



Mustang Express

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Franconia PTA Newsletter

February 2009

New School Start Times for Fall 2009?

Based on a report from its Transportation Task Force, the School Board is considering the possibility of changing school start and dismissal times for all Fairfax County schools, beginning with the 2009-10 school year. Franconia's school day would begin at 7:50 and end at 2:30pm. Because changing school start and dismissal times could affect work schedules, child care arrangements, and after-school activities, the School Board wants to hear from YOU about the pros and cons of the changes. A survey is available <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm> until the end of February and seven community dialogue meetings will be held next week for families and community members to share their thoughts about the proposed changes. Citizens are encouraged to attend one of the meetings. The meeting dates and locations are: **Tuesday, February 24, 7 to 9 p.m.** at Annandale High School, Longfellow Middle School, and Oak View Elementary School; **Wednesday, February 25, 7 to 9 p.m.** at Herndon High School and Rocky Run Middle School; **Thursday, February 26, 7 to 9 p.m.** at, Providence Elementary School and Whitman Middle School. Please make sure you make your voice heard about the proposed school start times.



Upcoming PTA Events

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

- February 27 Family Fun Night (Basket Bingo), 6pm, gym
- March 3 PTA meeting, 7pm, gym, Arts for All Performance
- March 18 Silver Diner Night, 5-8pm

Feb. 27th Family Fun Night

We are 1 week away from Family Fun Night on Friday, February 27. Doors open at 6pm; bingo games start at 6:30pm and will continue until all baskets are won. All are welcome to come. Bring your friends, neighbors, and entire family, share a pizza dinner, play bingo to try to win one of many "baskets" of goodies and bid on some really great Silent Auction items and services donated by community vendors.

A silent auction is like a sale – you will have a chance to buy items that have been donated by parents, teachers, and local businesses. You have the opportunity to buy an item by writing your bid in the amount that you would be willing to pay. Another person may come by and want the same item so they will offer

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more money, making a higher bid. At the end of the auction, the person with the highest bid goes home with the item. The highest bidder will pay BEFORE leaving Family Fun Night and collect their item. YOU MUST PAY FOR AND COLLECT YOUR ITEM PRIOR TO GOING HOME. Be sure to bring your checkbook.

Below is a small sampling of Silent Auction items that have been generously donated to Family Fun Night. With each bid you may take home a unique prize and know that your gift to the school helps to purchase new educational materials for Franconia.

The items below have been generously donated to our Silent Auction: framed art from Adler's Art & Frames, Gift Certificates from Chipotle, Top Golf, Austin Grill, Bella Donna Spa, Kumon Learning Center, Kingstowne Karate, Phillips, Legal Sea Food, My Gym, Corner Cuisine, Ford's Theatre, University Mall Theatre, Curves, Blockbuster, AMF Bowling, Bowl America, Fairfax Ice Arena, Firehouse Subs, Great American Restaurants, JR's Stockyard Inn, Magruders, Potomac Nationals, Sun & Moon Yoga Studio. Gift Baskets from Creative Memories, Slumber Parties, and Mary Kay. Special certificates and prizes from teachers including homework passes and extra recess will also be available for bidding.

Volunteers Needed for Family Fun Night:

We need your help to have a successful event on Friday, February 27. There are numerous ways you can assist the PTA, here are the specifics:

Wednesday, February 25, approximately 6:30 - 8:30pm - Help assemble Prize Baskets and Registration packets - at the school.

Friday, February 27 - help for a 30 minute shift or more at the registration table, assist with the silent auction or help inside the Bingo Room

If you are willing to help the PTA, please contact: Carylin Waterval, PTA Volunteer Coordinator at 703-924-2681 or carylin_mother2@yahoo.com (be sure the underscore shows clearly)

Always using email? Why not join the Franconia Family Yahoo group?

The PTA maintains an email distribution list for sending information, reminders, and updates to the Franconia Family. It's a great way to receive email reminders about upcoming events at the school and other school related information. **Please join this list by sending an email to FranconiaFamily-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or email Paula Thompson at paulathompson@cox.net.**

Box Top Update:

Thank you to everyone who turned in their second quarter box tops. We collected over 3000 box tops or \$300 to support the Franconia PTA. Congratulations to Mrs. Stump's First Grade class who turned in the most box tops and won a popsicle party! Just a reminder to turn in you 3rd quarter box tops by March 17.

Cartridges for Kids

Franconia Elementary is recycling and would like your help. We are recycling used cell phones, empty laser, fax, copier, and inkjet cartridges as well as, laptops, Palm Pilots, iPods, video games, GPS Systems, DVD's and digital cameras for two reasons. First, we are trying to preserve our environment by keeping these harmful items out of landfills, and secondly, to raise funds for our school. The recyclable items that are collected are returned to Cartridges for Kids® (CFK). Just send them to school with your child or place them in the collection box outside the gym.

Franconia Elementary School PTA Fundraiser

To help raise funds for the Franconia Elementary PTA, we invite you to participate in a fun, new fundraising activity: Let's Dish! If you haven't heard, Let's Dish! is an easy and fun way to get healthy, homemade dinners on your table – and raise funds for the PTA at the same time!

Until March 31, 2009 if you sign up for any session at Let's Dish!, they will donate 10% of the proceeds back to the Franconia Elementary PTA. Plus, you'll get 4, 8, or 12 delicious meals to serve to your family.

Here's how it works:

- 1) Go to www.letsdish.com and select the location nearest you.
- 2) Select an in-store session, Dish-n-Dash, or DishDelivery.
- 3) Choose a date and time that work for you and select 4, 8, or 12 meals from their monthly menu.
- 4) Enter promotional code **F7-FEPTA** on the page with your billing information (this will indicate to Let's Dish! that you are part of our fundraiser).
- 5) Place your order, and show up at your date and time to prepare or pick up your meals.



Making meals at Let's Dish! is fun, and the more the merrier. You can share our fundraiser promotional code with friends and family that want to dish with you to help raise funds! Also, you may use the promotional code as many times as you want during the length of the fundraiser. The more people who participate, the more money we can raise!

Questions? Email Rachelle at dish.alexandria@letsdish.net or call the Let's Dish! store nearest you. **Let's Dish Alexandria is located at 6550-G Little River Turnpike; (703) 750-0790.**

Franconia Promotions Reminder

The last deadline for Box Tops is March 17; send those box tops into your child's classroom.

Program	Franconia ID	How To
Giant A+ Bonus Bucks	02290	Sign up at any Giant store <i>or</i> log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus <i>or</i> dial 1-877-366-2668
Safeway	6505092	Sign up at www.escrip.com
Office Depot	70103060	Use Franconia's school ID in the store and on-line
Box Tops	-	Clip Box Tops from your favorite General Mills products and send them into school. The class with the most box tops submitted each quarter will receive an ice cream party.
Target		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.