



Mustang Express

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Franconia PTA Newsletter

January 2009

Update on PTA Budget

By Mary Jane Alves, Treasurer

Franconia PTA's budget is suffering from many of the same issues as the budgets for the School Board, County, State, and Federal Government. This year's primary fundraiser (Innisbrook gift wrap) brought in considerably less than in previous years. Because of this approximately \$5,000 shortfall, the PTA approved a revised budget at the January meeting.

The PTA decided not to purchase a new Smartboard for the school, which is a high-tech interactive electronic blackboard that can be linked to a laptop computer and even the internet. (Remember CNN's election coverage with the interactive electoral map? The Smartboard is the equivalent product for a classroom and can be used by students and teachers.) The PTA also had to eliminate its goal of purchasing one complete set of Guided Reading Materials. These books would have been used to supplement missing or damaged books in individual classrooms. The goal is for each classroom to have a complete set for each classroom teacher. The PTA also voted to reduce drastically teacher appreciation awards that are traditionally distributed in the spring. Staff appreciation week activities are still anticipated, however.

In these severe financial times, we continue to appreciate the donations that a number of individuals and families have made to the PTA this year. Your generosity has helped ease some of the hardships and reduce the need for even more drastic cutbacks. As always, any amount that you can donate to the PTA is much appreciated. And, your donations are tax deductible because the PTA is a 501(c)(3) charity.



Upcoming PTA Events

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

January 23 Movie Night, 7pm, gym

February 10 PTA meeting; 7pm, library

February 27 Family Fun Night (Basket Bingo), 6pm, gym

PTA Board 2008-2009

President	Beth Krause	703-405-9046	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	Margie Remmers	703-921-9015	margie@theremmersfamily.com
Volunteer Coordinator	Carylin Waterval	703-924-2681	carylin_mother2@yahoo.com
Reflections Coordinator	Shelly Edenhart	703-313-7955	sedenhart@scadirect.com

Flex Classes Begin in February

The PTA is excited to announce that Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) classes will begin a new session in February, 2009. It is not too late to register. Go to <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/> and click on the FLEX registration link on the right. Several classes do not have the minimum amount of students enrolled and will be cancelled if enrollment numbers are not met. If your child is interested in learning a foreign language, please check out this wonderful program today.

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.**

Interested in Volunteering

Volunteers are an invaluable part of the Franconia Family! If you have any questions about volunteering or would like to become more involved at the school, you can contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinator Carylin Waterval at Carylin_mother2@yahoo.com

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!

From February 1, 2009 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.**

Feb. 1st Family Fun Night; Help Needed to Put Together the Coolest Baskets

With the upcoming holidays and January intersession, don't forget about Family Fun Night, which will be held in the school's gym from 6:30 to 8 pm on Friday, February 27. 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, bid on some really great Silent Auction items and services donated by community vendors, and listen to hear your name called as the winner of a free door prize.

Just like in previous years, we need your help to make the "baskets" of goodies that will be the prizes for those winning the bingo games at the upcoming Family Fun Night on February 27. We've assigned the following theme or themes by grade:

Kindergarten: Ice Cream Sundae

1st Grade: Arts & Crafts

3rd Grade: Snowy Day

5th & 6th Grades: Cooking Dinner

2nd Grade: Warm Spring Day

4th Grade: A Trip in the Car

To build enthusiasm for the event, we would like each family to contribute either an item fitting the theme for their child's classroom's basket or a container that could hold their classroom's goodies. For example as theme-related items, you might send in play dough or colored pencils (1st grade); sidewalk chalk or a kite (2nd grade); cocoa, snow block maker, or cozy slippers (3rd grade); travel checkers, deck of cards, or electronic games, (4th grade); pasta, cookbook (5th and 6th grades); waffle cones, sprinkles, chocolate cake mix, chocolate bars (kindergarten). Or, for containers to hold a classroom's goodies, you might send in a snow saucer (3rd grade); a picnic blanket (2nd grade); or an ice bucket (kindergarten). Use your imagination!!! Please send the items to your child's homeroom classroom anytime between January 26 and February 13. Thank you in advance for your help!

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 Promotions Reminder

The last deadline for Box Tops is March 14; 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 <i>or</i> 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 <i>or</i> Target Check CardSM), Target will donate up to 1% of your purchases to the eligible K-12 school of your choice.