography, film/video production, musical composition, photography, and visual arts. Our school will be participating in the following age divisions: PreK through Grade 2, Grades 3 through 5 and Grades 6 through 8. The deadline for Franconia students to submit their reflections entries is October 23, 2008. Entry forms and rules will be available on www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES

If you are interested in your child(ren) participating in this year's program please contact Shelly Edenhart at sedenhart@scadirect.com or 703-313-7955.

Treasurer's Report

By Mary Jane Alves, Treasurer

We are off to a great start for the new fiscal year. Our books were successfully audited over the summer, and at the first General PTA meeting on September 2, we approved a budget based on projected income and expenses. Should expectations change, we have the ability to revise the budget at a later meeting.

Our goals for the school year are ambitious. We hope to host a number of fun, educational, and healthy activities for the school community, contribute money towards students' field trips and pay a portion of the teachers' professional development expenses. We also plan to purchase three big-ticket items for the school: one set of Guided Reading materials (to replace damaged and missing materials) and two Smart boards. We are continuing the tradition of a PTA cafeteria card to make sure that all students get lunch, even if they happen to forget to bring their lunch box or they have inadequate funds on their own card. We are so grateful when families reimburse the PTA whenever their own child has benefited so that we can keep the card funded for the next child.

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We are also extremely appreciative of the large numbers of families and individuals who have joined the PTA. Although a portion of your dues is sent to local and state officials, most of your dues stay right here to benefit your children and your school. Profound thanks also to those of you who have participated in the Innisbrook fundraiser and to those of you who have donated money directly to the PTA. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your donations are tax deductible. We will keep you up-to-date on the budget at each meeting so that you know how your funds are being used, and we welcome your input and support throughout the year.

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.