



A Message from the PTA President

Last week, Karen Kelly, Laurie Moody and I attended a meeting of local PTA Officers and their fund-raising committee chairs. We discussed the various fund-raisers - what works, what doesn't work, and how we can work together, in Western Howard County on a variety of PTA initiatives.

We also talked about membership drives and procedures and how to make the membership

process easier for members and more efficient for administrators to handle.

Another topic we discussed was a Western Howard County-wide International Night, possibly at the fairgrounds. I found this particularly exciting and I'm anxious to get your feedback on it. Look for an e-survey to come home soon asking for your opinions on these and other issues your PTA is working on.

Please stop by the Book Fair (Nov.10-21), American Education Week (Nov. 17-21) and The Slam and Jam Event (Nov 21) this month.

Enjoy a safe and happy Thanksgiving Break!

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The Book Fair Is Here!

Come visit the Book Fair beginning November 10 through November 21, 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Media Center. You can browse for books ahead of time and make a wish list by visiting

the webpage for Scholastic at <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/fqms>.

For additional information, contact Celia O'Brien at (410) 531-2029 or email her at rckobrien@yahoo.com.



American Education Week 2008

American Education Week is scheduled for the week of **November 17-21**. The theme this year is again "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility". We hope you can find the time in your schedules to visit the school and your child's classes. More details about this event can be found at www.nea.org/aew/index.html.



Gayle Danley

The PTA presents the Artist-in-Residence

Program to the 8th Grade this month. Slam Poet, Gayle Danley will work with our students from November 10 - 21, with a *Culminating Event on the 21st*. This is a powerful presentation, not to be missed! To view a video of Ms Danley and FQMS students in action, go to: <http://www.baltimoresun.com/services/site/bal-slam-poetry-flash,0,5834227.flash?coll=bal-home-outerrail>

November Calendar

- 11/10-17 Book Fair, Media Center
- 11/17-21 American Education Week
- 11/20 Gold Honor Roll Breakfast
- 11/20 Honor Roll Ice Cream @ Lunch
- 11/21 8th Grade Slam and Jam Event
- 11/24 Staff Conference Dinner

Earn Dollars for FQMS By Clipping & Shopping!



Box Tops

Thanks to all who have been sending in your Boxtops. We submitted \$78 worth of Boxtops. Keep clipping and saving your Boxtops. Turn them in to the front office anytime you visit the school.

Send in your inkjets and toners for cash for FQMS.

-Rita Morsberger

Food Lion

To register your Food Lion card, go to: www.foodlion.com

1. Click on blue "MVP" tab at the top of page.
2. Click on "Food Lion Corporate"
3. Click on "Community Involvement"

4. Click on "Register MVP card"

5. Click "select organization" and follow the prompts.

6. Or if you are changing school designations, click on "change your organization" after step # 3.

Each time you shop at Food Lion and use your MVP card, a portion of your total grocery purchase will be donated to your organization.

Giant

To register your Giant Food card, go to: http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/bonus_bucks/tools_for_schools.htm?opco=GNTL

Then, click on *register your card* and follow the instructions.

Safeway

To register your Safeway card, go to: www.escrip.com.

1. For new people signing up: On center screen, under "Make A Difference" click on number 1. For group name, type in "Folly Quarter Middle School", or for group ID number, enter 153522078. Follow instructions to complete.

Verizon - NEW!

Order a new, qualifying Verizon product and FQMS will receive a donation from Verizon. Just call, 1-888-695-5299. Our code is: **12869**. Or, follow the link on the FQMS PTA website for more information.

Remember to ask friends and relatives to designate FQMS when they register their grocery store cards!

Falcon Day!



December 19th is the first Falcon Day of the year! **Volunteers are needed** 12:30-2:30 to man the dance, Bake Walk, games, and serve food. We also need face painters, and volunteers to bake desserts, put in serving size baggies for the Bake Walk. Anyone interested in volunteering can email Debby Nichols at deb.nichols@juno.com or bakers can email Kristin Robertson at ksr111@aol.com. - **Debby Nichols**

Conference Tips

Follow the link to this website for some tips to help you get the most out of your parent/teacher conferences: <http://www.nea.org/parents/ptconf.html>

Civility Minute

25 Rules of Considerate Conduct

Rule #2:

Acknowledge others - *"You exist, and this matters to me...I know that you monitor--as I do--our relationship; rest assured that, as far as I am concerned, you and I are in reciprocal good standing."* --Dr. Forni

Activities:

Have your group (class/family/friends) create a banner that represents each member and the group as a whole. Think about members' names and individual likes and dislikes. Discover something that all members have in common. Discover something that is unique to each member. Develop a group name. Represent all of these ideas in words and pictures.

An excerpt from "Choose Civility in Howard County." For more information, go to: www.choosecivility.org

Green Living Tips: Resources

Here are some websites you can visit for Greener Living ideas:

Carbon Footprint

www.carbonfootprint.com

Renewable Energy

www.green-e.org

Go Green

<http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/action/way04.html>

Recycling

<http://housewares.about.com/od/homeessentials/a/recycling.htm>

More easy tips

<http://www.lindabook.com/helptheenvironment.html>



American Education Week: Resources for Parents

Getting Involved in Your Child's Education

When parents are involved in their children's education, kids do better in school. Want to learn how to help your child achieve and succeed? Read on! You'll learn why involvement is so important and suggestions for how to get involved.

Why Is Parental Involvement Important?

In study after study, researchers discover how important it is for parents to be actively involved in their child's education. Here are some of the findings of major research into parental involvement:

Three kinds of parental involvement at home are consistently associated with higher student achievement: actively organizing and monitoring a child's time, helping with homework and discussing school matters. The earlier that parent involvement begins in a child's educational process, the more powerful the effects. Positive results of parental involvement include improved student achievement, reduced absenteeism, improved behavior, and restored confidence among parents in their children's schooling.

How Can Parents Get Involved?

Involvement in your child's education can mean:

Reading to your child

Checking homework every night

Discussing your children's progress with teachers

Voting in school board elections

Helping your school to set challenging academic standards

Limiting TV viewing on school nights

Becoming an advocate for better education in your community and state.

Or, it can be as simple as asking your children, "How was school today?" But ask every day. That will send your children the clear message that their schoolwork is important to you and you expect them to learn.

NEA/PTA Parent Guides

Practical Information that Parents Can Put to Use

Check out this website: <http://www.nea.org/parents/parent-guides.html> to find out how to receive free brochures by mail, or download them in pdf format.

Developed through a joint effort between NEA and National Parent Teacher Association (PTA), these guides provide parents and caregivers with fundamental tools to encourage their children's success in school.

This information is courtesy of the National Education Association. Visit their website at: <http://www.nea.org/index.html> for lots more helpful information.



Educators' Top 100 Children's Books:

Presented in two issues of Falcon Notes

The following list was compiled from an online survey in 2007. Parents and teachers will find it useful in selecting quality literature for children. Here are the first 50. Look for the second 50 next month.

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
Where the Wild Things Are by Maurice Sendak
The Giving Tree by Shel Silverstein
Green Eggs and Ham by Dr. Seuss
Good Night Moon by Margaret Wise Brown
I Love You Forever by Robert N. Munsch
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
Oh! The Places You Will Go by Dr. Seuss
The Little House by Virginia Lee Burton
The Polar Express by Chris Van Allsburg
Skippyjon Jones by Judy Schachner
Thank You Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco
The Cat In The Hat by Dr. Seuss
The Lorax by Dr. Seuss
The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane by Kate DiCamillo
The Mitten by Jan Brett
Crunching Carrots, Not Candy by Judy Slack
Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus by Mo Willems
Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling
A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day by Judith Viorst
Are You My Mother? by P.D. Eastman
Corduroy by Don Freeman
Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse by Kevin Henkes
Stellaluna by Janell Cannon
Tacky the Penguin by Helen Lester
The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams
Chicka Chicka Boom Boom by Bill Martin Jr.
Click Clack Moo: Cows That Type Doreen Cronin
Harold and the Purple Crayon by Crockett Johnson
Horton Hatches the Egg by Dr. Seuss
Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park
Little House in the Big Woods by Laura Ingalls Wilder
Make Way For Ducklings by Robert McCloskey
The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster
Piggie Pie by Margie Palatini
The Little Engine That Could by Watty Piper
The Monster at the End of this Book by Jon Stone
The Tale of Despereaux by Kate DiCamillo
A Bad Case of Stripes by David Shannon
Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett
From the Mixed Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler by E.L. Konigsburg
Inkheart by Cornelia Funke
Maniac Magee by Jerry Spinelli
Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann
Olivia by Ian Falconer
The BFG by Roald Dahl
The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn
The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett

