

Friends Community School Bulletin

February 19, 2010

Upcoming Events This Week

Feb. 22-26, Talent Show Auditions

Feb. 23-Jenny G. and Michelle, Field Trip to Bowie Fire House and Police Dept

Feb. 26, 8:30 to 10 - 5/6 Poetry Coffeeshouse

Feb. 25-Jenny L., Field Trip Greenbelt Pool **CANCELLED**

Feb. 25-Jenifer, Field Trip to Air and Space Museum **CANCELLED**

Quaker Corner

"The most precious thing is gentleness. The greatest conquerors are those who overcome their enemies without strife."

-Lao Tze

A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD...

Our local weather stations report that we have received more snowfall this winter than any in recorded history in the DC area. Truly, the challenges to local municipalities, power companies, employers and schools demand that we think creatively about our resources and the services we can provide. Thus our plan for cyber-school on Thursday and Friday provided opportunities for children to maintain some continuity in their learning, despite the travel complications. I applaud the creative approach of many of our teachers and parents whose lives might have been complicated by snow accumulation, power outages, and ice dams on the roof to find opportunities to promote some focus on reading, creative writing, math, science, and the arts during this unplanned winter holiday.

Through our state association (AIMS) we are in communication with the state Department of Education. Our license and accrediting association demand that we comply with state guidelines of a minimum of 170 days of school, unless some allowances are announced. Strong attendance at school this past Monday (Presidents Day) allowed us to make up one snow day and have a productive day at school. Our decision to return for full days of school despite the County's ongoing problems allows us much-needed time with children for the essentials of our creative curriculum. Teachers are also aware that any future late openings require us to think creatively about our allocation of instructional time. Our inviting building is safe and warm; Mark effectively arranged all details for snow removal from our driveway and parking lots; and the thermometer is headed into the forties this weekend. Everyone's hard work, patience, and cooperation are deeply appreciated.

In Peace,

Larry

Talent Show Auditions

All students who wish to participate in the Talent Show are required to attend an audition next week (Feb. 22-26). Students who have submitted their signed interest forms have been given a date and time for their 10-minute audition slot. Due to the snow, many permission forms did not make it back to school by the deadline. If your student wishes to participate and did not receive an audition time slot, please e-mail Stacy at your earliest convenience (Stacy@FriendsCommunitySchool.org).

(Note that FCS auditions are not for the purpose of eliminating, but are simply a step in getting our students prepared for a performance).

Kids' Open Mic in Old Greenbelt

Looking for a chance to get your act ready for the upcoming Talent Show Auditions? Looking for a kid-friendly activity this weekend? Check out the Kids' Open Mic at the New Deal Cafe this Sunday, February 21, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. The Open Mic takes place on the 3rd Sunday of every month. Children aged 17 and under are invited to perform, play a musical instrument, sing, dance, recite a poem, etc. This is a great opportunity for kids to practice performing in public to a very supportive audience.

Mentors Needed

Adult mentors are needed to help with 7/8 Projects. Mentors volunteer to be a part of an enriching experience for our 7th and 8th-grade students as they explore areas of mutual interest in a multidisciplinary and comprehensive project. A mentor can be an FCS parent or other friends of the FCS community. The project begins in February and culminates in June. Being a mentor is a wonderful way to meet students and other families -- it offers great insight into 7th- 8th-grade student life and expectations, and it can have a positive, long lasting impact on the student. If you, or anyone you know, may be interested in providing support in one of the particular areas listed below, or have questions about the mentoring program, please email Jordan.

We are looking for mentors who have knowledge of (or at least a willingness to explore) these areas of student interest:

- City Planning
- Chocolate and the History of Chocolate
- Paint Ball
- Snow-making Machines
- Snow Boarding
- Ancient Sparta (historian)
- Healthy Baking (baker)
- Golden Ratio (mathematician)
- Effects of Chocolate on the Brain (neurologist)
- Human Perception of Beauty (psychologist)
- Education in Pakistan and Afghanistan--especially for girls
- Evening Gown Fashion and how to make a dress
- Affordable Fashion
- Interior/Exterior Design of New Homes
- Graphic Design
- Sociology, What Makes People "Cool"
- Commercial Art
- Stained Glass
- Renaissance Italy
- Etymology
- Music History in America
- Green Community, Sustainability

FCS Students Raise \$2,000 for Doctors Without Borders in Haiti!

On Friday, January 29th, 5th through 8th graders held a "Haiti Awareness Day." We devoted an entire school day to learning about and preparing to raise money for this fascinating nation in need. 5/6 and 7/8 teachers worked together to design workshops which mixed-grade groups rotated through during the day. Students learned about Haitian history, Haitian culture through storytelling, and the science behind earthquakes.

Finally, students prepared to participate in "Chores for Change." We asked each student to think of just one chore that they could do at home, in their neighborhood, or in their community over the weekend. Students then brought their earnings in to school, to donate to Doctors Without Borders in Haiti. Students raised anywhere from \$2 to \$500 each, and every penny was appreciated! All together, we raised \$2,000! Way to go FCSers!!

The 2010 Spring Auction

The Spring Auction is a financial aid fundraiser for FCS. This yearly event is an evening of fun and fundraising that builds memories and bonds our community together as the funds it raises help keep us together. 80 out of the 200 students enrolled at FCS receive tuition assistance; 40% of our entire student body. 100% of the money raised from the auction goes directly to tuition assistance and sustains the diversity our school is committed to supporting.

**Mark your calendars, the Auction date is Saturday, April 17th
7pm at Martins Crosswinds.**

Auction Parent Information Packets went home through kid-mail on Monday, Feb. 15th.

If you are interested in volunteering, please email auction@friendscommunityschool.org.

Volunteer slots are open for check-in and check-out on the night of the auction.

Auction Classroom Parent Reps are needed for Sarah's 5/6 class and Jordan's, James' and Chris' 7/8 classes.

Help out with carpool-line ticket sales the week of the auction!!

PLEASE remember to turn in your auction donation form by March 8th. We are really trying to distribute the auction catalog earlier this year! Help us meet this goal by turning in your donation form by March 8th.

We kindly ask each FCS family to donate one item. Just can't think of what to donate? Remember the option of donating an item to the FCS Auction Baskets (Green Goods, Everything Gourmet, Get Gardening). The drop-

off box for basket items is in the FCS lobby.

For Auction questions, email auction@friendscommunityschool.org or ask Carol King Woodward, Janet Dixon, Anna Picard or Jody Heckman-Bose.

HomeTeamAdvantage

Dear Parents:

Due to the unexpected snowstorms earlier this month, the HTA meeting entitled, "**Reading Isn't Magic**" has been rescheduled for **Thursday, March 4th, at 7:00pm**. Please RSVP to colleen@friendscommunityschool.org by Wednesday, March 3rd.

Our next meeting, "**Parenting the Advanced Learner**," is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 24th, at 7:00pm**. Please RSVP to colleen@friendscommunityschool.org by Tuesday, February 23rd.

Thank you all for your incredible support of our own parents support group.

Yours in friendship,

Colleen