



Mustang Express

Volume 4, Issue 1

Franconia PTA Newsletter

September 2010

Welcome back to school! This newsletter will be published on a monthly basis to keep parents informed about the Franconia PTA and how we support the school. We hope to provide an overview of PTA activities, and share information on 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 the PTA. We encourage every family to join the PTA. With budget cuts affecting many areas of our school and the renovation in progress, we need your support to ensure we can continue providing new technology, supplies and other forms of financial support to the school. At Franconia, we're building for tomorrow.

The PTA has developed a calendar of great activities for the 2010-2011 school year; watch this newsletter and the Mustang Message for more information. The school renovation schedule has impacted our normal event schedule, but we are doing our best to provide fun events this year. For example, we sponsored our first Ice Cream Social at the Open House in place of our historical Back to School Picnic. We hope you enjoyed the delicious ice cream sundaes.

PTA meetings are typically held the second Tuesday of every month @ 7pm. We encourage everyone to attend the meetings. However, if you are unable to attend a meeting, the PTA meeting minutes will be available for viewing on the school website at www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES under PTA. We welcome your suggestions and ideas for PTA activities and if you are unable to attend the meetings, feel free to email one of the PTA board members, see contact information below.

Upcoming PTA Events



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

September 10 Fall Fundraiser Begins

September 14 First PTA Meeting , 7:00pm

September 27 Fall Fundraiser Orders Due

PTA Board 2009-2010

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|---------------------|------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| President | Carylin Waterval | 703-924-2681 | carylin_mother2@yahoo.com |
| Vice President | Paula Thompson | 703-921-5555 | paulathompson@cox.net |
| Treasurer | David Noguera | 703-922-6159 | davidnoguera@verizon.net |
| Recording Secretary | Rebekah Everest | 703-310-4777 | rebekaheverest@gmail.com |

PTA Membership

We encourage all families to join the PTA. The membership dues are \$8 per individual or \$15 per family. The PTA collects \$3 on behalf of the National/State/Local PTA and the remaining monies are used to fund PTA programs and activities. The Membership Form is available on the school website at www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES under PTA. To join the PTA, complete the form, attach a check payable to "Franconia PTA", place in an envelope marked "PTA" and send to school with your child. Each membership entitles you to a Franconia PTA Directory, a Franconia Calendar magnet and PTA voting rights.

FLEX Classes

FLEX is the Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) program we have offered as an after-school foreign language enrichment program to Franconia students for the past two years. Unfortunately, we will not be able to hold classes this fall due to the renovation activities. We are tentatively planning to hold FLEX classes beginning in January. Assuming the January start date holds up, we will need a volunteer to coordinate the FLEX program. The coordinator is responsible for program registration of the students, working with the Fairfax County contact to secure teachers, determining the schedule of classes and handling on-going management of the program. The coordinator will begin planning for the FLEX program in November. If you are interested in the position please contact Carylin Waterval, at carylin_mother2@yahoo.com.

Calling All Volunteers

There are PTA volunteer activities to fit virtually every interest and time schedule. Our PTA volunteers share their talents in the classroom, provide administrative and clerical support from home, and interact with the students and faculty at the many social events throughout the school year. Our children gain in so many ways when they see their families participating in their school. Your involvement helps them develop a sense of community spirit and appreciation for school program activities. Whatever role you choose to assume, know that you are appreciated!

Attached to this newsletter is the PTA Volunteer Form. Consider filling a vacant chairperson position to coordinate/plan PTA events/programs. You can also volunteer to help for a specific event/program. **We need two chairperson positions filled immediately: Membership and Reflections.** (If interested, please email Carylin Waterval directly)

Please return the PTA Volunteer form as soon as possible, so the planning can begin. We will be contacting you throughout the year to help us with school and PTA events. If you have any questions about volunteering you can contact the PTA Volunteer Coordinators Jill Vaughn (703-373-3964 or jesseandjillvaugh@gmail.com) & Nancy Nasse (703-417-9431 or nancynasse@gmail.com).

Fall Fundraiser – We're building tomorrow with Books!

Our annual fundraising program will kick-off on September 10, sponsored by Innisbrook. We intend to use a portion of the profits to purchase books for our new school library which will be opening later this year.

The students will attend a kick-off assembly on September 10 and will be bringing home an information packet, which includes the catalog, ordering information and prize eligibility. Innisbrook has an exciting new catalog this year, which includes gift wrap, chocolates, small gifts, magazine vouchers and so much more. **This fundraiser provides the PTA with over 50% of our annual budget.** Last year, the fall fundraiser generated over \$19,000 in sales which provided \$9,500 to the PTA. (The PTA receives 50% profit on the total sales.) Questions, contact the Fall Fundraiser Chairperson, Shirley Woolsey, woolsey319@gmail.com.

As always, the PTA accepts monetary donations payable directly to "Franconia PTA". We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, so your donations are tax deductible.

Reflections

Franconia Elementary School would like to encourage students in Kindergarten through 6th grade to participate in the 2010–2011 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 “Together We Can...”

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 22, 2010. Entry forms and rules are available on www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES

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. To sign up and support these programs, please see the information below.



Giant Bonus Bucks program. Each time you shop at Giant using your Giant Card, you will earn CASH for our school! You can track the amount of points you earn for our school by checking your grocery receipt. To register your Giant card, sign up at any Giant store, log on to www.giantfood.com/aplus, or call 1-877-366-2668. Franconia's School ID for is 02290. Remember, even if you designated last year, you **MUST** re-designate this year. The program runs October 8, 2010 through March 24, 2011, register your card now.



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. This program is in effect year round.



Safeway has partnered with eScrip to support Franconia. Franconia's ID is 6505092. Sign up at www.escrip.com. Their program will now run all year long. Remember, even if you designated a school last year, you **MUST** re-register your card this year.



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.



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, 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. The

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. Any questions on the program can be directed to Sharon Hester, PTA Box Tops coordinator, at thebigdirt@aol.com.

Join Cub Scouts - Pack 867 www.pack867.com

For all boys in 1st – 4th Grades

Cub Scouts is for boys that like to have fun! Everything in Cub Scouting is designed to have the boys doing things. Activities are used to achieve the aims of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness.

We meet at St. Johns Lutheran Church 5952 Franconia Road, Alexandria VA 22310 twice a month for Den Meetings on Monday nights and the last Tuesday of the month for a Pack Meeting.

For more information please contact Cubmaster: Jim McCormick jim.n.mindy@verizon.net or 703.317.8284 or Committee Chair: Renae Polovchik renae@polovchik.com or 703.924.2698.

Want to learn more about what we do, come to our Open House, September 28th 6:00 pm- 7:00 pm at St. Johns Church fellowship hall located at 5952 Franconia Road.

Join Girl Scouts - Girl Scouting is for every girl, everywhere, where today's girls can become tomorrow's leaders.

Learn and participate in exciting activities, help your community, make new friends and build character while having fun. Typical activities include: arts & crafts, camping, sing-a-longs, community service, sports, field trips, selling cookies and much more.

We have 3 levels of troops at Franconia that meet on Mondays (twice per month):

- Daisy Girl Scouts (Kindergarten & 1st grade)
- Brownie Girl Scouts (2nd & 3rd grade)
- Junior Girl Scouts (4th – 6th grade)

We welcome new girls as well as parent volunteers. (We need Daisy and Brownie leaders)

If you want to find out more about girl scouts, bring your daughter to an Open House/Registration on Monday, September 20, 5 – 6pm at our meeting location, Franconia United Methodist Church at 6037 Franconia Road (located next to Franconia ES)

For more information or to join a Franconia troop, contact: Carylin Waterval, School Troop Organizer, carylin_mother2@yahoo.com, 703-924-2681.