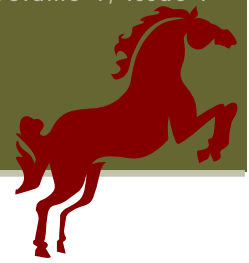


MUSTANG EXPRESS



Franconia PTA Newsletter
<http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/pta.html>

Thank you to all the families that attended Franconia's first celebration of Take Your Family to School Week during February 14-18, 2011. The Franconia staff was very generous to plan time for parents to participate in classroom activities, Art, PE and Music classes for all the grade levels. It was so much fun to see families, students and teachers in class together!

March is a busy month of events and I encourage you to attend our annual Family Fun Night on Friday, March 11. This is our largest PTA event with usually 300 - 400 people in attendance. We have fun playing Bingo with themed prize baskets and there are great Silent Auction items available

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from Franconia staff and local businesses. This year's proceeds will help us buy more books for our beautiful new school library.

Carylin Waterval, PTA President

Upcoming Dates



March 1 & 3	FLEX Classes Begin
March 4	Basket Bingo Pre-Registration Forms Due
March 4	Basket Bingo Prize Donations due to Classroom collection boxes
March 8	PTA Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
March 11	Basket Bingo and Silent Auction Night, 6:00pm
March 17	FLEX Class (Grade 1 - 3 Level One) Begins
March 23	Original Artworks Fundraiser letter sent home
March 25	Box Tops Due
March 30	Original Artworks Fundraiser Orders Due

FLEX Classes

It's exciting to see Spanish FLEX classes beginning this week. The PTA has organized four classes for over 35 students to begin this exciting 10 week program. We apologize for the delayed start of March 17 for the Thur., Grade 1-3, level 1 class at

the last minute, which was due to teacher availability. Thank you to Svetlana Hovhannisyan, the PTA Flex Coordinator for all her efforts in organizing the classes!

Original Works Fundraiser – Children’s Artwork Create Unique Products & Gifts Update

Students have been busy creating their own original artwork in art classes. Using the artwork created by your child, you will have the opportunity to purchase a variety of personalized products such as garden flags, note cards, aprons, mugs, prints & coasters.

The selected artwork & letter will go home with

your child on March 23, 2011. **The deadline to order is March 30, 2011.** The current schedule calls for Originals Works to deliver all orders to the PTA by the end of April, prior to Mother’s Day, Father’s Day and graduations. The profit from the sale of these items will be returned to the Art Department of Franconia Elementary, lead by our very creative Ms. Schickel.

Family Fun Night – Basket Bingo and Silent Auction

The PTA annual Basket Bingo and Silent Auction are fast approaching. Bring your family for a fun night of Bingo with prizes and a chance to bid on fabulous auction items from Franconia Staff and local business. Here are a few reminders to help make this event successful. The proceeds from the event will allow us to make another donation the beautiful new school library.

Volunteers: success of this event has depended on the strength of the volunteer staff. We need approximately 30 people for registration, concessions, Silent Auction and Bingo verification. If you are available to volunteer for a 30 minute shift, contact Jill Vaughn, the PTA Volunteer Coordinator at jesseandjillvaughn@gmail.com.

Advance Registration: Forms and payment for Pizza and bingo cards can be submitted through

Friday, March 4. Pizza will not be sold at the event, you must order in advance. (See the form at the end of the newsletter)

Bingo Prize Donations: Donations for class themed bingo prize baskets are appreciated. Collection boxes will be in each child’s classroom through Friday, March 4. Questions can be directed to the Basket Bingo Chair, Rebekah Everest at rebekaheverest@gmail.com.

Silent Auction Donations: Donations from families (such as gift cards or a home-based business or service) that could be auctioned off that night to benefit the school are appreciated. You may contact the Silent Auction Chair, Amanda Mountford at mountford.amanda@yahoo.com to arrange a donation.

Need Mulch?

Support Edison High School’s annual mulch sale to raise funds for the All Night Grad Party. See the

flyer at the end of the newsletter for additional information.

Reflections Winners

Congratulations to all the fine students who participated in this year's national PTA Reflections Program. Students submitted original works of art celebrating the theme "Together We Can" in the following categories: visual art, photography, musical composition, dance, film production, and literature.

The following 17 amazing students participated this year:

Leigh Abell, Richard Booth, Xavier Carmichael, Paige Ellis, Ellie Farrar, Anne Graham, Arbrianna Harris, Giselle Hernandez, Emma Krause, Kevin Ly, Joshua Ly, Joshua McCoy, Annelisa Rebello, Ariana Rebello, Brendan Waterval, Lindsay Waterval, Madeline Yee.

Congratulations to the following 9 students' works that received Outstanding Interpretation Awards at our school level and advanced to the Cluster 5 level:

Richard Booth, Xavier Carmichael, Emma Krause, Joshua Ly, Kevin Ly, Joshua McCoy, Ariana Rebello, Brendan Waterval, and Lindsay Waterval. Congratulations!

Finally, a hearty congratulations goes to Ariana Rebello! Her musical composition entry received an Outstanding Interpretation Award at the Cluster Level and her work has now advanced to the District Level!

Congratulations to all of these students who submitted outstanding creative works this year! Their artistic talents are inspiring to all of us and we applaud their efforts and hard work. Students that placed at the local and district levels will be recognized at the end of the year awards ceremony. We can't wait to see what amazing works of art are produced next year!

Franconia Promotions

Franconia is participating in six 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**, **Target's Take Charge of Education** and **Cartridges for Kids**. All six programs provide instructional equipment, vendor certificates, and cash rebates to Franconia when you make everyday purchases. Here are the two current promotions where you can lend your support the remaining of the school year.



Cartridges for Kids (CFK)

Help us be green, earn some green, and save some green by recycling with CFK! 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. We are trying to preserve our environment by keeping these harmful items out of landfills. 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.**



General Mills Box Tops for

Education 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 15, January 14, **March 25** 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 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.

PTA Board 2010-2011

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Carylin Waterval
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carylin_mother2@yahoo.com

Vice President

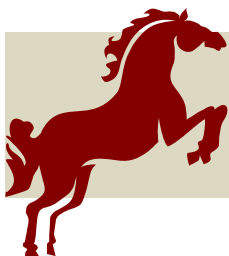
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We're on the Web!

<http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/pta.html>

Family Fun Night

Basket Bingo and Silent Auction

On Friday, March 11, 2011, the Franconia PTA is sponsoring its annual Basket Bingo and Silent Auction. This fun-filled night will run from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:00 p.m.).

What Is Basket Bingo?

Every year, we ask our students for fun donations which we use to assemble gift baskets. Then we hold a Bingo Night in the school's gymnasium. Winners in each Bingo round receive a gift basket. The theme list for each class (with donation suggestions) is attached. Also, if you have baskets or other fun containers lying around the house that you would like to donate, please do so. Basket donations will be collected in the students' homeroom classes between February 10, 2011 and March 4, 2011.

What Is The Silent Auction?

During Basket Bingo Night, we also hold a silent auction. Local businesses, Franconia teachers and staff, and PTA members donate items that are auctioned to raise money for the PTA. Items up for auction include gift certificates from restaurants, movie tickets, electronics and other goods, and tae kwon do lessons and other services.

All proceeds from this event will help us purchase more books for our beautiful new library.

Attached are two forms to help us prepare for this event.

The first, the Advance Registration Form, enables us to plan for this event as follows:

- 1) Order pizzas and beverages for each family.
- 2) Prepare bingo cards and chips in advance.

The Second Form is a Call For Volunteers. In the past, success of this event has depended on the strength of the volunteer staff. If you are available to volunteer in any way, please fill out the attached form.

Return the completed form with your payment to the Front Office by Friday, March 4, 2011.

NOTE:

There will NOT be any additional pizzas for sale the night of the event, so be sure to order enough for everyone in your group.

If you have any questions about the event, contact one of the event chairpersons:

Basket Bingo Chairperson: Rebekah Everest, rebekaheverest@gmail.com

Silent Auction Chairperson: Amanda Mountford, mountford.amanda@yahoo.com

This PTA event has always been a big success and lots of fun. We thank you for all your support and generosity.

Advance Registration for Family Fun Night

Family Name: _____

Number of Attendees: _____

PTA Member:

I have paid my PTA membership fee I have not yet paid my PTA membership fee

Each PTA member receives two free Bingo cards. To purchase additional cards, or if you are not a PTA member, please indicate the number of cards you would like to purchase:

I would like to purchase _____ Bingo cards (one card for \$2.00 or three cards for \$5.00)

Indicate whether you would like to purchase food and drink for this event (state desired number of each item):

_____ Large Cheese Pizza(s) (\$7.50 each)

_____ Large Pepperoni Pizza(s) (\$8.50 each)

_____ Coke (\$1) _____ Diet Coke (\$1) _____ Sprite (\$1) _____ Bottled Water (\$1) _____ Juice Box (50¢)

Show your school spirit by purchasing Franconia Spirit Magnets.
Buy one magnet for \$3.00 or two magnets for \$5.00.

I would like to purchase _____ magnets.



Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

(Make checks payable to Franconia Elementary PTA)

(If you are enclosing cash – please place it in a sealed envelope with your child’s name written on the outside).

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers have always helped to make our Family Fun Night a huge success. Please let us know if you can help assemble baskets, help on the night of the event, or if you (or your employer or business) would like to donate a service or an item for the Silent Auction.

_____ Yes, I would be willing to help in the collection and assembly of basket items (3/8 & 3/9)

_____ Yes, I would be willing to volunteer for a 30-minute shift the night of the event (3/11)

_____ Yes, I or my employer or my home-based business would be interested in donating an item, service, or basket of goodies that could be auctioned off that night to benefit the school (i.e., tickets to a sporting event, gift card, home-based business service, vacation rental, etc.) (PLEASE PRINT BELOW).

Name _____ Phone _____

E-mail _____

This PTA event has always been a big success and lots of fun. We thank you for all your support and generosity.

**Each child has an opportunity to help make this event a success!
Baskets will be constructed from your donations.**

Each class is assigned a different basket theme. Following are some ideas for basket donations. If you choose to bring in a different item, try to keep it consistent with your classroom's assigned theme and make sure that the item is non-perishable and is permitted in school. Collection boxes will be placed in each classroom on Friday, February 11.

Kindergarten Theme: Arts & Crafts

Crayons	Washable Markers	Play-doh or craft clay
Construction paper	Finger paints	Watercolors
Stickers	Pipe cleaners	Popsicle sticks
Glue: glitter glue, past or glue sticks	Craft kits	Colored pencils
Rulers	Sketchpads	Buttons, beads, pompons

First Grade Theme: Gardening

Gardening gloves	Gardening hat	Shovel
Flower seeds	Sunscreen	Water can
Water bottle (for drinking)	Flower pots	Gardening hoe
Gardening rake	Garden gnome	Vegetable seeds
Bucket	Garden tool carrier	Bubble bath

Second Grade Theme: Warm Spring Day

Kite	Sidewalk chalk	Bubbles
Sunglasses	Frisbee	Boomerang
Velcro catch game	Sand bucket and shovel	Baseball, bat, mitt
Soccer ball	Softball	Basketball
Plastic croquet set	Bug catcher	Cool hats

Third Grade Theme: A Day at the Beach

Beach towel	Sunscreen	Juice boxes/pouches
Sand bucket and shovel	Frisbee	Beach ball
Sunglasses	A good book	Floaties/water donut/water lounger
Cooler	Flip flops	Music CD
Freezer pops	Beach bag	Floppy beach hat

Fourth Grade: Family Game or Movie Night

Puzzle	Board game	Etch-A-Sketch
Popcorn	Drawing pad	Deck of cards
Flash cards	Juice boxes	Bag of chips/salsa
Snacks	Markers	Card games (Uno/Old Maid/Go Fish)
Crayons	Movie DVD	Disposable camera

Fifth and Sixth Grade Theme: Nature Hike

Binoculars	Butterfly net	Bug holder
Mason jars	Notepads/pencils	Canteen
Water bottles	Magnifying glass	Backpack
Insect repellent	Sunscreen	Compass
Sunglasses	Pith helmet/safari hat	Band-Aids/First aid items

This PTA event has always been a big success and lots of fun. We thank you for all your support and generosity.

Edison High School

All Night Grad Party Mulch Fundraiser

From a
New
Vendor

Saturday, March 19, 2011

8:00 am to 4:00 pm

8:00 am to 2:00 pm for pick up orders (19 bags or less)

* Orders must be placed by Friday, March 11, 2011

* Double Shredded Brown Hardwood Mulch - \$4.50 per bag (3 cu ft)

* \$10.00 Delivery fee on orders over 20 bags

* Delivery available for all orders within the Edison boundaries (over 20 bags)



Mail Your Order to:
Edison High School
5801 Franconia Road
Alexandria, VA 22310
ATTN: ANGP Mulch



??? Questions ???

Email

Lisa Mickey

At

ehsmulch2011@gmail.com

Due to the renovation construction at Edison High School, the mulch sale distribution will take place at Mark Twain Middle School, which is located at 4700 Franconia Road Alexandria, VA 22310.

Please make all Checks payable to: EHS ANGP

We can not accept cash payments through the mail

Name: _____ Email: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Delivery Address: _____

Number of Bags of Brown Shredded (3 cu ft): _____ x \$4.50 = _____

Delivery Fee (if applicable): \$10.00 _____

I don't need mulch, but I'd like to make a donation: _____

Delivery or Pick Up
(circle one)

Check Total: _____

Please specify a specific location (in your front yard) where you would like us to place the mulch upon delivery. _____

Why purchase from Edison ANGP?

A 3 cu ft. bag of mulch from Edison's ANGP costs \$4.50. A 2 cu ft. bag of mulch from Home Depot costs \$2.82 a bag. If purchasing 6 cu ft of mulch, the total cost from Edison would be \$9.00 while the total cost from Home Depot would be \$8.88 (including the sales tax). For an additional 12 cents, your order will go a long way toward helping the local kids in your neighborhood celebrate their graduation at a safe and alcohol-free graduation party.

How Much Mulch Should I order?

Our mulch is sold in 3 cubic foot bags and here is an easy way to determine how many bags to order:

1. First, find out the size of the area you want to cover in square feet. Multiply the length of your garden by the width.
2. Next, decide how deep you want your mulch to be, in inches. (3 inches is a good average).
3. Now multiply the size of your garden in square feet (#1) by the depth of your mulch in inches (#2).
4. Divide the number you get in #3 by 36.
5. The answer you arrive at in # 4 is the number of bags of mulch you will need to cover your garden.

Why should you mulch your garden?

- ***Keeps Weeds Down*** - this is one of the best reasons for using mulch and the reason why it should be applied generously. The heat and density of the mulch will slow down weeds from germinating.
- ***Slows Evaporation*** - one of the big reasons you would mulch your garden is to stop evaporation. Mulching slows down the process of evaporation allowing the plants to retain more of the moisture.
- ***Feeding Your Garden*** - As these mulches break down, they condition the soil and add nutrients to it.
- ***Aesthetics*** - this may or may not be the biggest reason for your desire to mulch. Adding mulch to your garden will definitely neaten its appearance.

Make it easy on yourself and your vehicle: Let Edison High School All Night Grad Party deliver your mulch for you! For safety reasons, all deliveries must be made to the front yard. Thanks in advance for your support!