



Volume 5

January 2012 Newsletter

Issue 5

Month in Review

Happy New Year to all our Mustang families! During the hectic month of December, the PTA hosted Franconia's 4th Annual Family Fun Run to benefit New Hope Housing. We are proud to announce that we raised over \$200 for this organization, which provides shelter and services to homeless families and individuals in our area. Way to go walkers and runners! We appreciate your participation.

Prior to the winter break, the PTA was also busy recognizing our Franconia staff with Dunkin' Donut gift cards; celebrating our Read-a-thon participants with prizes; and planning for the coming months. Our winter events will include a free movie night on January 20th at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym, another restaurant night in February, and the much-anticipated Basket Bingo and Silent Auction night in March. In addition, we are pleased to announce that the PTA will offer 10-week Foreign Language Experience (FLEX) classes for Spanish **and** Chinese beginning the week of March 5th. Registration information for these classes will be sent home soon. Stay tuned as we continue to plan our events.

We have a lot to accomplish in 2012, so please join us at our monthly PTA meetings to hear more about what is happening at Franconia and all the great ways the PTA is working with the staff on behalf of our children. Our meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the school library (except for February's meeting, which will be held on Wednesday, February 15th). **Everyone** is welcome, and we hope to see you there!

PTA Board Members 2011-2012

President

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Treasurer

Mr. David Noguera, 703-922-6159
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Upcoming PTA events...Mark your calendars!

- January 13** **Send Box Tops to School with Your Children**
- January 20** **Franconia PTA FREE Movie Night, 6:30 p.m. in School Gymnasium**
- February 15** **PTA Meeting, 7 p.m. in School Library**
- March 5** **Spanish & Chinese Flex Classes begin (details to be announced soon)**
- March 9** **Basket Bingo & Silent Auction (details to be announced soon)**

Current News

Franconia Family FREE Movie Night on Friday, January 20th

Come join us at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym to see Po live his dream as The Dragon Warrior, protecting the Valley of Peace alongside his friends and fellow kung fu masters, The Furious Five - Tigress, Crane, Mantis, Viper and Monkey. Watch as Po's new life of awesomeness is threatened by the emergence of a formidable villain who plans to use a secret, unstoppable weapon to conquer China and destroy kung fu.

Bring blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, and the whole family to enjoy the movie with our Franconia family. Concessions will be available during the movie, and pizzas will be available for pre-order for this fun event. View our PTA flyer under the Take Home Wednesday link at <http://www.fcps.edu/FranconiaES/paperless.html>. We hope to see you all there!



Your PTA needs your Giant Bucks!



Do you shop at Giant? Did you know that each time you shop using your Giant Card, you can earn CASH for our school? That's right...they actually send us money! To participate in this program, please register your Giant card at www.giantfood.com/aplus, sign up at any store, or call 1-877-366-2668. Franconia's School ID is 02290. Remember, even if you designated last year, **you MUST re-designate** your card this year. So far, **only 29 cards** are registered for our school.

Please help your PTA by registering or re-registering now, as the program only runs through March 29, 2012. We have \$300 coming our way, but let's make it more for our kids!

Calling all PTA Volunteers...Calling all PTA Volunteers!

With all your PTA has planned for the coming months, extra hands are **URGENTLY** needed to make it all happen. If you can lend your time in any of the following ways, please contact our volunteer coordinator, Garima Jain, at garjain@hotmail.com or 703-921-9343. **Any and all help is greatly appreciated, as we cannot proceed with these events without help from our volunteers.**

- Help with concessions before and during the movie (6:30 - 9) on January 20th.
- Help with the planning for the Basket Bingo event on March 9. Assistance will be needed preparing flyers, establishing ideas for the baskets, collecting basket donations from the classrooms.
- A Chairperson and helpers to plan for our Silent Auction on March 9th.
- A person to manage our Membership Database using "Just Between Friends."

In case you still haven't heard, the Franconia PTA joined the Facebook nation in October. Come find us at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Franconia-Elementary-School-PTA/284564241570550> Become a fan by clicking "like" on our page. In addition to our newsletter, website, and KIT messages, this is a great way to stay on top of current and upcoming events. **Check out our page, invite your friends to like us, and let us know what you think!** We remain eager to hear your thoughts.



What's Happening in FCPS?

Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2013-2017

Each year, Fairfax County Public Schools develops a five-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to address future facility needs. The CIP assesses requirements for new facilities, renewals of existing facilities, infrastructure management and other facility-related needs. Actual completion dates for CIP projects depend on cash flow and debt service limitations established by the Fairfax County

Fairfax County Public Schools' Superintendent Jack D. Dale has released the school system's FY2013-FY2017 Capital Improvement Program, which includes new schools, capacity enhancements, renovations, additions, and infrastructure management over five years totaling \$848.5 million; \$317.3 million of which is currently funded with approved school bonds. View the program details at <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip.shtml> and **see Franconia's renovation featured!**

FCPS Buses by the Numbers

Ever wonder about FCPS buses? How many are there? How old are most of them? When and how are they replaced? For some interesting facts regarding FCPS transportation, visit <http://www.fcps.edu/news/reports/stateofschools1211.pdf>.

Where Can You Find Franconia PTA Forms, Month Meeting Minutes, and Newsletters? Right Here:

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



Community News

What's Happening in the Community?

Central Springfield Little League (CSLL) Registration

Registration for spring baseball at CSLL will be held on January 14th and 21st at the Franconia Moose Family Center at 7701 Beulah Street (near Island Creek E. S.) from 9am to 1pm. Boys and girls between the ages of 4 and 16 (as of April 30, 2012) are eligible to play. More info can be found at http://www.csll.org/registration/csll_registration.html.

Pioneer Baseball Little League Registration

Pioneer Baseball Registration is now open. Visit <http://www.pbsl.org/> to register your youth age 4-15 for spring baseball.

Alexandria Restaurant Week

Alexandria boasts a wide-variety of "foodie establishments" from formal dining to comfortably casual. This 10-day gourmet and gourmand event enables residents and visitors to enjoy tantalizing multi-course meals and distinctive treats prepared especially for the occasion showcasing the inventive culinary diversity offered throughout the city. See the full list of participating restaurants and menus at <http://visitalexandriava.com/restaurants-nightlife/restaurants/alexandria-restaurant-week/>.

2012 Chinese New Year Celebration

Washington, DC celebrates the Chinese New Year on January 29th. Celebrate from 12-5 p.m. at the Chinatown Lunar New Year Festival, Chinatown Community Cultural Center, 616 H Street, NW Washington, DC. Programs and activities will include: a parade, live music and dance performances, traditional Chinese calligraphy, children's crafts, face painting, tai chi and kung fu demonstrations, lion dancing, poetry readings, film screenings, art and photo exhibits, raffle prizes, New Year souvenirs, free giveaways, and much more. Visit <http://dc.about.com/od/specialevents/a/ChineseNewYear.htm> for more information on the parade and activities.

Membership News

Perhaps you haven't yet joined the PTA or **renewed** your membership for the 2011-2012 school year and are wondering if you still can. The answer is **YES!** It is never too late in the year to join or renew your membership. As a member of the PTA, you are not required to volunteer or stretch yourself beyond the limitations of work and family obligations or commitments to other organizations. Your dues alone will go far in helping your PTA achieve its yearly goals. However, if you do decide to volunteer, rest assured that there is a role for every level of time commitment. You can contribute as much or as little as you'd like and trust that we will deeply value your time and participation. Whenever families, schools and communities work together, our students benefit. So please, be a part of your PTA in whatever capacity you can. We are truly **your** PTA - here for you and your family.

Listed below are more programs in which you can participate to benefit your school and PTA. Thank you for your support!



by Giant® **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 7, 2011 through March 29, 2012, register your card now.



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** by November this year, the program now runs year round.



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.



Target's Take Charge of Education program. Here's how it works: Visit <http://sites.target.com/site/en/corporate/page.jsp?contentId=PRD03-001825www.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, October 14, January 13, March 23 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 with this program 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. Click here http://www.boxtops4education.com/earn/clip/Brands.aspx?WT.ac=SweepsTY_ZooPals_Products for a complete listing of participating products.



Don't
Throw it Away...
Raise Funds
TODAY!

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.