



## Falcon Day!

Well, Mother Nature had the bad taste to snow-out our Falcon Day in December -- but we were back on for Friday, January 8th! This very busy event, chock full of games, music and camaraderie was tremendous fun, as usual! Thanks to all the volunteers, staff and even some siblings who joined in to make the day the fun event it should be. Special thanks to Deb Nichols, Kristin Roberts, and our own Mrs. Collen! I'm feeling a little weepy knowing that I only have one more Falcon Day left to enjoy...

## Looking Forward

It's never too late to start planning for next year. The PTA will form a Nominating Committee in the next month or two. The Nominating Committee is charged with identifying those people who are willing and able to take on a Board position. If you have been thinking about getting more involved in the PTA, please drop me a line ([bobandpeg82@comcast.net](mailto:bobandpeg82@comcast.net)) and I will forward your information to the committee when it is formed. There are more than enough jobs to go around. Sharing chair positions has become quite popular and is a great way to break a job down so that it does not become overwhelming.

## Hispanic Heritage Month

Once again, under the tutelage of Mrs. Machado, Folly Quarter students were able to help some of their colleagues in schools in South America. This year, through the generous donations of pocket change, the students at Folly Quarter Middle School, Maryland, USA, were able to send four students to school in Ecuador, South America. We can all be very proud of this accomplishment. It speaks volumes, not only to the quality of character of the students and families in our community, but also to the kind of outstanding instruction our students are receiving at Folly Quarter Middle School.

## HCPSS Ombudsman Program

Rose Dennison, the Howard County Ombudsman spoke at our December meeting. Her role is to help resolve school concerns and complaints. She emphasized that her role is neutral and that her role is to be an advocate for a fair and meaningful problem resolution process.

The Ombudsman identifies individuals who can help resolve problems, helps facilitate discussions, and assists persons who may be uncomfortable addressing issues by themselves. Issues that the Ombudsman may assist with include discipline, especially suspension complaints, bullying/harassment, abuse, communications about special education, and the sports eligibility process.

If you have any questions about the program or the process, please contact Ms. Dennison at: [ombudsman@hcpss.org](mailto:ombudsman@hcpss.org).

*My Best,  
Peggy Johnson*

# Relay for Life - Folly Quarter Team

As many of you may remember, Folly Quarter sponsored a Team at the Relay for Life last June. Although we came into the game a bit late and had just a few weeks to raise funds, our generous community managed to raise more than \$1,800 to help in the fight against cancer! Woo-hoo!

I'm heading up a Team again this, my final year at Folly Quarter Middle School, and I know we can double last year's participation and donations! We have about 5 more months to work on it this year -- it will be a piece of cake!

Who's with me? It takes place right in our own backyard at Western Regional. We have the fabulous FQMS party tent, lots of food and beverages, sleeping bags and pillows, chairs, cards, candles, live music, a DJ. If that's not the recipe for a fun all-nighter, I don't know what is!

Even if you are otherwise booked that day, night, and next morning..... you can still lend your support.

Please visit our Team Page here:

[http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY1OSA?team\\_id=580356&pg=team&fr\\_id=24983&fl=en\\_US&et=spOEO8hW5-6WuE-HuOpg3A..&s\\_tafid=464940](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLFY1OSA?team_id=580356&pg=team&fr_id=24983&fl=en_US&et=spOEO8hW5-6WuE-HuOpg3A..&s_tafid=464940)

Hey, it's just \$10 to join and you get a t-shirt! That's a pretty good deal, right? If each of you can get just a few of your friends to join our team, there's no stopping us!

Thanks!  
Peggy



AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY RELAY FOR LIFE

Celebrate.

Remember.

Fight Back.