



Franconia Elementary
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Volume 5

February 2012 Newsletter

Issue 6

Month in Review

January proved to be an active month for the PTA. Several weeks ago we hosted our annual Family Movie Night at the school and packed the gym floor with Franconia families. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun, especially to those who helped coordinate concessions or helped in other ways. We couldn't host our events without all of the wonderful volunteers who share their time and talents.

At our January PTA meeting, Franconia's "specials" teachers told us about the projects and activities our children are participating in during music, art, P.E., and library time. We also learned about the educational online databases that our students have access to both at school and at home through the FCPS website. As always, our meetings are a great way to keep in touch with what is happening in the classrooms and at the school; things we might not otherwise learn from our children.

At this meeting we also announced our plan to donate the proceeds from the Read-a-thon (\$5000) and our upcoming Basket Bingo event toward the purchase of a rock-climbing wall for the P.E. department. We are very excited about this endeavor and are pleased that the funds will be used to benefit the entire Franconia student body. Due to the cost of the climbing wall under consideration, we expect that it will take the remainder of this school year and next to raise enough money to make this purchase. Stay tuned as we work toward this goal, and remember that your participation in our events, as well as your donations and dues, directly benefit your children and their educational experience. Together we can do great things for our kids!

Please join us on Wednesday, February 15th at 7 p.m. in the school library for our next PTA meeting to hear more on the topic of keeping our kids safe at school and home. The Fairfax County Police Department will give a presentation, and we will hear from Ms. Dade on the topic of technology safety. We hope to see you all there.

PTA Board Members 2011-2012

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**YEAR-TO-DATE
BOX TOP EARNINGS
\$811.00**

**Thank you for all of your
diligent clipping. The
teachers greatly
appreciate your efforts.
Clip on!**

Upcoming PTA events...Mark your calendars!

- February 15** **PTA Meeting, 7 p.m. in School Library**
- February 23** **PTA Restaurant Night at Baja Fresh, 5-9 p.m.**
- March 5** **Spanish & Chinese Flex Classes begin**
- March 9** **Basket Bingo & Silent Auction (see below for more details)**

Current News

Basket Bingo and Raffle Night - Friday, March 9th

Come join us at 6:30 p.m. in the school gym for our annual Basket Bingo and Raffle night. Enjoy a night of bingo, food and fun with other Franconia families. This year we are excited to announce some changes to this event. First, we will offer Red, Hot & Blue BBQ, which will be available for purchase at the event instead of pizza. Second, in lieu of the silent auction from previous years, we will have multiple prize package raffles. During the bingo event, you will be able to purchase as many raffle tickets as you'd like to place in the raffle jars of the prizes you are most interested in winning. Raffle winners will be announced at the end of the bingo event. The baskets for bingo prizes will be assembled using donations from our Franconia families. Please review the fliers to see how you can donate items for our "Life is Sweet" themed baskets. This is a great opportunity to support your PTA and local businesses, and walk away with some great prizes. Remember, your participation will also help fund the rock climbing wall!

Volunteer Needs

Thank you to all that answered the call for help in our last newsletter. Once again, we find ourselves in need of some extra hands. 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 raffle ticket sales, concession, bingo verification, and set up and clean up at the Basket Bingo event on March 9th
- Help with set building for the 6th grade play, Annie. Please contact Ms. Rezek at LRezek@fcps.edu

The Read-a-thon Survey Results are in....

We are pleased to report that the majority of those who responded to our survey enjoyed participating in the October Read-a-thon. Additionally, there was an overwhelming preference for the Read-a-thon over traditional fundraisers from previous years. We feel we achieved our goals of raising funds for the PTA, building the school community, and encouraging good reading habits and goal setting. Thank you for your responses and recommendations for improvements (online donations, online reading logs, translated materials, etc.) Your support is greatly appreciated!

We only have TWO more months to collect 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. Please help your PTA by registering or re-registering now, as the program only runs through **March 29, 2012**. So far, we have \$300 coming our way. Let's make it even more for our kids!



What's Happening in FCPS?

New FCPS Elementary School Report Cards

FCPS will begin using a new report card format for elementary schools next school year (2012-2013). The new format intends to provide parents with more detailed information on how their children are performing, based on achievement, with each subject broken down into discrete standards, each of which are assessed. The report cards also aim to facilitate consistency in grading. Letter grades will be replaced with a numerical quantification of performance in key achievement areas. The move to achievement-based performance rating reflects both a national trend in education and a necessary upgrade in student information system software. More information is available at: <http://www.fcps.edu/is/elemprogreport/index.shtml>

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

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

Fiscal Year 2013 Budget Information

At the January 12 Fairfax County School Board meeting, FCPS Superintendent Jack D. Dale released the school system's Fiscal Year 2013 Proposed Budget of \$2.4 billion, an increase of 9 percent, or \$202.3 million, from the FY 2012 Approved Budget. Click here for more details: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2013.shtml>.



Community News

What's Happening in the Community?

Summer 2012 Camp Fairs in D.C., Maryland and Virginia

Do you know what your kids are doing this summer? Attend a camp fair and find out about camps in Washington, DC, Maryland and Virginia. Camp representatives will be available to answer all of your questions about day and sleep-away camps in the Washington, DC area. Visit <http://dc.about.com/od/familyactivities/a/CampFairs.htm> for fair dates and times.

Discover Engineering Family Day at the National Building Museum

On February 18, 2012 from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. take part in slime-making, day-long robot demonstrations and competitions, design bridges and helicopters, and much more. The event is free, with a \$5 suggested donation, and is most appropriate for children ages 5-13. Visit <http://www.nbm.org/families-kids/festivals/discover-engineering-family.html> for more information.

George Washington Birthday Parade in Old Town Alexandria

On February 20th from 1-3 p.m., celebrate President's Day in Old Town Alexandria at "The largest Parade Celebrating Washington's Birthday in the USA!" The parade dates back to at least 1923 and features bands, floats, wagons, horses, historic reenactment units, youth groups, and special performances. Visit <http://dc.about.com/od/hoildaysseasonalevents/a/GWParade.htm> for more information.

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.